Ho Chi Minh City Expo-2013 opens in Yangon

Yangon, 8 June—Ho Chi Minh City Expo-2013 was opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Dagon Township on 6 June.

Sixty-two companies from Ho Chin Minh City participated in and have exhibited home decoration materials, construction materials, furniture, household goods, electronics, clothes, foodstuff, agricultural machinery at 107 booths.

The expo was formally opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Soe, Vice-President of UMFCCI U Tun Aung, Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Mr Vu Huy Hoang, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee Mdm. Nguyen Thi Hong and ITPC President Mdm Pho Nam Phuong.

The exhibition lasts till 10 June.

The representative office of Ho Chi Minh City & Saigon Trading Group (S ATRA) in Lanmadaw Township was also formally opened on the same day.

Investment Trade-Tourism Ho Chi Minh City-Yangon Seminar was also held on 6 June afternoon at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township. The participants of the seminar discussed cooperation in real estate, agriculture, construction, foodstuff, textiles, forest and forest products, tourism and seafood in Myanmar.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (8-6-2013)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Ye</td>
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China-Myanmar corridor to emerge as trade facilitator

Myanmar has been building all-weather motor links with neighbours as smooth transportation is an essential driver of economic development and the latest road to link with neighbor China will be the China-Myanmar corridor connecting R uili of China with Kya ukpyu of Myanmar. Feasibility study is said to have been conducted for construction of Ruili-Kya ukpyu Road, for which China will provide financial help to Myanmar. Linking Muse with Kya ukpyu, the road will also be the China-Myanmar corridor.

Personnel of the two sides have held a number of discussions and a re negotiation over the proposed alignment of the road in two countries. The two sides also have reached an agreement over some alignments, one of which is from Panglong to Namkham through Namtu. The road section will link Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Nawngkhiyo, PyinOolwin and Mandalay. Another one is from Kyaukzaik to Padan in Ra khine St at. The road will pass through Mai and An.

Myanmar has proposed the alignment from Padan to Panglong of Shan State to pass through Salin, Seikpyu, Yezagyo, Mya u ng, M a d a y a, Mandalay, Na wngkhiyo, Kyaukme, Hsipaw, with a view to bringing about rapid development of the towns along the road.

The proposed alignment from Chinese side will pass through Saku, Yenangyoung, K yauk-padaung, PyinOolwin, and H sipaw, linking Padan and Panglong. The alignment is straighter than the proposed alignment Myanmar prefers.

The road if constructed and completed will emerge as China-Myanmar corridor, boosting border trade between the two neighbours. More over, it will also become a part of road networks of ASEAN and Asian roads, facilitating Myanmar’s trade activities with both neighbours and regional countries.

Myanmar Alinn: 30-5-2013
Trs: TKK
Stimulant tablets, heroin seized in Mabein

**MABEIN, 8 June—**Stimulant tablets worth K 200 million and heroin worth K 7.6 million were seized in Mabein on 2 June.

A combined team led by IP Ko Khaing of Mabein Police Station and Kyaukmon District Police Forces searched two motorbikes on Paungnet Bridge of Mogok-Bhamo Road driven from Pinkyeyn to Mabein.

But, the motorists did not obey to the search of the team and went away. The team searched the motorbikes and seized 119,000 WY brand stimulant tablets worth K 238 million from the motorbikes and 425 grams of heroin from soap cups worth K 7.65 million.

Mabein Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug traffickers.

Opium seized in Waingmaw

**MYITKYINA, 8 June—**A team led by IP Wah Wah Kywe of Myitkyina Anti-Drug Squad, acting on tip-off, searched MAS Star-125 motorbike driven by Thet Htar Aung, 34 of Mohnyn in from Washaung to Waingmaw, near Kakwyint Bridge in the township at 4:50 pm on 4 June.

The policemen seized one packet of raw opium weighing 141.33 grams under the seat, one packet of opium weighing 155.33 gram from the right cover and one packet weighing 341.33 grams worth K 908,586 in total.

Waingmaw Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug traffickers under the law.

**Mandaly-Bhamo passenger vessel launches maiden trip**

**MANDALAY, 8 June—**Mandalay-Bhamo passenger vessel launched its maiden trip from Gawwein Jetty in Mahaaungmye Township at Mandalay at 7 am on 4 June.

**Chin State plans to build hotel zone in Mindat**

**KALAY, 8 June—**A plan is under way to extend urban area at Block 39 in Kyaukser extended forest reserve in Mindat of Chin State and build a hotel zone, according to the Chin State government.

Over 100 acres of land plot for the urban area and hotel zone is located at an altitude of 4860 feet in Mindat.

“It needs to extend urban area due to increasing number of population but it should place emphasis on minimizing loss of forest reserve,” said a local.

Kyaukser Forest Reserve is located east of Mindat and it is on 1450 acres of land.

Mindat Township is formed with Kyaukser-2, Miel, Butaung and Kyettee forest reserves on over 4000 acres of land.

Mandaly-Bhamo passenger vessel launches maiden trip

**MYANMAR**

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**LOCAL NEWS**

Houses lost in landslide at Sittoung River

**WAW, 8 June—**The people residing along the bank of Sittoung River are facing landslides due to changes of water courses yearly. This year, a total of 19 houses were lost in the landslide at Tanawkyun Village of Waw Township.

The village is located near the Sittoung Bridge (Old) sharing border with Mon State. It was bustling with freight handling at the jetty in the past.

The village could overcome bank erosion thanks to the embankment of Sittoung River in the past. After the embankment broke down, the bank of Sittoung River was eroded and the village is likely to be lost this year.

“Yearly, about 20 feet wide of area along the bank were eroded. In the future, the village may disappear within five years. So, some houses moved themselves to the safe places but some lost in the accident,” said an official of the village.

A local said that the residents are to take care of bank erosion at their residence and farmlands.

Short circuit fire engulfs five houses

**AUNGBAN, 8 June—**A short circuit caused outbreak of fire engulfing five houses in Aunbgan of Shan State.

At 1.45 am on 3 June, a fire broke out at the house of U Win Min, 38 of Region 6 in Myauhaung Ward of Aunbgan.

Members of Aunbgan Fire Services Department, the head of Aunbgan Police Station and members and local people put out the fire and died it down at 2:05 am.

A total of 18 fire victims are being accommodated at Mahagandayon Monastery in Aunbgan. Aunbgan Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the outbreak of fire.

The ceremony was also attended by judges of the court.

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Waingmaw Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug traffickers under the law.

**Bus shopping at department store**

**YANGON, 8 June—**A BM passenger bus plying from Tamway to Dagon Myothit (South) townships plunged into the traffic blocks to Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon City Development Committee.

**Health care provided to workers at worksite**

**YANGON, 8 June—**Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security is providing health care services to workers at Workers’ Hospital and clinics.

A medical team comprising Dr Nan Mon Hsai, Dr Naigyin Win Wah, senior nurse Daw Khin Khin Myint and assistant nurse Daw Win Win Myint from South Okkalapa Social Security Clinic went to Yamason Umbrella Factory of Min Tun Trading in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region.

The team gave medical treatment to 22 workers and shared health knowledge.

**Bus shopping at department store**

**MOMYEIK, 8 June—**Head of Momeik Township Immigration and National Registration Department (North) U Chit Aung and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens at Basic Education High School Branch in Momeik Village in Momeik Township on 27 May.

The department is implementing Moe Pwint Plan-5.

**CSCs issued in Momeik**

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**Kyroen-K Thein Swe**

At 6.15 pm on 6 June, the bus of 248 bus line hit a Saloon near Bawa Myint bus stop and then bumped the traffic blocks.

After that, the bus plunged into the department store.

In the incident, some passengers were injured.

Thingangyun Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the reckless driver who must firstly pay three folds of values for 11 traffic blocks to Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon City Development Committee.

**HRD**

**Office work course commences in Magway**

**MAGWAY, 8 June—**The office work course for the court of Magway Region was opened at the meeting hall of the Region Court on 3 June morning, with an address by Magway Region Chief Justice U Sein Tun.

The ceremony was also attended by judges of Magway Region Court, the judicial officer of Magway Region, the judge of Magway District and 12 trainees from Magway and Minbu District courts.

The course runs one week.—**Kyroen-Khaing Soe Lin (Magway Sub-Printing House)**
**New Light of Myanmar**

**World**

**Xi, Obama meet for first summit**

Xiamen, 8 June—Initial investigation has suggested on Friday evening’s bus fire that has claimed 47 lives and hospitalized 34 in east China’s Fujian Province is a suspected “serious criminal case,” the local government said at a press conference on Saturday morning. Investigation by experts and police has cast doubt on technical failure being the cause of the blaze. The tires and oil tank of the BRT (bus rapid transit) that caught fire in Xiamen City at about 6:20 pm on Friday, were not damaged before the fire. The combustion improvement was gasoline while the bus was equipped with a diesel engine. A spokesman from the municipality government said further investigation is under way.

A working team led by State Councilor and Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun arrived in Xiamen at around 1 am on Saturday. After inspecting the scene and comforting the injured, Guo demanded experienced medical staff work hard to save the lives of the injured and ensure they receive the best and timely treatment. He ordered a thorough inspection of the scene and for the truth about the incident to be established.

The Public Security Ministry has urged Fujian authorities take rapid and effective measures to carry out a safety overhaul of public transport and other sectors and ensure overall social stability.

Two troubled California reactors to be shut down for good

Los Angeles, 8 June—Two California nuclear reactors taken offline in early 2012 due to faulty steam generators made by a Japanese manufacturer will be shut down for good, electric utility Southern California Edison announced on Friday.

The two reactors at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station have been idle since January 2012 when a leak of radioactive water from one of four steam generators led to the discovery of tubes that were vibrating against each other and wearing thin at an unusual rate.

Southern California Edison said the decision was an economic one since proceedings by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission looked to draw out past the point when restarting the plant would be profitable. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd manufactured the steam generators that were installed as replacements in 2009 and 2010. MHI said in a statement that it was “disappointed” by the decision.

The manufacturer maintained that the plant could still be run safely and acknowledged the “complex and challenging factors that may have driven this decision.”

Continuing uncertainty about when or if the plant might return to service “was not good for our customers, our investors, or the need to plan for our region’s long-term electricity needs,” Ted Craver, Chairman and CEO of Edison International, the utility’s parent company, said in a statement.

The US utility’s decision could undermine trust in Japanese manufacturers when the Japanese government is striving to export nuclear technology. The news came on the heels of an agreement reached for a joint venture between MHI and France’s Areva SA to build a nuclear plant in Turkey.

**Iran not UN nuclear watchdog’s only headache, report shows**

Vienna, 8 June—Iran may be the UN nuclear watchdog’s biggest headache, but it is not the only country stalling inspectors’ requests for atomic-related information, a new IAEA report suggests. Tasked with preventing the spread of nuclear bombs in the world, the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors react to any related sites globally to ensure that sensitive fissile material is not diverted for military purposes.

In 2012, several states “did not provide sufficient cooperation to clarify or resolve agency questions,” said the IAEA’s annual report on nuclear safeguards implementation, which was discussed at a meeting of its 35-nation board this week.

For 71 of 159 member states, the IAEA “was not able to get timely responses to agency requests for, or clarification of, safeguards relevant information,” it said, without naming them.

Nuclear expert Mark Hibbs said he did not believe it was a question of grave violations of IAEA safeguards rules, or that any of these countries was engaging in covert nuclear activity with potential military intentions.

“But states are always trying to see what they can get away with in carrying out atomic-related activities without intrusive inspections and added bureaucracy,” said Hibbs, of the Carnegie Endowment think-tank.

Several countries did not provide design information about nuclear facilities or advance notification of nuclear material transfers, the IAEA report said.

Proliferation experts said that in terms of gravity, such cases should not be compared with Iran, which the West suspects of seeking the capability to make nuclear weapons.

Two Koreas to hold working-level talks at Panmunjeom on Sunday

Seoul, 8 June—North Korea and South Korea will hold working-level talks at the South Korean side of the truce village of Panmunjeom on Sunday morning, South Korea’s Unification Ministry said Saturday. The talks scheduled to start at 10 am, if realized, will be the first official dialogue since September 2011, according to the ministry.

North Korea notified South Korea around 10 am by a channel through Panmunjeom of its acceptance of the South’s offer to hold the talks at the South Korean side of the truce village, not at the North’s border city of Kaesong. A three-member delegation, to be headed by a director general from the Unification Ministry, will attend the meeting with North Korea.

The two sides are expected to discuss details such as the agenda, size of delegation and other specifics regarding the inter-Korean ministerial talks proposed by the South on Thursday to hold next Wednesday in Seoul. On Friday, South Korea’s Unification Ministry, which handles Seoul’s relations with Pyongyang, said its partial acceptance and counterproposal were contained in a message from the South’s Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl Jae that was conveyed to Kim Yang Gon, the chief of the United Front Department of North Korea’s ruling party.

**The Norwegian Armed Forces proved the effectiveness of a new anti-ship missile in dramatic fashion destroying decommissioned frigate KNM Trondheim in a trial near Andøy on 5 June, according to Daily Mail.**—Xinhua

A worker walks past the Bushehr nuclear power plant, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Tehran on 26 Oct, 2010.—Reuters

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Xiaobin Xi (L) shakes hands with US President Barack Obama at the Annenberg Retreat, California, the United States, on 7 June, 2013. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Barack Obama, met Friday to exchange views on major issues of common concern. —Xinhua

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Intel offers to pay up for Internet TV programming deals

NEW YORK, 8 June—

Intel Corp’s talks to buy content from media companies for its new TV service are advancing, and the chipmaker is offering to pay as much as 75 percent more than traditional cable rates, people familiar with the talks said.

But Intel has yet to close any programming deals, said the sources, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to comment.

CBS, News Corp and Viacom have reached agreements with Intel on certain details over how their content would be distributed on the service the chipmaker plans to begin later this year, one person familiar with the situation said.

Comcast’s NBC Universal is continuing its talks with Intel but its negotiations are not as advanced as others companies, said another source familiar with the matter. Intel has moved substantially on subscriber fees it is willing to pay since the negotiations began, one source said. It has also suggested preventing viewers from skipping commercials on the first run of a show, said another source.

Representatives for Viacom, NBC, CBS, News Corp, Disney’s ABC and The Warner Bros. declined to comment. Media companies typically give better prices to operators with more viewers, such as large cable companies, and have warned would make the deal a setback in January for TV networks, recorded one source.

Intel is expected to charge higher prices to smaller or newer entrants. Since Intel’s TV service has yet to start, and therefore there has no forebearers, it can expect to pay a premium, all the sources said.

SNR Kagan, a research firm that measures and publishes the average subscriber fees cable and satellite TV operators pay for television networks, recorded last year’s highest fees were $5.15 per subscriber per month and were charged by Disney’s ESPN.

While it was not clear exactly what amounts Intel had originally offered for specific channels, sources said the tech company was basing its 5 to 75 percent premium on listed average SNI Kagan subscriber fees.

Second rover finds hint of a life-friendly ancient Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, 8 June—A Martian rock analyzed by NASA’s rover Opportunity contains clays formed in non-acidic water, an environment potentially suitable for the chemistry of ancient life to brew.

The solar-powered Opportunity landed on Mars in January 2004 for what was expected to be a 90-day mission to look for signs there was once water. It, and a twin rover, Spirit, which succumbed to the harsh Martian environment three years ago, had both found rocks altered by highly acidic water.

While acid-loving microbes exist on Earth, scientists speculate that the chemical building blocks for life need more neutral conditions to evolve into life.

The tough thing to a neutral pH at a time very, very early in Martian history,” he added.

“What we have here is a very different chemistry. This is water you can drink,” Squyres said.

“This is the most powerful evidence for neutral (non-acidic) chemistry water that has been found by Opportunity,” he added.

Opportunity took three years to reach the rim of a large impact basin called Endeavour Crater, where it examined, among other objects, a small rock called Escherence.

It took seven tries before Opportunity got itself positioned properly to reach the surface and see what lies beneath. Unlike NASA’s follow-up on Mars rover Curiosity, which landed on the oppo-

Kenya to increase broadband access to 20% by 2017

Nairobi, 8 June—

Kenya plans to increase the country’s broadband access to 20 percent by the year 2017, the country communication regulator said on Tuesday.

Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) Director General Francis Wangusi said on the two-day conference brought over 100 delegates to discuss ways to encourage the development and use of ICT among women and girls.

Wangusi noted that the wireless technology is easy to deploy but speed achieved are usually lower compared to fixed lines.

He added that most of the country has been connected to the national fiber network. “What is remaining is the last mile connection to the consumers,” he said.

The government’s broadband expansion plans will rely on multiple measures. “One of the options is to use proceeds from the Universal Service Fund (USF),” Wangusi said adding that USF will receive 0.5 percent of revenues from all licenced telecommunication services.

The industry regulator said it will also inject seed capital of 11.7 million US Dollars, adding that 25 percent of CCK’s surplus funds will also go the kitty.

Micron deal for Elpida Memory appears to clear legal hurdle

WASHINGTON, 8 June—

Micron Technologies Inc’s planned acquisition of bankrupt Japanese chipmaker Elpida Memory Inc appears to have cleared a legal challenge.

US creditors had until 4 pm on Friday to object to the request by Elpida to have a US Bankruptcy Court in Delaware issue orders that would enforce its Japanese restructuring, according to court records.

At the center of the restructuring is the proposed sale to Micron for 200 billion yen (about $2.1 billion), which will create the world’s second-largest maker of memory chips.

Micron, based in Boise, Idaho, has been losing money as smart phones and tablets gain in popularity at the expense of personal computers. Acquiring Elpida will create economies of scale and the combined company will rank second only to Samsung Electronics in the memory chip market.

While the sale proceeds will be used to repay Elpida’s creditors, US bondholders argued Elpida was worth up to 300 billion yen. In May, the bondholders exhausted their legal challenges in Japan. The only avenue left to them was in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware, where Elpida had sought recognition for its bankruptcy plan under Chapter 15 of the US bankruptcy code.

The creditors had actively resisted the deal last year and earlier this year. However, they suffered a setback in January when US Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Sonnich approved a technology deal with Micron that the creditors warned would make the bigger inevitable.

The bondholders are led by hedge funds Linden Advisors, Owl Creek Asset Management and Taconic Capital Advisors.

Messages left with the funds and their attorney, Christopher Shore of White & Case, were not immediately returned on Friday.
**New York, 8 June—** The US May jobs report came in just right for investors — neither too weak nor too strong to rock the boat — but market participants are now questioning what’s next for stocks.

The equity market is on nebulous middle ground. The S&P 500 is just 1.5 percent away from its all-time closing high, but other than Friday’s rally on the jobs data, it has been stuck in a period of uncertainty.

The Labour Department added 175,000 jobs in May, slightly higher than expected, but at a level that indicates the status quo should hold for the Federal Reserve’s stimulus programme.

Some had worried that if job growth far exceeded expectations, the Fed would reduce bond-buying sooner than expected, while others were concerned that an exceptionally weak number would reveal a fundamentally soft labor market. The data’s ability to relieve both fears may benefit stocks.

“The number had a little something in it for everybody, in terms of those who suspect tapering might begin sooner and those who think it might start later,” said Mark Luschini, chief investment strategist of Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, adding that the May payroll figure could “prime market participants to be more positive toward equities leading into next week’s trading.”

The programme is widely cited as a major contributor to the S&P 500’s (.SPX) surge of 15.2 percent in 2013, when it has hit a repeated series of record highs.

Wall Street’s performance has been closely tethered to the Fed’s stimulus programme, benefiting from the belief that the economy is just weak enough to keep the Fed buying bonds.

When Fed Chief Ben Bernanke said on 22 May that the central bank may decide to reduce purchases if job growth far exceeded expectations, the market surged. The data’s ability to decide to reduce purchases this month may be key to the status quo should hold for the economic environment.

According to a new study, Sabrina De Winter and her colleagues at the University Intrim collected weight and body size information, in a period of uncertainty.

Their study included 6,640 dieters, half of whom went on a crash diet for 10 weeks, followed by the gradual introduction of normal food, and then nine months of a weight maintenance regime of exercise and healthy eating.

The other dieters ate 1,200 to 1,500 calories a day, including two liquid meals, for three months, followed by the nine month weight maintenance period.

Health coaches at Intrim collected weight and body size information, which the researchers linked to a national health database that has records on gallstone treatments.

After three months in the weight loss programme, the crash dieters lost about 30 pounds, compared to roughly 17 pounds lost among people on the low calorie diet. One year out from the start of the diet, the extremely low calorie group had lost an average of 24.5 pounds, while the other group lost about 18 pounds.

Among those on the crash diet, 48 people developed gallstones requiring hospital treatment, and 16 people in the other group developed gallstones. Johansson and her colleagues collected information on customers’ progress from a weight loss company in Sweden called Intrim.

Some of the study authors have worked for the company or serve on its scientific advisory board.

Their study included 6,640 dieters, half of whom went on a crash diet and the other half of whom went on a low calorie diet.

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**Crash diet tied to increased gallstone risk**

New York, 8 June— People who go on an extremely low calorie diet are more likely to develop gallstones than people on a moderately low calorie diet, according to a new study.

Dr. Michael Jensen, a professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic, said dieters typically end up with similar weight loss in the long run whether they use extreme calorie restriction or more moderately restricted diets.

"You’re going to end up in the same place (weight-wise), so why take the risk of ending up in the hospital with a gall bladder problem just to lose weight faster?” said Jensen, who was not part of the study.

Gallstones affect as many as 20 million people in the US.

Dr. Kari Johansson, the lead author of the study and a researcher at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said quick weight loss from very low calorie diets is thought to impact the salt and cholesterol contents of bile and the emptying of the gallbladder, both of which can contribute to gallstones.

To see how these diets affect gallstone risk in a real-world setting, Johansson and her colleagues collected information on customers’ progress from a weight loss company in Sweden called Intrim.

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The crash diet involved liquid meals of just 500 calories a day for six to 10 weeks, followed by the gradual introduction of normal food, and then nine months of a weight maintenance regime of exercise and healthy eating.

The other dieters ate 1,200 to 1,500 calories a day, including two liquid meals, for three months, followed by the nine month weight maintenance period.

Health coaches at Intrim collected weight and body size information, which the researchers linked to a national health database that has records on gallstone treatments.

After three months in the weight loss programme, the crash dieters lost about 30 pounds, compared to roughly 17 pounds lost among people on the low calorie diet. One year out from the start of the diet, the extremely low calorie group had lost an average of 24.5 pounds, while the other group lost about 18 pounds.

Among those on the crash diet, 48 people developed gallstones requiring hospital treatment, and 16 people in the other group developed gallstones. Johansson and her colleagues reported in the International Journal of Obesity. They could not determine why gallstones were more common among people in the extremely low calorie group. —Reuters

**Drugs kept in ambulances can be unusable in weeks**

New York, 8 June— Drugs that are often used in emergencies and typically kept in ambulances deteriorate beyond a safe level in a few weeks or months, according to a new study from Belgium.

That’s because unlike drugs stored in the controlled settings of hospitals, drugs stored in ambulances are exposed to temperature variations, sunlight and motion, said Dr. Mark Merlin, who studied diabetes but wasn’t involved in the new research.

“It’s a very different concept and we’re learning that expiration dates are very different (in ambulances),” said Merlin, an emergency physician at Newark Beth Israel Medical Centre in New Jersey.

He added that because few studies have looked at the subject, emergency physicians and technicians tend to throw out drugs before their printed expiration date.

“We don’t know when to throw them out and as a result we’re usually very conservative,” he said.

The drugs included muscle relaxers cisatracurium and succinylcholine, the seizure drug lorazepam, methylergonovine to stop women from bleeding after birth, and the heart, allergy and asthma drug epiephrine.

The researchers checked the news of SoftBank’s interest, while Sprint shares fell 1.2 percent.

The talks come ahead of a June 12 vote for Sprint shareholders to approve the Japanese company’s bid for the No 3 US wireless carrier and could add pressure on investors as they decide how to vote. Earlier this week, proxy adviser Glass Lewis said Sprint shareholders should not vote on SoftBank’s bid while the board reviewed Dish’s offer.

**SoftBank eyes T-Mobile US as ‘Plan B’**

New York, 8 June— SoftBank Corp (9984.T) is in talks with Deutsche Telekom AG (DTETGn.DE) over a possible deal for T-Mobile US Inc (TMUS.N), as the Japanese company looks for alternatives to enter the US wireless market if its deal with Sprint Nextel Corp (S.N) falls apart, three sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

SoftBank and Deutsche Telekom were in talks last year about a deal for T-Mobile USA and had held periodic discussions since then, but those conversations intensified in recent weeks after Dish Network Corp (DISH.O) made a $25.5 billion counterbid for Sprint, two of the sources said. SoftBank has a deal to buy 70 percent of Sprint for $20.1 billion.

Deutsche Telekom owns 74 percent of T-Mobile US and one possibility is for SoftBank to buy T-Mobile to give it a presence in the US market, the sources said. T-Mobile US has a market value of around $15 billion.

SoftBank still wants to do the Sprint deal after spending months on it, and is looking at a possible T-Mobile transaction only if it was blocked, the sources said who declined to be named because the talks are private.

T-Mobile’s shares rose more than 3 percent after the news of SoftBank’s interest, while Sprint shares fell 1.2 percent.

The talks come ahead of a June 12 vote for Sprint shareholders to approve the Japanese company’s bid for the No 3 US wireless carrier and could add pressure on investors as they decide how to vote. Earlier this week, proxy adviser Glass Lewis said Sprint shareholders should not vote on SoftBank’s bid while the board reviewed Dish’s offer.

**FDA grants priority review status to Gilead’s hepatitis C drug**

New York, 8 June— Biotechnology company Gilead Sciences Inc said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted priority review to its experimental hepatitis C drug sofosbuvir.

The FDA’s priority review process is in place to expedite the review of drugs that are considered potentially significant therapeutic advancements over existing therapies.

The FDA set a review date of 8 December for the drug, Gilead said.

Gilead’s oral drug is considered the most advanced and high-profile of treatments free of interferon, a standard hepatitis C drug which has side effects including colds and muscle fatigue. Drugmakers AbbVie and Bristol-Myers Squibb are also developing such treatments but they require patient to take more pills with significant improvement, stocks fell and bond yields surged.

The uncertainty has also increased volatility, with the S&P 500 frequently making daily moves of 1 percent or staging dramatic midday reversals. The CBOE Volatility Index (.VIX), or VIX, has risen more than 20 percent over the past three weeks, although at a level of 15.14, it is still at a level associated with a relatively calm environment.

So far this year, the S&P 500 has surged 15.2 percent away from its all-time closing high, with the index making gains roughly 17 percent of the time after the 2.2 percent decline in May, slightly lower than expected, but at a level that indicates the status quo should hold for the Federal Reserve’s stimulus programme.

**Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange, on 7 June, 2013.** —Reuters

**An earthquake survivor receives a vaccination against hepatitis in Concepcion on 10 March, 2010.** —Reuters
US approves anti-dumping probes of steel wire from China, Mexico, Thailand

WASHINGTON, 8 June—The US Interna
tional Trade Commission (ITC) Friday approved anti-dumping investigations on prestressed concrete steel rail tie wire from China, Mexico and Thailand, paving the way for the Department of Com
cerce to set preliminary duties in September.

All six commissioners of the trade panel voted in the affirmative that there was a reasonable indica
tion that a US industry was materially injured by imports of these products, the ITC said in a state
mement.

The US Department of Commerce will con
tinue the investigations, launched on 14 May, to verify the validity of these products and is expected to make its preliminary anti-dumping
duty determinations in September.

The investigations are in response to the petition filed by the Insteel Wire Products Company based in North Carolina and Davis Wire Corporation based in Washington.

The two companies claimed the steel wire im
ported from China, Mexi
co and Thailand were sold in the U.S. market with dumping margins of 67.43 percent, 159.44 percent
and 53.72 percent, respec
tively.

The United States im
ported in 2012 an estimat
ed 35.57 million US dol
lars of the steel wire from
China, 14.69 million from
Mexico and 373,000 from
Thailand, according to US
official data.

The Chinese Com
cerce Ministry has re
deeded urged the Unit
Ed States to abide by its
commitment against trade
protectionism and work
together with China and other members of the
international community to maintain a free, open
and just international trade en
vironment.—Xinhua

WHO calls for global collaboration to combat hepatitis

SINGAPORE, 8 June — The World Health Organi
cation on Friday launched a network to fight hepatitis,
which caused chronic dis
ease in hundreds of millions of people. The network is an “international colabora
tion platform” to raise
awareness about hepatitis,
exchange information and
boost national, regional and global capac
ity, mobilize resources and
improve patient care, the
WHO said in a statement
released at a news confer
ence in Singapore.

The network is ex
pected to bring together the WHO, agencies, un
iversities, research institu
ctions, regional laboratories, collaborating centers, civil society organizations and patient groups.

The WHO estimates
that around 300 million peo
ple are chronically infected with hepatitis B or C.

“Although the burden of viral hepatitis is extreme
ly high, the problem has not been globally addressed in a comprehensive manner,” the
WHO statement said.

Charles Gore, president of the World Hepatitis Alli
ance, said at the news con
ference that hepatitis kills as
many people as HIV does,
and more than tuberculosis
and malaria, yet the depart
ments within the WHO for

tackling TB, HIV and ma
laria are 20 to 30 times big
ner than the hepatitis pro
gramme.

A study by the Univer
sity of Washington cited at
the news conference showed that about 1.44 mil
lion people die from hepata
ritis annually compared to
the 1.47 million deaths due to
HIV and AIDS.

“In order to continue our fight we need countries that are going to champion the cause at the global lev
el,” Gore said, referring to the
fact that access to diag
nostics and drugs needs to be
improved, particularly for the poor.

Kyodo News

First US drone strike under
new Pakistan prime minister

kills seven

DEBA ISMAIL KHAN, 8 June—A US drone strike
killed seven people and wounded three in northwest Pakistan late on Friday, se
curity officials said, in the
first such attack since the
swearing-in of Nawaz Sharif
as prime minister this week.

In his inaugural ad
ress to parliament, Sharif
called for an immediate end
to drone strikes, only us
United States would scale
back drone strikes, only us

The appeal comprises $2.9 billion for refugees, $1.4 billion for humanitarian
aid and $830 million for Lebanon and Jordan, the
biggest recipients of Syrian
refugees.

Reuters

Lebanese army warns against country being embroiled in
civil war

BEIRUT, 8 June—The Lebanese Army Command
warned on Friday against
any schemes that aim to
drag the country into a civil war, or embroil it in the
crisis in neighbouring Syria.

The army command said in a statement that it
“strongly sought in the past months to deter the transfor
mation of Lebanon into an arena of regional conflicts and prevent the spillover of the Syrian crisis into its ter

The investigated sites of drone strikes imme
diately.—Reuters

Un launches record appeal for victims of Syrian war

BEIRUT, 8 June—The United Nations warned on
Friday half of all Syrians
would need humanitarian
aid by the end of 2013 and
launched what it said was the biggest emergency
appeal in history to cope with the
civil war crisis.

“Syria as a civilization is unravelling,” said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Gu
teres, announcing the call for some $5 billion before the end of the year.

The joint statement by UN agencies coincided with
heavy fighting on numerous fronts, as rebels attacked
an air base in northern Syria while forces loyal to
President Bashar al-Assad sought to capitalise on their
own recent gains.

Cashes crashed on the Golan Heights, close to the
ceasefire line between Israel and Syria, a day af
ter rebels briefly seized the
sole crossing between the
Two foes, Austria, a major contributor to a UN moni
toring mission in the Golan, announced on Thursday it was withdrawing from the
area because of the vio
lence, jeopardising an op
eration that has helped keep the Israeli-Syrian war quiet for four decades.

Russian President
Vladimir Putin, who has backed the Syrian govern
ment on its own recent gains

At the invitation of Xi,
Mujica paid a visit to China
from 25 to 28 May. The
two leaders agreed to fur
ther cooperation in various
fields to step up bilateral re
lations.—Xinhua

Uruguayan leader sees
China’s interest in investing
in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 8 June—Uruguayan President Jose
Mujica said Friday that his recent visit to China
confirmed the interest of China’s public and private
sectors in investing in Uru
guayan public projects.

During Mujica’s visit last month, Chinese Presi
dent Xi Jinping said China
would encourage its compa
nies to participate in the
construction of Uruguayan
ports and railways.

In a radio address on Friday, Mujica said an
agreement has been reached on the participation of Chi
nese companies and banks in the building of a deep
water port on the Atlantic
coast and reconstruction of a railway which has much
geographical importance.

“We already have the will, money and capacity to
start building. We have to
resolve some concrete legal
matters,” he said. “Now the
ball is in our court.”

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Syria as a civilization
MITT to start running 2013-14 academic year

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and an Indian task force team led by Advisor to the Indian Prime Minister Mr S Ramadurai held talks on establishment of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay, at the ministry here on 5 June.

Selected Myanmar tennis players leave for Thailand

YANGON, 8 June—Selected Myanmar Tennis players Amy and May Thi Tun left Yangon International Airport by air to take joint-training in Khon Kaen Sriuchaphan TennisAcademy in Thailand yesterday morning. They are mainly sponsored by Zeya & Associates for turning out talent Myanmar youth tennis players and improvement of ability for women tennis players. Myanmar Tennis players Amy and May Thi Tun will take part in Elephant Cup tennis tournament in Khon Kaen and Professional Tennis (PTT) East Championships Bangkok in June, Job Tennis Championships (2/2013) PTT-Challenger Tourney in July and Professional Tennis (PTT Northern Championships) to be held in Lampang in August.

World Environment Day marked in Mongnai

MONGNAI, 8 June—About 300 attendance of teachers and students were present at educative talks and ceremony to present saplings to mark World Environment Day at Mongnai Basic Education High School’s Pale Hall in Shan State on 5 June morning.

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

Salin Township WVO grants stipends for students

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Salin Township War Veterans Organization presented stipends to offspring of members for 2013-2014 academic year at the township WVO office in Salin of Magway Region on 3 June morning.

Chin State govt., UNICEF meet on drawing social development plan

HAKA, 8 June—Chin State Government and UNICEF held a meeting at Chin State government office in Haka on 30 May to draft social development plan for Chin State.

Suspension bridge opened in Bhamo Tsp

BHAMO, 8 June—Nantsari creek-crossing suspension bridge was opened in Kohtkoyin Village in Bhamo on 4 June morning.

KATHA, 8 June—Major repair of Shweli Dam started in April, 2012, has been completed since the end of the previous month.

The repair works cost K 150 million.

University of Forestry gets new two-storey building

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—The opening of two-storey new building of University of Forestry (Yezin) took place on 6 June morning, attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

The Union minister and the rector formally opened the new building which is complete with two lecture theaters with a seating capacity of 192 and two lecture halls with a seating capacity of 100 with Internet access.

Shweli Dam receives major repair

The embankment of the dam was repaired and upgraded.

The dam built since 1983 had irrigated 6862 acres of paddy fields and 1577 acres of farmlands of other crops before the whole embankment was damaged after a considerable lapse of time, inundating farmlands of more than 8000 acres thereby reducing the agricultural productivity.

The dam was repaired with K 1.68 million to 210 persons in drawing the plan.

The state lawmaker, the state Hluttaw representative for Bhamo, the state hluttaw deputy commissioner and township WVO office in Bhamo, UNICEF officials, experts and departmental personnel.

The chief minister in his opening speech called for cooperation of experienced persons in drawing the plan.

He stressed the need for inclusiveness and mass participation in every step of the process and assessment plan while implementing the plant.

AnUNICEF elaborated on sectors that the UN agency would provide aids to the state government for drafting the social development plan Chin State in detail.

Chin State is one of the least development region in Myanmar.

The coordinator of UNICEF elaborated on sectors that the UN agency would provide aids to the state government for drafting the social development plan Chin State in detail.
Counterfeit drugs: a growing global threat

Counterfeit drugs pose a serious risk to public health. Taking ineffective medicines can threaten the lives of patients.

Last week, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned that 19 medical practices had bought counterfeit versions of Roche’s cancer drug bevacicizumab from an overseas supplier. This was not the first alarm over counterfeit drugs this year. In January, the FDA warned health-care providers about direct-to-clinic promotions and sales of potentially counterfeit injectable cancer medications, such as fulvestrant, from unlicensed sources.

The contamination of heparin by Chinese counterfeiters in 2007 and 2008, killed 149 patients in the USA. Counterfeit anti-infective drugs might also increase the risks of drug resistance.

Counterfeit drugs have traditionally been more of a concern in developing regions (mostly Africa and Asia), and millions of people from the developing and undeveloped countries are using affordable drugs.

Regulatory and enforcement systems for medicines are weak in those countries. However, counterfeiting has become more and more prevalent in developed countries as drug supply chains increasingly cross continents.

In 2009, the European Union seized 34 million fake tablets in just 2 months.

WHO has stated, “counterfeit drugs may erode public confidence in health care systems, health care professionals, the suppliers and sellers of genuine drugs, the pharmaceutical industry and national Drug Regulatory Authorities”. So what should be done to tackle the growing problem of counterfeit medicines?

What especially needed in those countries is drug regulatory authorities which should responsible not only for improving drug standards but also providing effective recognition of counterfeit drugs and assisting other agencies in stopping their trade.

The fight against counterfeit drugs must be strengthened without further delay. It needs consensus among all countries and interested parties, and requires wise and bold leadership from WHO and governments. An indispensable goal of the campaign is ensuring the availability of genuine and affordable essential medicines in developing countries.

The competition would include four swimming styles—freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke and is divided into six categories—1500m, 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m and 50m. Those wishing to participate in the competition may contact the office of the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township not later than 10 June.

Myat Sandi Thin Zaw

Swimmers invited to participate in Olympic Day competition

YANGON, 8 June—Myanmar Swimming Federation conducted a swimming competition to mark Olympic Day at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township on 22 and 23 June.

The competition would include four swimming styles—freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke and backstroke and is divided into six categories—1500m, 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m and 50m. Those wishing to participate in the competition may contact the office of the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township not later than 10 June.

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Myat Sandi Thin Zaw
Development of Myanmar—India border regions discussed

NA Pyi Taw, 8 June—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held talks with a delegation led by Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textile Mr Anand Sharma of India and high-ranking officials, at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) (Head Office) in Yangon on 6 June.

They discussed mutual cooperation, India’s aids for development of Sagaing Region.

Liaison officers course concludes

NA Pyi Taw, 8 June—Concluding of liaison officers course No.2/2013 for ASEAN Summits (2014) and its related meetings, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, yesterday morning.

Director-General U Aung Lino of ASEAN Affairs Department delivered a concluding speech and presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Royal Ploughing Ceremony...

(from page 8)

Mindon’s ploughing ceremony was recorded by two eye witnesses—one was a famous Myanmar court artist Saya Chone who recorded the ceremony in his painting. The other was a British writer-diplomat named Sir George Scott (pen name Shwaw Yoe) who wrote “Gracious Ploughing” essay in his book The Burman; His Life and notions. The following is a short excerpt...

“...Ploughs stand ready in a long row, extending way as far as one can see; for all the princes and ministers must plough as well as the king. The royal plough is thickly covered with gold-leaf; the part on which His Majesty stands...is gold, roughened with pearls and emeralds. The milk-white ox that drew it was a “holy” white elephant in the splendor of their harness. Crimson and gold bands hook them on; the reins are stiff with rubies and diamonds; heavy gold tassels hang from gilded horns. The gold tipped ox-goad His Majesty wields is covered with jewels and flashes like a rod of fire in the sun."

“The King ploughs a couple of furrows or, rather passes the big rakes once up and down the rain-soaked field and then stops; for he is portly and short of breath now. The ministers, no matter how fat they are, have to go on ploughing as long as the Arbiter of Existence allows. At last he declares that enough has been done and preparations are made to go back again. He daffs his royal robes, burdensome and long surcoat which can satisfy the public...and the Public Service Media will have to do it."

The participants of the meeting also exchanged their views on the PSM.

U Zin Lin from Myanmar Peace Centre expressed his support to the PSM law and suggested that the PSM law should be in conformity with the current laws.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut said that all inclusiveness is practical in accord with media pluralism.

It is difficult for the private media to do publishing and distribution which can satisfy the public and the Public Service Media will have to do it. The PSM does not control the press freedom and it will stand as the voice of the people. As the PSM does not influence any party, media and organization, it should not be considered as a preparation for the 2015.

Mr Rophael Rawn, the legal expert from Germany, discussed international public service media and private media.

The participants of the meeting also exchanged their views on the PSM. The support of the PSM law and suggested that the PSM law should be in conformity with the current laws.

U Kyaw Win (Manutha Kyaw Win), Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association, said he supported the PSM law and suggested to think how to cooperate because it is sure that PSM law would gain support from the people as it is the public service one.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and officials concerned has a discussion with the participants.

The meeting was attended by 337 personnel representing UNESCO, international organizations, Myanmar Press Council (Temporary), media at home and abroad and social organizations.
MANDALAY, 8 June—Mandalay City Development Committee has been undertaking road extension, road upgrading and tarmacking for smooth transportation and reducing traffic congestion in downtown areas of Mandalay.

The 5600 ft long and 60 ft wide 73rd Street was paved with tar from 35th Street to the entrance of Mandalay University in Mahaungmye Township starting from the first week of June.—Kyemon-Thilha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Disaster Risk Reduction
Community-based Natural Disaster Risk Mitigation discussed in Mawlamyneegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 8 June—Organized by Save the Children International, a meeting on community-based natural disaster risk mitigation took place at Maw Ayeayar Hall of General Administration Department in Mawlamyneegyun Township on 5 June.

The township officials, Regional Project Manager U Nyi Nyi Win and Area Manager U Hla Win presented prizes to twelve outstanding children who secured prizes in essay and paintings contests.

"Today’s meeting is very important. We discuss not only preparedness for storm risk but also public participation in natural disaster mitigation. Moreover, we demonstrate storm risk preparatory rehearsal in Storm Nargis-hit villages," said Area Manager U Hla Win.

Station hospital renovated in Peinzalok

PEINZALOK, 8 June—a staff quarter, west of the doctor-in-charge collapsed in the compound of Peinzalok Station Hospital in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region yesterday.

With the concerted efforts and contributions, Peinzalok Village administrator U San Aung and village elders rebuilt the staff quarter with the use of the fund of Peinzalok Association (Yangon).

With the advice of in-charge of the station hospital Dr Aung Thu, the wellwishers from Yangon and countryside upgraded the operation theatre and donated hospital equipment. Members of Monmey Thukha social association (Peinzalok)

Illegal beef seized in Thonze

THAYAWADY, 8 June—a team led by SIP Myint Zaw Oo of Thonze Police Station and officials searched the car leaving Yangon for Pyay.

A total of 600 viss of beef worth about K 3 million were seized at Baydingon checkpoint of Thonze of Thayawady Township in Bago Region on 3 June.

Beef owner Kyaw Min Latt, 21, son of U Myint Zaw Oo, was arrested for illegal transport of beef.

School uniforms donated to students at relief camps in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 8 June—Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Obhasa and U Vimala, Dr Tin Sein, Chairman Dr Khin Soe, Vice-Chairman U Hsan Win Shein, Joint Secretary U Aung Thein and members of Htila Thukha Thammagi of Meiktila donated school uniforms to students from relief camps of Meiktila on 3 June.

Akal Alynayung Sayadaw and Islam religious group of Mandalay donated K 1,279,000 for school uniforms to 231 students from the relief camp in District Stadium, 106 basic education students and two university students from Sasana Rekkhita relief camp, 78 students and two university students from the relief camp in the precinct of Magyiagon monastery, 82 students and two university students from the relief camp at Oklepoo Monastery, 422 primary students 209 students and three university students from the Water Resources Utilization Department, totaling 702 students.

The group will donate school uniforms to 300 students from the relief camp at Central Institute of Transport and Telecommunications.

Volunteers coordinate efforts on child protection

YANGON, 8 June—Shwepyitha Township Child Rights Committee, Yadana Myinta Group (UNICEF Project) and Yadana Alindan Group, a community-based child protection supporting group, meet on 5 June to coordinate efforts on physical and mental development and social security of children.

Deputy Staff Officer of Shwepyitha Township General Administration Department U Zay Latt Oo on behalf of the committee chairperson spoke on the occasion.

Citizenship

HSIPAW residents get citizenship scrutiny cards

HSIPAW, 8 June—Under the Moe Pwint project phase-5, U Kyaw Naing Myint, staff officer of Hsipaw Township Immigration and National Registration Department, northern Shan State and departmental staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to people, at the hall of administration office in Myanmar Ward yesterday.

Firstly, Hsipaw Township Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Ye Tun delivered an opening speech and U Kyaw Naing Myint explained about Moe Pwint project phase-5 and requirements to meet citizenship. And then U Kyaw Naing Myint gave scrutiny cards to U Tin Win, ward administrator for 62 eligible people and students. The ceremony concluded with words of thanks of one of local people.

Hsipaw residents get citizenship scrutiny cards

OFFICIALS of Hsipaw Township INRD issue citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens.

Streets of Thonze in Bago Region and officials searched the car leaving Yangon for Pyay.

A total of 600 viss of beef worth about K 3 million were seized at Baydingon checkpoint of Thonze of Thayawady Township in Bago Region on 3 June. The group will donate school uniforms to 300 students from the relief camp at Central Institute of Transport and Telecommunications.

Moe Pwint project phase-5

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Citizenship

HSIPAW residents get citizenship scrutiny cards

HSIPAW, 8 June—Under the Moe Pwint project phase-5, U Kyaw Naing Myint, staff officer of Hsipaw Township Immigration and National Registration Department, northern Shan State and departmental staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to people, at the hall of administration office in Myanmar Ward yesterday.

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Citizenship

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Citizenship
Students cover their heads as they exit from their classroom during an earthquake drill at a school in Passay, City, the Philippines, on 7 June, 2013. Quarterly National School-Based Earthquake and Fire Drill is carried out by the Department of Education to keep students aware of what to do in case of earthquake or fire. —Xinhua

Coach accident kills at least six, injuries 20 in central Vietnam

HANOI, 8 June — A coach carrying 32 passengers running on Vietnam’s central Da Lat-Nha Trang route hit the mountain side on Friday morning, killing six and injuring more than 20 other passengers.

According to an initial report by local online VNews, quoting sources from central Khanh Hoa province’s traffic police department, the accident site is in Son Thai commune, Khanh Vinh District of central Khanh Hoa Province.

About 10 am local time, the coach hit the mountain side while running across the Hon Giao-Khanh Lintu Pass due to its broken brake, and there is no sign of any other vehicle present at the site during that moment, deputy chief of Khanh Vinh Police Department Le Quang Thanh told VNews.

Fighter jet crashes in India, no casualties

NEW DELHI, 8 June — A fighter jet belonging to the Indian Air Force crashed on Friday in the country’s western state of Rajasthan during a routine sortie, an IAF spokesperson said.

There were no casualties as both pilots ejected safely minutes before the crash.

According to the spokesperson, the “MiG-21 Bison” fighter jet crashed near the IAF’s Uttarlai airbase in Rajasthan’s Barmer District early on Friday.

A rescue mission was immediately sent from the nearby Jodhpur airbase and an inquiry has been ordered by the IAF to investigate the cause of the crash.

The MiG fighter jets have had a very poor flying history in India, earning them the nickname “flying coffins.” According to official figures, over the past four decades the country has lost more than half of its MiG combat fleet of 872 aircraft in as many as 482 accidents. Over 171 trained pilots of India’s defense force, 39 civilians and eight people from other services have died in MiG fighter jet accidents.

—Kyodo News

Japan minister ready to discuss regional stability, trade in NZ

SYDNEY, 8 June—Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida plans to reinforce the country’s security and strengthen partnerships during his visit to New Zealand over the weekend, he wrote in an article for the New Zealand Herald on Friday.

Ahead of his visit to New Zealand’s largest city Auckland, Kishida wrote of reasserting the two countries’ strategic relationship based on shared values in the Asia-Pacific region.

“The strategic environment of the Asia-Pacific region is changing rapidly, and on this visit I hope to reaffirm, to your Foreign Minister Murray McCully, Japan’s wish to work together to realize a stable region and prosperity for both countries based on shared principles such as democracy and the rule of law,” Kishida wrote.

He also expressed his desire to “create and strengthen” free and open economic partnerships in the region through the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement that Japan formally entered in March and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership involving the 10 members of ASEAN and six other countries, including Japan and New Zealand.

“Japan, like New Zealand, aims for a comprehensive and high standard agreement through these negotiations, and we hope to contribute towards the creation of these robust trade and investment rules,” he wrote.

Kishida also noted the shared experience of earthquakes in 2011 as further fostering a bond between the two countries.

In addition to meeting McCully on Sunday, Kishida is expected to hold private meetings with Prime Minister John Key and Trade Minister Tim Groser.

Japan and New Zealand celebrated 60 years of diplomatic relations last year.

ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which groups Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

—Kyodo News

Geothermal power plant to be built on Hokkaido’s Okushiri Island

TOKYO, 8 June—Planning is under way for a 500-kilowatt geothermal power plant on Okushiri Island in the Sea of Japan off Hokkaido, with the launch of operation as early as fiscal 2016, local and central government sources said.

If realized, it would be the first geothermal plant on a remote island that takes advantage of the country’s feed-in tariff programme for renewable energy, according to the National Resources and Energy Agency.

The plant’s output would cover up to 25 percent of electricity consumption on the island, which now relies on burning fuel oil for energy, and will be fully bought by Hokkaido Electric Power Co at a fixed rate.

The expected improvement in the island’s energy self-sufficiency will help reduce its fuel transportation and subsequent power generation costs as well as the risk of fuel supply disruption in a natural disaster, the sources said.

According to the plan, the plant will utilize hot steam taken from two wells in western Okushiri that were test-drilled around 2008 by the semigovernmental New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization and will be offered by the town office. The use of existing wells will keep construction costs low, the sources said.

A local oil distributor will be involved in power generation, and the geothermal energy may also be used for a hot spring facility, they said.

Although NEDO found it unprofitable after drawing roughly 200 C steam from the wells about 1,600 metres deep, the town and business will survey the situation of the wells from September at the earliest, with support from the energy agency, they said.

“It would lead not only to a stable supply of electricity but also town-building around the concept of a renewable energy island,” a town official said.

Under the feed-in tariff system begun in July last year, utilities are obliged to buy electricity that has been generated from solar, wind, geothermal heat and other renewable sources at a fixed rate.

The only existing geothermal power plant on a remote island in Japan is run by Tokyo Electric Power Co on Hachijo Island, south of Tokyo, and has been in operation since 1999. The Tokyo metropolitan government is planning to boost the ratio of renewable energy on the island from 25 percent to 86 percent by building more plants.

—Kyodo News

Singapore’s private home resale prices down

SINGAPORE, 8 June —The overall resale prices of non-landed private residential units in May dropped by 0.5 percent from that of the previous month, according to data released on Friday.

Analysts said the fall in resale prices can be attributed to the effect of government cooling measures.

The Singapore Real Estate Exchange showed that the resale prices of non-landed private homes in the downtown area dropped by 0.5 percent. However, the resale prices for non-landed private homes edged up 0.3 percent. Analysts said the fall in resale prices can be attributed to the effect of government cooling measures.

The Singapore Real Estate Exchange projected the final number of transactions in May to be around 750 units, which would exceed generation, and the government may also be used for a hot spring facility, they said.

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—Kyodo News
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIATIC BAY VOY NO (1217)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC BAY VOY NO (1217) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be accepted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1322)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1322) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be accepted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CATHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (073)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (073) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

China continues press entities’ market-oriented reorganization

Beijing, 6 June—China’s Press and Publication watchdog on Friday vowed to forge ahead with the market-oriented reorganization of state-run press and publication entities. Jiang Jiangao, deputy director of the State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, made the vow during a Friday meeting.

Jiang said the official said civil capital should be encouraged to run small- and micro-size Press and publication service firms. China started restructuring its government-funded Press and publication organizations in different phases after central authorities called for deepening cultural system reform in 2005.

By introducing a modern corporate system to the organizations, the move is intended to stimulate their creativity and improve their competitiveness.—Xinhua

Lebanon unable to host more Syrian refugees

Beirut, 8 June—Lebanon’s President Michel Sleiman warned on Friday that his country is unable to host any more Syrian refugees who are fleeing the violence in their home country in massive flows.

Sleiman, who met Friday with the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, called upon the international community to recognize the burden the Syrian refugees have inflicted upon Lebanon.

He also proposed a plan in tackling this issue, urging sharing the responsibility of receiving the refugees, tightening the control of refugee status, hosting refugees inside Syria, and increasing the international aid to the Lebanese government in this regard.

The UN Higher Council for Refugees said Monday that the Syrian refugees in Lebanon had exceeded half a million.

Cambodia, Thailand to discuss border area development next week

Phnom Penh, 6 June—Cambodian Deputy Prime minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and his Thai counterpart Surapong Tovichakchaikul would meet here next Tuesday to discuss ways to broaden development cooperation along the border, according to a press statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

The two top diplomats would co-chair the 1st Meeting of the Joint Committee on Border Area Development and Connectivity between the two countries, the statement said.

At the end of the meeting, Hor Namhong and Surapong Tovichakchaikul would hold a joint Press briefing, it said. Besides, Surapong Tovichakchaikul would pay a courtesy call on Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Long Visalo, secretary of State at Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said last week that during the upcoming meeting, a number of issues would be discussed in order to boost bilateral cooperation along the border.

Among those are the issues of labourers, illegal cross-border logging, mine clearance, epidemic fight, cross-border trade and investment, new border opening, and road connectivity development, he said. Cambodian government of Prime Minister Hun Sen and Thai government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra have been working hard to ameliorate the bilateral tie.

China’s foreign trade growth slows in May

Beijing, 8 June—China’s foreign trade growth slowed sharply in May, partly as a result of new government rules to curb capital inflows disguised as trade payments, new data has showed.

Total foreign trade volume grew 0.4 percent year on year last month to 345.1 billion US dollars, a significant pullback from the 15.7-percent gain in April, the General Administration of Customs said on Saturday.

Exports inched up merely one percent year on year to 182.77 billion US dollars, while imports declined 0.3 percent to 162.34 billion US dollars, leaving China with a surplus of 20.43 billion US-dollars.

The export data came in much lower than market expectations, even considering the effect of the government rules to curb hot money.

Rising momentum in China’s foreign trade in recent months has raised suspicions that companies may have misreported exports to obtain tax rebates or to bypass the country’s capital controls to move money into the mainland, prompting authorities to release new rules to check the flows.—Xinhua

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER
Sr No. Tender No Description Qty
Closing Date & Time: 18.7.2013(Thursday)(12:00)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 10.6.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Convinent of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botataung Yangon. Phone: 951-219185, 291954

Family members of examinees of the national college entrance exam wait outside the exam site at the Xiji Middle School in Xiji County, northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 7 June, 2013. Some 9.12 million applicants are expected to sit this year’s college entrance exam on 7 and 8 June.—Xinhua

Foreign learners practice Chinese martial arts movements at the Wudang Palace on Wudang Mountain, known as a traditional centre for the teaching and practice of martial arts, in central China’s Hubei Province, on 5 June, 2013.—Xinhua

Advertisement & General

New Light of Myanmar
“Kung Fu Panda 3” continues as tribute to Chinese culture

CHENGDU, 8 June—The “Kung Fu Panda” franchise will continue to be a tribute to Chinese culture with the creation of its third installment, Jennifer Yuh Nelson, director of Kung Fu Panda 2, said at the ongoing 2013 Global Fortune Forum being held in southwest China’s city of Chengdu.

“Chinese audiences will have a film that is set in China and a tribute to China. We certainly want to continue to do that. I’m hoping this will create a full circle in that it could actually come back to China, be made in China and also seen in China,” she said. “Kung Fu Panda 2,” released in 2011, brought in worldwide box office earnings of over 660 million US dollars. Nelson is set to direct “Kung Fu Panda 3,” which is scheduled to debut in 2015.

The film will be made in China as a co-production between DreamWorks Animation and Oriental DreamWorks, a Shanghai-based entertainment company that opened its doors in February. The two partners said previously that they will make up to three motion pictures per year. They will also invest over 20 billion yuan (3.1 billion US dollars) to build an animation studio and an entertainment complex in Shanghai that will include theaters, restaurants and tourist attractions. Nelson said the third “Kung Fu Panda” film is still in early development.

“There’s a huge talent base here in China. We’re trying to get everybody involved and making movies like this,” Nelson said. “This is being made by people who love the history of China; these are people who love the appearance and the beauty of the culture of China. We want to show it to the world,” she said. The 2013 Fortune Global Forum will run from 6 to 8 June.

Justin Bieber books space voyage on Virgin Galactic

LOS ANGELES, 8 June—Canadian pop star Justin Bieber is the latest celebrity to reach for the stars, signing up to go into space with Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic. British entrepreneur Branson announced on Twitter on Wednesday that Bieber, 19, and his manager, Scooter Braun, were the latest “future astronauts.” Bieber tweeted in response, “let’s shoot a music video in SPACE!!!”

Virgin Galactic commercial space flights, which are slated to begin next year, have reportedly already drawn high profile passengers including physicist Stephen Hawking as well as actors Tom Hanks, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. At a charity auction during the Cannes film festival last month, one guest paid $1.2 million to purchase a seat next to actor Leonardo DiCaprio on Virgin Galactic. Last year, “Two and a Half Men” actor Ashton Kutcher became the 500th person to sign up.

A seat on Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo, a six-passenger, two-pilot spaceship, costs $250,000 and will take passengers to an altitude of about 68 miles, giving them a few minutes to experience zero gravity and glimpse Earth from space. The SpaceShipTwo rocket is currently undergoing vigorous tests in preparation of its first space trip with Branson and his family, scheduled for the end of this year. Virgin Galactic is a division of Branson’s Virgin Group.—Reuters

Archie comics spins into first live-action film

LOS ANGELES, 8 June—Comic book teenagers Archie, Veronica, Betty and Jughead are coming to the big screen for the first time in a new live-action feature film based on the long-running “Archie” comic series, its publisher said on Thursday.

The comedy will be produced by Warner Bros. Pictures and will feature the lead “Archie” characters in a high school in present-day Riverdale, the fictional backdrop of the series, Archie Comics said in a statement on its website.

“Archie” began in 1941 and became a comic book empire for Archie Comics, which has produced numerous series featuring the main characters. The comics have been adapted for television in animated and live-action series in the past, as well as a television movie featuring an adult Archie, but this is the first time in the comic book’s 72-year history that a feature film will be made.

Red-haired Archie Andrews is well-known in American pop culture, along with his long-running love triangle with the brunt of Veronica Lodge and blonde-haired Betty Cooper and antics with best friend Jughead Jones, the publisher said. “We are thrilled to be working with Warner Bros. on this project and have complete faith in their ability to bring Archie to the big screen in a way the fans will love,” Jon Goldwater, publisher and CEO of Archie Comics, said in the statement. The new film will be directed by Jason Moore, the filmmaker behind 2012’s musical comedy “Pitch Perfect,” the publisher said. Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa will write the screenplay.

No additional details were provided. Superheroes from Marvel and DC Comics have been dominating the global box office as new films featuring Batman, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Captain America and superhero collective The Avengers have grossed billions of dollars worldwide. Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc, is releasing Superman reboot “Man of Steel” in theaters on 14 June as a darker spin on Clark Kent and his heroic counterpart.—Reuters

Poonam Pandey effortlessly in front of camera, says Nasha director

MUMBAI, 8 June—Director Arnit Saxena praises Poonam Pandey for being effortlessly in front of the camera and says she made his work easier while shooting Nasha, Poonam, who made headlines during the 2011 Cricket World Cup when she offered to go nude before Team India if they won the trophy, is making her Bollywood debut with Nasha.

“I was completely blown by the talent she (Poonam Pandey) has, by the talent that was on display and it was effortless. She was absolutely effortless,” Saxena said here Wednesday during the first look launch of the film. “There was not a single moment when I felt that I am working with a newcomer or I have to be extra careful — nothing! She made it such a wonderful ride for me,” added Saxena, who had earlier helmed erotic thriller Jism.

Produced by Aditya Bhatia, Nasha, an adult film, is a passionate love story between an 18-year-old boy and a 25-year-old girl. Saxena calls Nasha “a coming of age movie”. “The whole film is from the point of view of an 18-year-old boy. It is innocent and as sensuous as an 18-year-old boy would imagine it to be. Nothing more, nothing less,” Saxena said. Nasha is slated to release on 26 July.—PTI

Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs on stage during a concert as part of his “Believe” World Tour at the Sevens Stadium in Dubai on 4 May, 2013. Bieber will perform another concert in Dubai on Sunday.—REUTERS
**Van Persie replaces Sneijder as new Dutch captain**

Robin van Persie

**THE HAGUE, 8 June—** Robin van Persie has been appointed as permanent first captain by Dutch head coach Louis van Gaal, instead of Wesley Sneijder. van Gaal told Dutch media after the friendly match against Indonesia in Jakarta on Friday.

When Louis van Gaal started his second term as head coach he appointed Sneijder as first captain, Dirk Kuyt as second and Kevin Strootman as third. However, Sneijder was not playing at Inter in the first half of the season and was not fit during the second half of his new club Galatasaray.

“When I was appointed last year I had all the confidence in Sneijder,” van Gaal told Dutch TV channel SBS6. “Now I have that in Van Persie. Sneijder has not been fit for a whole year. I think he needs a half at his new club Galatasaray. He is the right material for our team.”—Reuters

**Nadal inhaustable, Ferrer returns French party**

Paris, 8 June—Deep down below the dusty red clay of Chatrier Court at Roland Garros lies a rich seam of mettle and inspiration that Nadal finds when he needs it. It seems to be born into him in times of trouble. More often than not during his seven title runs at the French Open the insatiable Spaniard has not required it.

On Friday, however, almost exhausted it completely before beating world number one Novak Djokovic 6-4, 3-6, 67(3), 9-7 in a semi-final epic lasting four hours and 37 minutes. There was none of that precious raw material left for Jo-Wilfried Tsonga whose hopes of becoming the first French player to reach the men’s singles final here since 1983 ended desolately in a 6-7, 6-0, 6-2 defeat by Nadal’s compatriot David Ferrer.

Tsonga’s trouncing of Roger Federer in the quarter-finals had fuelled French hopes but 31-year-old fourth seed Ferrer ground them into the dirt with a ruthless display to reach his first grand slam final after five semi-final defeats. Ferrer has not lost a set on his way to becoming the oldest man to reach the French final since Andre Gomez in 1990, but faces a gargantuan task trying to stop Nadal becoming the first man to win a single grand slam title eight times.

Only once has Nadal been beaten at Roland Garros in nine years and he proved again on Friday that it will take a super-human effort to prise his hands off the Musketeers’ Cup Trailine for much of a compelling, almost primal, fifth set, defeat was looming but Nadal dug deeper and deeper to pull away from the brink and claw his way to victory.

“I learned during all my career to enjoy suffering, and these kind of matches are very special.”—Xinhua

**Choi grabs one-stroke lead at LPGA Championship**

New York, 8 June—South Korean Chella Choi used a blistering front nine to shoot a five-under-par 67 for a one-stroke lead after Friday’s first round of the rain-delayed LPGA Championship at Locust Hill outside Rochester, New York. Choi, seeking her maiden LPGA Tour win, had five birdies on her outward half and offset a birdie at the 10th with a bogey at 13 for a one-shot edge over compatriot Shin Ji-yai and American Morgan Pressel at the year’s second major.

“I hit a really good driver today,” said 22-year-old Choi, whose father cadged for her. “I hit 14 fairways. So I’m really happy. My goal is just keep in the fairway”.—Reuter

British Open champion Shinn Phoebe Patrani shot a 67 to take four strokes off her compatriot Phoebe Phoebe Patrani’s 63. But Pressel finished with four consecutive birdies to register her 68.

“I just saw the line on the putts,” Pressel said about her rousing finish. “I just committed to my line and just saw the ball rolling where I wanted it to and made four putts on the last four holes.”—Reuters

**Alonso sets fastest lap in Canada practice**

Montreal, 8 June—Fernando Alonso, desperate to get his Formula One championship bid back on track, signaled his intentions to start with this weekend’s Canadian Grand Prix by setting the fastest lap in practice on Friday. The Spaniard posted the fastest day’s overall time when he lapped the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in one minute 14.818 seconds during the 90-minute afternoon session.

“I felt very flattened and really wanted to do it. I felt very honored. Yes, it is intended that I stay captain.”—Xinhua

**Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain (front) and Lotus Formula One driver Romain Grosjean of France drive during the second practice session of the Canadian F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal on 7 June, 2013.—Reuters**

Alonso was third quickest for Lotus, while his Finnish teammate Kimi Raikkonen, currently second in the championship standings, was 11th.

Australia’s Mark Webber was fourth for Red Bull while his teammate, triple world champion Sebastian Vettel, could only manage seventh best and was expecting a close race.

“It felt pretty good. It’s always difficult to know what other people are doing, but all in all it was a good run.”—Reuters

**Kevin Strootman as third, Dirk Kuyt as second and Wesley Sneijder as first captain.**

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**Kevin Strootman as third, Dirk Kuyt as second and Wesley Sneijder as first caption.**
Evans strikes in injury time as US wins in Jamaica

NEW YORK, 8 June — Brad Evans grabbed an injury time winner for the United States as it beat Jamaica 2–1 in their World Cup qualifier in Kingston on Friday.

Jermain Beckford’s 89th minute header looked to have earned Jamaica a point after the United States had led through a Jozy Altidore goal on the half hour. But Michael Bradley slipped the ball inside the area to Evans who, with a surprising amount of space, drove past Jamaican keeper Donovan Ricketts to seal the win.

The victory moves the United States to seven points from four games as they bid to earn one of three automatic qualification spots from the six-team CONCACAF final qualifying group.

Juergen Klinsmann’s team were close to an opener in the second minute when Bradley struck the post with a shot from the left.

The United States went close to an opener in the second minute when Altidore, who had an early effort ruled out for offside, rose to power in a superb cross from winger Graham Zusi. Nine minutes later Jamaica almost drew level when Rodolph Austin burst through on to a Ryan Johnson pass but his low shot struck the post.

The United States looked in charge but with a minute of normal time remaining Beckford was left unmarked to head home from an Austin cross. However, there was more drama to come and three minutes later the United States restored their advantage to get their first away win in four years.

The United States host Panama in Seattle on Tuesday and finish their trio of June qualifiers against Honduras in Salt Lake on 18 June. —Reuters

HK’s foreign currency reserves drop

HONG KONG, 8 June — Hong Kong’s foreign currency reserves amounted to $305.7 billion US dollars at the end of April, the city’s Monetary Authority said on Friday.

Including unsettled forward contracts, the foreign currency reserve assets at the end of May stood at $305.7 billion US dollars, while the figure was $307 billion US dollars at the end of April, according to a statement posted on the authority’s website.

The total foreign currency reserve assets of $305.7 billion US dollars represent more than seven times the currency in circulation, or about 52 percent of Hong Kong dollar M3, the statement said. —Xinhua

Jackie Chan leaves imprints in Hollywood for the second time

LOS ANGELES, 8 June — Chinese action film star Jackie Chan on Thursday became the first person to twice leave the imprints of his hands and feet in cement at Hollywood’s famed Chinese Theatre.

Chan, who has starred in some 150 films in a career spanning more than 40 years, was the first two-time inductee. But over the years, as ownership of the theater changed hands, the cement slab featuring Chan’s prints was lost. Slabs were changed often to make room for new entries in the collection.

Actor Jackie Chan poses during a hand and footprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California, on 6 June, 2013. —Reuters

Chan was named TCL Chinese Theatre’s first two-time inductee. They said they did not know when the prints vanished but were sure that the slab was not stolen from the forecourt.

On Thursday Chan left imprints of his hands, feet and nose in cement, accompanied by his “Rush Hour” co-star Chris Tucker and “The Karate Kid” co-star Jaden Smith. Chan, 59, told a crowd gathered for the occasion that he had always dreamed of having his prints in cement at the theater.

“My first time in the Chinese Theatre, I walked on the red carpet — and I see that there are so many stars doing the interviews. And at that time I had nothing to do, standing there looking around,” he said. “During all those years I dreamed. Slowly, slowly, I got there,” the actor said. Chan has become one of China’s biggest film stars, crossing into Hollywood movies with his Kung Fu fighting skills and ability to do his own action stunts. —Reuters

Three killed in C China torrential rain

CHANGSHA, 8 June — Torrential downpours in central China’s Hunan Province have left three people dead and one missing, affecting 669,000 people since Thursday, local authorities confirmed on Saturday.

Heavy rain began to affect Hunan on Thursday and continued into Saturday morning, with over 7,390 residents forced to evacuate the worst-hit areas including the cities of Zhangjiajie and Changde, an official at the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters said.

The rainstorm has triggered landslides in Cili County in Zhangjiajie, killing three local residents and forcing the temporary closure of two provincial highways, according to the official.

The province’s 103 reservoirs have seen the water level brimming over danger marks and the water level at Shimian station on Lishui river recorded a rise of 4.78 meters in one day. —Xinhua
Union Sports Minister calls athletes for achieving success in every sport event

Yangon,  8 June—Union Minister  for Sports U Tint Hsan called the athletes for achieving success in every sport event.

Moreover, former selected  Myanmar  gold medalists and those who served in the Ministry of Sports also contribute their experience to the athletes. Retired Director-General U L Aung Din of Sports and Physical Education Department this morning met athletes who are undergoing training at Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp and called for achieving success by taking host advantages.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan urged the athletes to follow discipline and to ensure success in every sport event. Then, the officials reported on fitness progress record of the athletes, game management system for SEA Games and sports entry and accreditation system to the Union minister.

Total Solution for Air-conditioning & Mechanical Ventilation System Seminar

Yangon, 8 June—Total Solution for Air-conditioning & Mechanical Ventilation System Seminar, organized by Constructive Engineers & Mechanical Ventilation & Air-conditioning (HVAC) consultants and heating & air-conditioning (HVAC) technicians attended the seminar, discussing new production technologies of Carrier (USA).

Serena beats Sharapova to win second French Open title

Paris, 8 June—World number one Serena Williams clinched her second French Open title when she beat defending champion Maria Sharapova of Russia 6-4, 6-4 in the final on Saturday.

The 31-year-old American, who won her first Roland Garros title in 2002, became the oldest player since tennis turned professional in 1968 to lift the Suzanne Lenglen Cup after overpowering the second seed on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Williams, who now has 16 grand slam titles to her name, recovered from a slow start to take the opening set after breaking three times.

Logo design competition for Myanmar young designers

Yangon, 6 June—The Israeli Embassy in Yangon is organizing a logo design competition for Myanmar young designers to mark 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and friendship between the two countries.

Myanmar young designers are invited to design a logo that explicitly reveals the special friendship between the two countries and the people. The winning logo will be used on official communication of the Israeli Embassy throughout the year of celebrations. Awards will be given to the second and the third runners in the competition that will kick off on 1 July, 2013.

Its details will be announced to Myanmar designers directly and also posted in the embassy’s website. The deadline for design submission is 15 August, 2013. Designs must be sent by email in pdf format to the Israeli embassy and visit embassy’s website (http://embassies.gov.il/eng/engyango/index.php/default.aspx). For more details, contact economy@yangon.mfa.gov.il.

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