National workshop on air pollution and acid deposition held

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June — The Meteorology and Hydrology Department and EANET held National Public Awareness Workshop-2013 on Acid Deposition and Other related Atmospheric Pollutions, at Myat Taw Win Hotel, here, this morning.

On the occasion, Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung said that the public needs to have knowledge about acid deposition problems that can trigger impacts on environment and human beings. And those present at the event were urged to share knowledge on preventing water and air pollution and monitoring acid deposition problems.

Next, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatan, Secretary of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, and Deputy Director-General Dr. Jesada Luangjame extended greetings, and posed for a documentary photo together with those present.

Local and foreign experts discussed the topics on Introduction to the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and other related Atmospheric Pollutions.

A photo shows implementation and extension works of Aung Mingalar in Kyaunggon township, one in Danubyu township, and six in Laymyethna township.

EU lets Myanmar back into preferential trade scheme

BRUSSELS, 13 June— The European Union has readmitted Myanmar to a scheme allowing it to benefit from lower duties on exports, a further sign of the its rehabilitation following political reforms.

Myanmar will return to the EU’s Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), having been forced out in 1997 due to systemic practices of forced labour, Ireland, which holds the rotating EU presidency, said in a statement.

“Given the positive developments...its important that the EU supports this by facilitating economic growth and development opportunities,” Richard Bruton, Irish minister for jobs, enterprise and innovation, said.

The EU’s decision had been conditional on the International Labour Organization reporting improvements regarding forced labour, which it did a year ago.

The United States, the European Union and others have gradually loosened restrictions on Myanmar in the last two years after it opened up its political system and freed hundreds of political prisoners.

MNA/Reuters

Floods can make the region alluvial lands which are fertile soils for agriculture. In the olden days, people there were not anxious about floods, and now it has reached the danger level. Floods are caused by cutting down of trees, fishing, disposal of wastes into the rivers and creeks and construction of earth roads, motor roads and railroads on plane lands.

Ayeyawady Region produces paddy mostly which is country’s main staple food. Irrigation Department of Ayeyawady Region is systematically building dams, sluice gates and channels for preventive measures for bank slides by soil erosion, flow of sea water into the farmlands and floods as well as ensuring the durability of these facilities. And the department is also building intake channels for irrigation of summer paddy.

To prevent the region from the floods in the coming rainy season, 79 flood preventive measures in eight townships—33 in Kangyidant township, 12 in Kyaunggon township, 11 in Yekyi township, one in Maubin, 13 in Pantanaw township, one in Dunubyu township, two in Thabaung township and six in Laymyethna township—are under implementation.
Union Health Minister attends World Health Assembly

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attended the 66th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland from 20 to 28 May.

They also attended the 133rd session of the executive board of World Health Organization from 29 to 30 May, and partook in the Ministerial Health Leaders Forum held in Harvard University in Boston, the United States from 2 to 5 June.

During the 66th World Health Assembly, the Union minister held discussions about health cooperation matters with Regional Director of the WHO South East Asia Region Dr. Samlee Planthongbang on 20 May, the health ministers from Nepal and Sri Lanka on 21 May and the health ministers from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Timor Leste on 22 May.

On 21 May, the Union Minister participated in Aligning for better results; HIPs technical briefing, on 22 May, Accelerating Achievement of Health related MDGs; The Global Fund New Funding Model Implication for Country Plan to upgrade 20 reading rooms near Bago mountain range

YANGON, 13 June—A plan is underway to open 20 reading rooms will be implemented in villages near Bago mountain ranges for the second time, according to the Action Times Foundation.

The village libraries will be fulfilled with necessary books for ensuring durability.

Speed boats under inspection for safety equipment of passengers

SITTWAY, 13 June—Rakhine State is giving priority to water way transport as it is teeming with rivers, creeks and lakes.

At present, the passengers from Buthidaung, Myebon, Kyaukpyu, Munaung and Taungup are pleased with transportation facilities given by speed boats namely Shwepyitian, Malikha and Shwenadi.

Now, the rainy season set in. As squalls and heavy rainy may fall in the state some times, Head of Rakhine State Fire Services Department U Min San Aye, Staff Officer U Win Hlaing and members under the instruction of the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters inspect installation of safety equipment and life jackets at the vessels based in Sittway as of June.

Milk makes you smarter: healthier and more intelligent

Teak logs found in dredging old lake

ZIGON, 13 June—An old lake of 175 feet long, 28 feet wide and 9.9 feet in diameter was found near Mogaung Pagoda in Ward 3 of Zigon in Bago Region in the last week of May.

In seven feet depth, one teak log with 60 feet in length and 9.9 feet in diameter was found. In ten feet depth, four more teak logs were found.

DHF campaign undertaken in Tatkon Tsp

U Ohn Nwe and party, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigades, Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association participated in the DHF campaign. They chlorinated water pots and tanks and fumigated the houses.—Kyemon-564

Departmental personnel of Development Affairs Committee fumigates Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, shopping apartments, drains, restaurants for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever on 10 June.

Head of Township Fire Services Department U Kyaw Naing demonstrates use of fire extinguishers for fire preventive measures in Ward 9 of Hlone Township.
EU justice chief seeks answers on US data spying

BRUSSELS, 13 June—The European Union’s chief justice official wrote to the US attorney general demanding an explanation for the collection of foreign nationals’ data through its Prism spy programme.

In a letter seen by Reuters, the European commission for justice and fundamental rights, Viviane Reding, said she had serious concerns about the possibility that US authorities had accessed European citizens’ data on a vast scale.

Reding has pushed hard for stronger privacy rules in Europe throughout her mandate. In 2012, she sought to introduce measures that would put up barriers for foreign judicial authorities to access data about European citizens. But EU officials say the proposals were diluted by her counterparts in the European Commission, the EU executive, because of concerns such laws would strain relations with the United States at a time when the EU was preparing for talks on a free-trade deal with Washington. “I would request that you provide me with explanations and clarifications on the Prism programme, other US programmes involving data collection and search, and laws under which such programmes may be authorised,” Reding wrote to Atorney General Eric Hold- er—Reuters

WTO to help Haiti integrate into regional, global markets

SANTO DOMINGO, 13 June—The World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Pascal Lamy on Wednesday promised to help Haiti integrate into the regional and international markets, according to reports reaching here.

“Haiti is the country which is least involved in international trade (in the region),” Lamy, who is visiting Haiti, said at a press conference in Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital.

The rate of international trade in Haiti is 60 per cent, while for most countries in the region, it is 100 percent, he added.

Lamy said he regretted that Haiti’s development has not benefited enough from the international trade system. However, this means new opportunities for Haiti.

Lamy arrived in Port-au-Prince last Tuesday to participate in the official launching of the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM) Regional Aid for Trade Strategy, an initiative seeking to strengthen Haiti’s participation in the multilateral trade system.

CARICOM was created in July 1973 by the Treaty of Chaquarumas, which was signed by Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The regional bloc is intended to strengthen ties and build a common market in the Caribbean region. It includes 15 economies and has a market of almost 18 million consumers.

The Haitian government is carrying out a diplomatic exertion in the region and in other continents to promote tourism and attract investment.

The country has undergone a reconstruction process after the 2010 devastating earthquake, which killed over 222,000 people and caused property damage of 7.9 billion US dollars.

EUROPEAN UNION JUSTICE COMMISSIONER VIVIANE REDING ADDRESSES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DURING A DEBATE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL SITUATION IN HUNGARY IN STRASBOURG, ON 17 APRIL, 2013—REUTERS

Colorado wildfire destroys more than 90 homes as winds worsen

COLORADO SPRINGS, 13 June — A wind-whipped wildfire that destroyed more than 90 homes menace additional communities in and around Colorado–do’s second-largest city on Wednesday, forcing thousands of residents to flee.

The fast-moving fire raged out of control for a second day through heavily wooded rolling hillsides on tracts that would have set it outside of Colorado Springs, devouring more homes into the evening as winds sent flames doubling back into areas already burned, authorities said.

“Properties that we identified as standing are now engulfed in flames so the numbers are changing as we speak,” El Paso County Sheriff Terry Ma- keta told a news conference.

Jeff Stemas, 44, who fled with his wife, three dogs, a file cabinet and a computer as flames neared their house on Tuesday, learned on Wednesday from a website set up to track property losses that his home was among those destroyed.

“It’s a total loss,” he said with quiet resignation, shrugging his shoulders. “But I expected it.”

The Black Forest blaze, named for the community near where it be- gan, prompted authorities to order more than 7,000 people from their homes, while a separate, smaller fire about 50 miles to the southwest forced the evacua- tion of 900 commuters from a state prison. No injuries were reported in either fire.

Investigators were seeking the cause of both blazes, which started on Tuesday and underscored concerns that persistent drought could intensify this year’s fire season in the western United States.

By evening, the Black Forest fire had charred an estimated 8,500 acres and was expected to scorch at least another 3,000 acres, defying efforts by some 500 firefighters to contain it.—Reuters

AUnited Nations peacekeeping soldier from Austria carries his belongings as he enters the Israeli side of the Quneitra border crossing between Israel and Syria, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, on 12 June, 2013.

XINHUA

A United Nations peacekeeping soldier from Austria leaves the UN base in the Golan Heights has been criticized for not acting swiftly to prevent a spillover of the civil war in Syria.

XINHUA

Iraq signs six cooperation agreements with Kuwait, hoping to lift UN sanctions

BAGHDAD, 13 June—Iraq signed six agreements of cooperation with Kuwait on Wednesday and hoped that the United Nations would lift sanctions imposed on Iraq after its inva- sion of Kuwait in 1990.

The latest sign of im- provement of ties between the two countries came during the visit of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Ham- ad Al-Sabah on Wednesday who met with Iraqi leaders, including Prime Minister Nuri Al-Malik.

The two countries signed six cooperation agreements in the fields of diplomatic and cultural co- operation, ecology, higher education and scientific research, air transportation and economy.

Iraq Foreign Minis- ter Hoshyar Zebari and his Kuwait counterpart confirmed during a joint press conference that delegates of the two countries will meet with the UN Secretary Gen- eral on Wednesday, hoping to help end the UN sanc- tions (known as “Chapter Seven”) imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Zebari added that the two sides accomplished most of the pending issues, including the demarcation of border.

The Iraqi official said his country only owe Kuwait 11 billion US dollars in reparations for damage caused by Iraq’s 1990 inva- sion of the Gulf state, not- ing that if Iraq keeps pay- ing 5 percent of its annual oil revenue to Kuwait the reparations will be finalized in 2015. As for the Syrian crisis, Zebari said “We de- mand a peaceful solution and a political process that could democratically transfer the power and to respect the will of the Syrian peo- ple.”—XINHUA

AUSTRIAN PEACEKEEPING TROOPS START TO WITHDRAW FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS

JERUSALEM, 13 June—Austrian peacekeeping troops started to withdraw from the Golan Heights on Wednesday, days after the Austrian government decided to end its participa- tion in the UN mission in the area due to the spillover of the raging civil war in Syria.

XINHUA

REUTERS

The peacekeeper, who was not named as he was not authorized to talk to the press, said the with- drawal of the 380- strong Austrian contingent is ex- pected to be completed by August. According to him, 370 Austrian soldiers were stationed in the buffer zone inside Syria before the with- drawal began.—XINHUA

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BSNL to discontinue 160-year old telegram service

NEW DELHI, 13 June—Smart phones, emails and SMS seem to have pushed the humble telegram service to a quiet corner with the BSNL deciding to discontinue the 160 year old telegram service from 15 July 2013. Once the main source of quick and urgent communication, the service delivered many happy and sad news to people spread all over the country. But with the advent of technology and newer means of communication, the telegram found itself edged out. As per a circular issued by Shameem Akhtar, Sr General Manager (Telegraph Services) Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) Corporate office, New Delhi, the telegraph service is to be discontinued with effect from 15 July, 2013.

Microsoft urges government transparency on security requests

SEATTLE, 13 June—Microsoft Corp on Tuesday urged the US government for greater transparency on requests for data from security agencies.

It follows a demand from Google Inc earlier on Tuesday for permission to publish the total number of government requests for national security information.

“Permitting greater transparency on the aggregate volume and scope of national security requests, including FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) orders, would help the community understand and debate these important issues,” Microsoft said in an emailed statement.

“Our recent report went as far as we legally could go and the government should take action to allow companies to provide additional transparency,”

Both Microsoft and Google, along with other Internet companies, have come under scrutiny following disclosures in The Guardian and Washington Post newspapers of their roles in a National Security Agency data collection programme named Prism.

People use computers at a Microsoft retail store in San Diego on 18 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS

UK banks fear cyber attack more than euro crisis

LONDON, 13 June—Worrying over hacking and other cyber attacks has pushed aside the euro zone crisis as the top risk for Britain’s banks and they must do more to protect themselves, a senior Bank of England official said on Wednesday.

Global cyber crime in the financial sector has become a more pressing worry, underlined by a series of cases this year. UK banks in the last month laid out details of a crime ring they say stole £45 million from two Middle Eastern banks by hacking into credit card processing firms and withdrawing money from cash machines in 27 countries.

Andrew Haldane, the BoE’s director of financial stability, met with five of Britain’s top banks six months ago and four told him that a cyber attack was their biggest threat. It was surprising the fifth bank did not have this risk on their list but it does now, Haldane told parliament’s Treasury Select Committee.

“I can see why the financial sector would be a particularly good target for someone wanting to wreak havoc through the cyber route,” he added.

“Understanding and management of this risk was still at a somewhat early stage,” Haldane said.

Earlier meetings with bank chiefs had pointed to the “usual suspects” of the euro zone crisis or a slump in the economy as the top risk, Haldane said. The focus on credit, market and liquidity risk over the past five years may have distracted attention from operational, and in particular cyber risks, at banks or in infrastructure like payment systems, Haldane said.

Haldane was being quizzed by lawmakers on his reappointment to the BoE’s Financial Policy Committee (FPC) “I hope we can do more on this at the FPC as part of wider government initiatives,” Haldane said.

BSNL has instructed that surplus Telegraph staff members be deployed to mobile services, landline telephony, broadband services and shifting could take place within the next 3 months.

Faced with declining revenues, the government had in May 2011, revised the telegram charges after a gap of 60 years. The telegraph charges for inland services was hiked to Rs 27/50 from Rs 3/50, 4/50 earlier. Two months ago, telegraph services for overseas communication was withdrawn by BSNL.

“As sources at BSNL Delhi said, “We had asked the government to support the service as it was not commercially viable and the government said the BSNL board should decide on it. “We have taken a decision to close the service after consultation with the Department of Posts. They also said that there are better options available,” the sources said.

India’s software exports has a lot of potential in Middle East

MUMBAI, 13 June—The Middle East and North Africa region has huge potential for export of India’s computer software and services sector, a leading industry official has said.

Kamal Vachani, regional director of Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council of India, said Indian exporters can expand their markets with their innovation, quality and cost effectiveness.

“Because of its strategic location and the facilities Dubai can be the gateway for exports of computer software products and services to the North Africa,” Vachani said.

He said the upcoming India Soft event in November 2013 in Mumbai is an opportunity for the entrepreneurs from the Middle East region to join hands with the leaders in Middle services applications, cloud computing, big data management, BPO, e-security, Banking, Finance, Insurance, Telecommunications, Media & Entertainment, Bio Informatics, Engineering Design and others.

The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, ESC will host around 400 IT buyers from more than 75 countries including those from the Middle East and North Africa region for business networking.

Despite global economic slowdown, India’s export of Computer Software and Services during 2012-13 registered an estimated growth of 10.26 percent over the year 2011-12. The export of computer software and services during 2012-13 has crossed $75 billion from $68 billion in 2011-12.—PTI

Wipro to hire over 1,000 professionals in Germany by 2016

BERLIN, 13 June—IT services major Wipro on Wednesday said it will triple its headcount in Germany by hiring over 1,000 people over the next three years with an aim to expand its operations in the key European nation.

According to industry estimates Germany’s IT market size stood at around $80 billion in 2012.

“Wipro plans to triple its employee strength in Germany over the next three years, by hiring over 1,000 professionals,” the company said in a release.

At present, the Bangalore headquartered firm has over 500 employees in Germany, which serve more than 50 clients. It has 145,000 employees across 98 countries as on 31 March, 2013.

Its customers in Germany include a global automotive company, an European utilities major and one of the largest telecom companies in the country, among others, Wipro said.

“Wipro expects to see significant traction in the retail, automotive, telecom, healthcare, banking and energy and utilities sectors in Germany in the years to come,” it added.

To drive stronger incremental growth in the future, Wipro is looking to address the requirements of medium-sized enterprises in the region, in addition to its existing focus on large global enterprises, it said.

The company has a three-pronged strategy for Germany. “We are making investments in building strong domain knowledge in key growth verticals and are hiring local talent with strong delivery and programme management capabilities,” Wipro Chief Sales and Operations Officer (Growth Markets) Rajat Mathur said.

The firm will continue to strengthen our new business hunting approach in order to build a strong and structured pipe-line of business opportunities for the next three to five years, he added.—PTI
**Auto maker MG unveils new car in Britain**

**The Hague, 12 June**— Chinese owned auto maker MG unveiled the full range of styles for the MG3 at its Birmingham-based European Design Centre on Wednesday.

The new car, MG3, carried forward many of the styling cues first illustrated on the MG ZERO concept car, again designed at SAIC Motors European Design Centre. The SAIC, MG’s parent company, is one of the largest automotive companies in the world and China’s leading auto firm.

The MG3 is a distinctive statement of modern British styling designed to target young and style conscious buyers, wanting something that’s different from anything else in the market.

This new MG3 is a great package for the increasing number of European customers looking for a stylish small car, that’s affordable and practical to own,” said Guy Jones, MG Motor UK’s Sales & Marketing Director.

**The MG Motor UK is based in Birmingham, along with SAIC Motors European Technical Engineering Centre and they jointly employ 400 people in automotive styling, design, engineering, manufacturing and support services.**

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**Exports of Australian beef reach record high in May with soaring demand from Asia**

**Canberra, 13 June**— Exports of Australian beef and veal are the highest on record, with soaring demand from China and the Middle East pushing the monthly total in May above 100,000 tonnes for the first time, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joe Ludwig announced in a statement on Wednesday.

According to figures from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, more than 103,200 tonnes of veal and beef were shipped in the month.

The figure eclipses the previous monthly record of 94,693 tonnes in November 2006 and was 19 percent higher than exports in May last year.

Of the May record, the figures showed that the largest increase was in China, which took close to 11,300 tonnes, a 15-fold increase in May last year. China is likely to import 100,000 tonnes of Australian beef and veal by the end of the year.

Trade Minister Craig Emerson said he had spoken to the leading countries’ ag and had been reassured the rewards of the “Asian Century” were still ahead.

Joe Ludwig said the emerging trend testified to the success of the Australian meat industry. “Food produced in Australia has a global reputation for its high quality,” Ludwig said. “This is exactly the time to be investing more to capitalise on opportunities in new markets.”

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**Rabobank warns of additional austerity cuts in Netherlands**

**The Hague, 12 June**— Extra austerity measures aimed at cutting the Dutch deficit within the EU norm of three percent could mean the Dutch economy growth would fall flat or even into reverse in 2014, Rabobank economists said in a quarterly report on Wednesday.

“A continued focus on Brussels’ three percent of GDP deficit ceiling will again prevent the Dutch economy from growing in 2014,” the Dutch bank report stated. “It would be better if the cabinet accelerated structural reforms instead of carrying out additional spending cuts.”

“Maintaining the focus on public sector retrenchment will also worsen the negative spiral of low economic growth, falling purchasing power and extra austerity measures. As a result, the economic malaise is certain to continue into 2014,” it added.

The Rabobank economists are expecting a one percent contraction of GDP this year, and stagnation for 2014.

“This is mainly due to very weak domestic spending. The additional austerity measures designed to lower the budget deficit are stifling Dutch growth,” the report said. On Monday, the Dutch national bank, De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), already announced that the government needs to cut an extra 6 to 8 billion euros (10 to 16 US dollars) in 2014 to meet the EU standard.

The European Commission allowed the Netherlands to exceed the three-percent deficit norm in 2013, but expected cuts of at least 6 billion euros in 2014 to reach a budget deficit of 2.2 percent. “Those additional cuts will throw sand in the wheels of the recovery,” Rabobank said.

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**Britain to regulate e-cigarettes as medicine from 2016**

**London, 13 June**— Britain is to regulate electronic cigarettes as non-prescription medicine from 2016 in an attempt to improve quality, though the country’s drugs watchdog said they would still be sold in convenience stores.

Healthcare authorities around the world are grappling with how to deal with the battery-driven devices, which allow users to inhale nicotine-laced vapour and are increasingly popular as a less harmful alternative to smoking.

On five countries have banned them — such as Brazil, Norway and Singapore —while others are opting for varying degrees of regulation, in some cases including restrictions on advertising and curbs on their use in public places. Under the new British system, manufacturers will have to prove the quality of their products and demonstrate that they deliver the correct amount of nicotine. But they will not need to conduct clinical trials.

This Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said on Wednesday that existing e-cigarettes on the market were not good enough.

However, manufacturers have time to raise their game and apply for a license, allowing them to sell regulated devices as over-the-counter products from 2016.

A growing number of established tobacco companies are investing in the e-cigarette market worldwide, including Lorillard, British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco, Reynolds American and Altria. —Reuters

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**New suspected cases of coronavirus reported in France**

**Paris, 13 June**— Two new suspected cases of the infection of coronavirus, a virus close to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), have been reported in Tours in central France, local media reported on Tuesday.

Regional radio said two people hospitalized at the University Hospital of Tours after returning from Saudi Arabia. They suffered from respiratory problems and stomach aches, which are common coronavirus symptoms.

France’s first victim of the SARS-like virus, 65-year-old man who was hospitalized in April after returning from Dubai, died last month.

The SARS-like virus was first detected in September 2012 in China. Since then, 55 cases have been reported in different countries with 31 deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

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**Banks plan task force to respond to standards probe**

**London, 13 June**— Executives at Britain’s top banks may form a task force to respond to a report due this week from an influential committee of lawmakers examining standards within the industry, banking sources said on Wednesday.

The proposal would see the chief executives from Britain’s biggest six banks— Barclays (BARCL.L), HSBC (HSBA.L), Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L), Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L), Standard Chartered (STAN.L) and Santander UK (SAN.MC)—produce a coordinated response to the report, which is expected to be published on Friday, the sources said.

The Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards (PCBS) was set up by the government last July with a remit to examine ethics within the industry after Barclays (BARCL.L) was fined for attempting to manipulate global interest rate benchmarks.

Bank executives have discussed the task force plan with the industry’s lobby group, the British Bankers Association (BBA), but will not make a final decision on whether to proceed until after the commission’s report is published, the sources said.

The task force would be chaired by Nigel Wicks, the BBA chairman.

The 600-page PCBS report is expected to make sweeping recommendations, including changes to banks’ bonuses, a new professional register for bankers and the inclusion of criminal sanctions in tougher penalties against executives at failed banks. It is also likely to reiterate the commission’s previous call for legislation enabling regulators to break up banks that don’t stick to rules ring-fencing their routine retail operations from riskier investment banking activities. —Reuters

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**A man uses an E-cigarette, an electronic substitute in the form of a rod, slightly longer than a normal cigarette, in this illustration picture taken in Paris, on 5 March, 2013.** —Reuters

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**A combination of four photographs shows (top L-R): a worker silhouetted against an illuminated sign in a branch of HSBC; Two people walking out of the headquarters of the Royal Bank of Scotland; (bottom L-R) a Lloyds bank branch near St Paul’s Cathedral and a customer using a Barclays ATM, in central London on 23 July, 2010.** —Reuters

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**New Light of Myanmar**

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**Friday, 14 June, 2013**
Askul to sell nonprescription drugs through Internet

Tokyo, 13 June—Askul Corp, a mail-order office supplies retailer, will start selling nonprescription drugs over the Internet this month, company officials said on Wednesday.

The decision was made after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government decided in principle to deregulate nonprescription drug sales under its new economic growth strategy.

Askul will initially sell low-risk products such as vitamin supplements, but it plans to start selling drugs that could have side effects, such as cold medicines, as early as August after opening a new distribution centre in Saitama Prefecture. Askul says online shoppers called Lohaco will accept orders, with about 4,000 items available.

The company is considering offering online video counseling services from pharmacists. “We intend to offer services that can be trusted by customers and municipalities, while keeping safety paramount,” an official of the company said.

Customers will be able to buy office supplies, foods and other products along with drugs through the Lohaco site and receive the free shipping for combined purchases of 1,900 yen or more. Starting this summer, the company plans to provide same-day delivery for the Tokyo metropolitan area and the Kinki region centering on Osaka, and next day delivery for other areas.—Kyodo News

Iranian Gmail users targeted in pre-election hacking campaign

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 June—Tens of thousands of Gmail accounts belonging to Iranian users have been targeted in an extensive hacking campaign in the weeks leading up to the country’s closely watched presidential elections on Friday, Google Inc said on Wednesday.

The US Internet company, which described the attacks as broad “email-based phishing” attempts seeking to trick unsuspecting Gmail users into giving up their user names and passwords, said they originated in Iran and appeared to be politically motivated in connection with the Iranian presidential election on Friday.

Google said it has a policy to alert users to “state-sponsored attacks and other suspicious activity.” It sent a phishing email purporting to be from Google administrators. The email, sent from the account “Email Settings@gmail.com,” contained a link to a fake sign-in page that asked for the user’s Gmail credentials.

“Protecting our users’ accounts is one of our top priorities, so we notify targets of state-sponsored attacks and other suspicious activity, and we take other appropriate actions to limit the impact of these attacks on our users,” Google said.

In 2011, a young Iranian student who claimed certifying credit for hacking Gmail accounts belonging to anti-government dissidents told the international press he acted out of patriotism but denied any connection to the Iranian government.—Reuters

Kerry hesitates to propose Mideast peace plan for fear of failure

RAMALLAH, 13 June—A Palestinian official said on Wednesday that US Secretary of State John Kerry hesitates to put forward his plan for the Middle East peace process for fear of failure.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, attributed Kerry’s hesitation to Israel’s rejection of the Palestinian demands, including full suspension of settlement construction and endorsement of the two-state solution. Kerry was expected to present his plan on 8 June but he demanded more time and postponed a visit to the region indefinitely, the official told Xinhua.

US President Barack Obama assigned Kerry to work on reviving the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, which came to a full halt in 2010 due to Israel’s refusal to freeze settlement construction. Kerry focuses his efforts on making progress regarding the recognition of borders and security by presenting his ideas to each side. The Palestinian side has responded with Kerry’s plan, but Israel has not, the official said.—Xinhua

Mandela responding better to treatment

CAPE TOWN, 13 June—Anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela was responding better to treatment in hospital on Wednesday morning after a “difficult last few days”, South Africa’s President Jacob Zuma said.

Mandela, South Africa’s first black president, was rushed to a Pretoria hospital on Saturday in a “serious but stable” condition suffering from a recurring lung infection. He was spending a fifth day under the care of its doctors.

“We are very happy with the progress that he is now making,” Zuma said in a speech to parliament.

“We urge South Africans and the international community to continue to keep President Mandela and the medical team in their thoughts and prayers,” he told parliamentarians who burst into applause.

Mandela’s condition has reinforced a creeping realization among South Africa’s 53 million people that they will one day have to say goodbye to the father of the “Rainbow Nation” that has come to forge from the ashes of apartheid.

The 94-year-old has received visits from family members including his wife Graca Machel and former wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

His family issued a statement saying they were happy with the care he was receiving and hopeful he would recover.

“We are particularly honoured to have received the many prayers and messages from South Africans at large as well as the global community,” grandson Mandla said outside the family home in Johannesburg.

It was 49 years to the day since Mandela was imprisoned for sabotage and conspiring to overthrow the white-minority government.

Mandela has a history of lung problems dating back to his time on the wind-swept Robben Island prison camp near Cape Town. He was released in 1990 and went on to serve as president from 1994 to 1999. —Reuters

UN says Israel-Syria ceasefire jeopardized by Golan violence

UNITED NATIONS, 13 June—Aspillover of violence from Syria’s civil war into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights is jeopardizing a decades old ceasefire between Israel and Syria, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a report to the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

Ban recommended to the 15-member council that self-defence capabilities of a UN peacekeeping mission in the area, known as UNDOF, be enhanced, “including increasing the force strength to about 1,250 and improving its self defence equipment.”

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in a 1967 war, and the countries technically remain at war. Syrian troops are not allowed in an area of separation under a 1973 ceasefire formalized in 1974. UNDOF monitors the area of separation, a narrow strip of land running 45 miles from Mount Hermon on the Lebanese border to the Yarmouk River frontier with Jordan.

“The ongoing military activities in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and to jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries,” Ban said.

The 15-member Security Council is due later this month to renew the mandate of UNDOF for six months. Ban recommended that the force, which has been operating with about 900 troops, be boosted to its authorized strength of 1,250.

The peacekeeping mission has been caught in the middle of two of the Golan Heights area of separation, which had been largely quiet since the ceasefire. Stray rounds and bullets have also landed on the Israeli-controlled side and Israeli troops have fired shells into Syria in response.

“Tensions among the (Syrian) army and unauthorised military equipment in the area of separation is a grave violation of the 1974 Agreement of Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces,” Ban said in the report.—Reuters

US budget deficit widens to 139 billion dollars in May

WASHINGTON, 13 June—US federal government recorded a revenue deficit of 138.7 billion US dollars in May, US Treasury Department figures revealed on Wednesday.

The monthly deficit was highest since February, the federal government registered a 112.9 billion dollars in budget surplus in April.

The federal government raked in a revenue of 197.2 billion dollars in May, and reported outlays of 335.9 billion dollars on the same month.

The budget gap for the first eight months of the current fiscal year starting on February, the federal government registered a 112.9 billion dollars in

Due to the ballooning entitlement spending, wasting government revenue, as well as massive spending on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US federal government’s budget deficit has surpassed 1 trillion dollars for four consecutive years under President Barack Obama’s watch.—Xinhua
Yangon university major repair costs over K 3800 million in 2012-2013

Yangon, 13 June—The ongoing major repair of Yangon University started since 2011 is estimated to cost more than K 3800 million in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Compensations provided for land grabs

Myaungmya, 13 June—Myaungmya Industrial Zone provided compensations to owners of confiscated farmlands at Myaungmya District General Administration Department Office on 9 June. District Deputy Commissioner U Tun Min Zaw explained purposes and provided each farmer with compensations.

A total of K 47.7 million compensation was granted to five farmers of confiscated farmlands. The price of land amounted to K 1.5 million per acre. The move came after both sides agreed on the amount of compensation.

The ceremony was attended by members of Myaungmya industrial zone supervisor committee and management committee and the farmers.

CRIME

India Rupee notes seized by mobile team

Tamu, 13 June—A mobile team formed with respective departments in Tamu District in Sagaing Region seized illegally held foreign currency on a passenger bus bound for Kalay from Tamu on Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa road in Khun Mon Nun village on 8 June.

The Indian notes worth approximately K 81.5 million were found in the tool box of the bus. The police charged the driver and the conductor with illegal holding of foreign currencies.

ACCIDENT

One injured, four vehicles damaged in police car crash

Dala, 13 June—A new transformer replaced the old one which blew up itself on 8 June morning in Aunggyi east ward in Dala Township within one day.

Township Administrator U Win Myint Zaw, Township Electrical Engineer U Khin Maung Nyo and staff rushed to replace the damaged one with the new transformer. The electricity supply has been resumed since.

Failed transformer in Dala replaced within hours

Dala, 13 June—A new transformer replaced the old one which blew up itself on 8 June morning in Aunggyi east ward in Dala Township within one day.

Township Electrical Engineer U Khin Maung Nyo said, “The transformer is aged. And the rain poured. It was damaged due to falling insulation.” The new transformer was ordered immediately from manufacturers and the old one was sent for investigation. The local people thanked the staff for “trying hard for the people of the ward.”

Convocation, main road, lecture halls such as Mandalay Hall, Toungoo Hall, Waithali Hall, Yamanya Hall and Amara Hall and some departments in Science and Arts Halls have been repaired. They are also furnished with modern furniture.

The repair of buildings in 2012-2013 costed more than K 3300 million in 2012-2013 fiscal year and the repair of roads, fences, lamp posts, drains and others, over K 550 million.

LECTURERS from the United States of America and South Korea who will give lectures at the university will be accommodated at the Pinnya Yeiktha hostel in Hline University Campus.

The ceremony was held after hard work of the people thanked the staff for investigation. The local people thanked the staff for “trying hard for the people of the ward.”

HRD

Yangon University boat team to celebrate 90th birthday

Yangon, 13 June—Alumni of Yangon University will meet to discuss celebration of 90th anniversary of Yangon University boat team at the team’s office in Inya Lake on 16 June morning. Members are invited to discuss and pledge support for organizing of the 90th anniversary celebration and commemorative boat race.

Condo basement parking lot inundated

Yangon, 13 June—The rain poured in downtown Yangon about an hour on 10 June, inundating the streets about one and a half inches due to blocked drains along Bo Sun Pak street.

There were two saloon cars in the basement parking lot of Bo Sun Pak Condominium at the corner of Merchant street and Bo Sun Pak street.

Despite attempts to pump the water out of the basement, the heavy rain continued to inundate the basement, prompting authorities to move the cars by cranes.

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Smokeless tobacco

Smokeless tobacco (SLT) use in various forms is highly prevalent in Myanmar. The use of SLT is deeply rooted in Myanmar culture, and there is also wide-spread belief that it is not as dangerous as smoking. Betel quid and tobacco is a common form of SLT use. The prevalence of SLT is high among school children and adults (especially in men) in Myanmar. Although control of smoking and consumption of tobacco product law exists, its enforcement is weak. Oral cancer caused by chewing betel nut quid is a growing problem in Myanmar.

Smokeless tobacco use requires spitting. A high prevalence of smokeless tobacco use leads to a high prevalence of spitting, creating an unsanitary and unhygienic environment. However, a ban on spitting could, without a complete health message, lead to a swallowing of the juices, which results in higher rates of upper aerodigestive cancer. The fact that children and youths are seen in large numbers taking up smokeless tobacco is a powerful indicator of an increasing trend.

The Global Youth Tobacco Surveys in 2001 and 2007 in Myanmar show that cigarette smoking has decreased among youth and adults, but use of other tobacco products has increased. Sentinel Prevalence Surveys of 2001, 2004 and 2007 in Myanmar show that among adults prevalence of smoking has been decreasing, while smokeless tobacco use has been increasing.

Best practices require the simultaneous control of smokeless and smoking forms of tobacco. We need to educate our youths to abstain from tobacco use.

Myanmar, Thai to promote higher education sector

U Hau Do Suan presents his Credentials to Governor General of Canada

Nav Pyi Taw, 14 June—U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Canada, presented his Credentials to His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, on 10 June 2013 in Ottawa.—MNA

Low pressure over Northwest Bay of Bengal

Nav Pyi Taw, 13 June—According to the observation at 5:30 am M.S.T today, a low pressure area has formed over Northwest Bay of Bengal, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA
Union minister calls for resilient society

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—The Committee for Sustainability and Environmental Conservation of Inlay Lake met at Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry here, this morning, with an address by Union Minister U Win Tun.

The Union minister called conservation of Inlay Lake, a national duty, describing it as an irreplaceable cultural heritage with long history.

The government formed the committee in 2010 which adopted a five-year work plan for sustainability and conservation of the lake. The plan according to the Union minister won somewhat the support of local people and interest groups.

The plan was put into operation in 2012 with the financial and technical assistance of Norwegian government and UNDP. In addition, under the financial help of the Norwegian government, International Institute of Development (IID) and UN Habitat are formulating conservation plans.

The Union minister called for inclusion of programmes to ensure resilient and responsive society in the conservation plan. The Norwegian Ambassador and the country director of UNDP extended greetings. The director-general of Forest Department explained progress in implementation of conservation plan, and assistance of UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat and IID.

Mekong countries media interaction in coincidence with China-South Asia Expo in Kunming

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—The first media interaction of Mekong basin countries was held from 5 to 10 June in Kunming, China.

The first media interaction took place in coincidence with the first China-South Asia Expo and 21st Kunming Export-Import Fair, with the aim of encouraging deeper cooperation in trade sector and promoting socio-economic development of regional countries.

On 6 June, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe visited the Myanmar exhibition comprising 30 booths.

“The expo has staged 2420 booths from 32 countries. “We have found favourable market conditions at Kunming market for Myanmar jades in terms of transportation and prices,” said Daw Khin Myo Swe who has exhibited jades at the export for three times. Myanmar has participated in the expo for 12 years.

The international expo would help Myanmar gain experience and to be ready for international expos, said U Tun Aung, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

“China has increased from USD 300 million nine years ago to over USD 2000 million this year, said a member of Muse-Namkham Border Traders Association. MNA

Myanmar government ...

From page 16

They don’t want to go back and safety regulations are relatively better there.

Q: So those wishing to go back are mainly from Selayang?

A: Yes, of course. But two groups, those wishing to go back and those don’t. The free funeral organization run by Myanmar nationals in Kampung would organize funeral service for the five Myanmar workers killed there. There have been allowed, and the identities of other two are still under investigation.

Q: Where else had you been?

A: We went to another hospital and saw a Myanmar patient there. He was in serious but in stable condition. We then went to a factory. There were 150 Myanmar workers, most of them men working on shift. So we met 75 of them. They said they were safe there but afraid of the cases. They said they didn’t want to go back. Some have even taken their wives there and some are pregnant. We asked them if they wanted to send back their pregnant wives.

Two of them said they wanted to send back their wives and we had coordinated for them.

Q: Is there any difference between what you’ve read in internet news and what you’ve seen on the ground?

A: It is right that Selaya has high outbreak of crimes. Other places don’t seem to be that bad and pretty normal, but there were rumors and thus there were concerns.

There are over 120,000 Myanmar workers working in Malaysia and the number of undocumented would be over 30,000 and the utmost number would be no more than 200,000. I didn’t see and feel things like they needed to go back immediately. Yes, we had not been throughout the country, but there was no such fear in the places we met. They wishing to go back actually wanted to send back their families.

Q: What are the follow-up plans and joint measures with the Malaysian government?

A: We will meet Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Malaysia tomorrow and mainly discuss with him security matters. We will talk with Deputy Social Welfare Minister then about labour affairs and protection of Myanmar workers under the law and about compensation to emplo-

ers by Myanmar workers who don’t want to work any-

more. Mainly, we’ll focus on safety of Myanmar workers and release of undocumented workers detained at detention camp. We have also planned to meet Malaysia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce.
Students get books, stationery in Ayadaw

AYADAW, 13 June—A ceremony to provide books and stationery of Sayadaw U Utama of Sanmyayaungchi Monastery on Daysanpar Hill in Wanbenn Village, Bago Township to the students of Post-Primary School in Aungtha Village, Ayadaw Township for 2013-2014 academic year was held at the school on 6 June. The ceremony was attended by donator Sayadaw and disciples, the Village Administrator, the Headmistress, teachers, parents and students, Sayadaw and U Utama presented books and stationery worth K 150,000 to 267 students through the Headmistress, and she spoke words of thanks. Kyemon-Ayadaw IPRD

District IPRD provides wifi at library

SAGAING, 13 June—The Office of Sagaing District Information and Public Relations Department has conducted public library reading corners—reading habit in different rooms for public, reference catalogue and catalogue. The district IPRD Office has now installed free of charge wifi system for enabling easy access to the Internet. U Tin Maung Win (Nanda Min Lin Win) applying wifi system said, “I am thankful to have easy access to the Internet, and that would be great and people could know what is happening around the world in time.” Kyemon-Zaw Myint Naing-Sagaing District IPRD

Union SWRR Minister meets guests of OXFAM International

NAY PYI TAW, 13 June—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received a delegation led by Ms Penny Lawrance, International Program Director of OXFAM International, at Maykala hall of the Ministry, here, yesterday afternoon. On the occasion, they discussed signing an MoU for projects and the women’s role in disaster risk reduction. MNA

Kengtung DAC joins hands with private company in sanitation

KENGTOUNG, 13 June—Sanitation Section of Development Affairs Committee of Kengtung Township and Shwin Chein International Service Company of Kengngum 2nd Ward plan to conduct joint venture work for sanitation in five wards of the urban area. As of 3 June, the company will collect the test rate for carrying out sanitation task with the use of garbage van, fuel and workers and then set the record for the works. Kengtung is growing the population day by day due to development of urban area. Thus, the sanitation section of the DAC needs to cooperate with the private company for keep the town clean and pleasant. If the work runs regularly, the sanitation work will improve in the town, said deputy head of section U Than Zaw.—Kyemon-513

Plan to open cultural museum in Lashio

TAUNGGYI, 13 June—The Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department under the Ministry of Culture has opened cultural museums to display works of traditions and heritages of national races in all regions and states. Soon, the Cultural Museum (Lashio) will be opened at No. 13/64-B in Region 13 of Ward 12 in Lashio of Shan State (North). The museum showcases natural plants, animals, fossils, Bawkyo Pagoda, Manhshu Pagoda, Gokhtiek Viaduct and scenes of Goktkwin Road in State. The museum is aimed at searching ancient cultural heritage of Myanmar and preserving artefacts. So far, similar museums have been opened in Taunggyi and Kengtung in Shan State.

Self-reliant clinic opened in Ayadaw Township

Ayadaw, 13 June—A annual general meeting of Gangaw Township Cooperative Syndicate was held at the hall of Gangaw Township Cooperative Department, here, on 9 June. Monywa, 13 June—A ceremony to open a self-reliant clinic was held at Kuanghthit Village in Ayadaw Township, Monywa District in Sagaing Region on 8 June. The RC type clinic with 27 feet in length, 15 feet in width and iron-corrugated sheet roofed was built by well-wisher U Htay Myint Lwin and wife Daw Khin Ma Ma of Mandalay at a cost of K 2 million.

It was attended by Pyithu Hlutlaw representative U Kyaw Myint, Region Hlutlaw Representative U Kan Tun, departmental heads, social organizations, the ward administrator, town elders, teachers and local people. After delivering speeches by the Pyithu Hlutlaw representative and U Win Hlaing Tint, on behalf of the Township Administrator, Dr Aung Kyaw Soe gave talks on health. The well-wisher explained the purposes. Health staff Daw Htay Htay Mon of Photgone Village Health Branch presented medicines donated by the Ministry of Health and the Head of Township Red Cross Brigade Police Captain Tin Thein for construction of Township Red Cross Building. The officials and donor cut the ribbon to open the ceremony. The donor in his remarks said that he was satisfied with his work.

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Kyemon-Nyein Nyein (Katha) 0.002 gram of opium seized in Katha

KATHA, 13 June—A squad led by Sub-inspector Kyi Soe seized 0.002 gram of opium at the alter of U Maung Oo who live in Nonetone Village of Pinlaebu Township, Katha District in Sagaing Region on 4 June. He confessed that he bought it from an unidentified person near the north of Nonetone Village. Kyemon-Nyein Nyein (Katha)
Hundreds donate blood in Cambodia to mark World Blood Donor Day

Phnom Penh, 13 June—Hundreds of Cambodian citizens and dozens of foreigners working in Cambodia lined up to donate their blood on Wednesday as part of the celebrations of the 10th World Blood Donor Day.

Speaking at the event, Cambodian Minister of Health Marn Bun Hong expressed gratitude to all blood donors, saying that their donation was very valuable to save lives of the patients.

“I urge all of you to continue your donation,” he said. “Blood transfusion will not harm your health; instead, your blood will save lives of people who are in need of blood.”

Hong also said that the national blood bank needed to build a solar power station in Garissa, one of the country’s major blood centers, to ensure a steady supply of blood to hospitals and health centres throughout the nation.

Indonesia’s central bank raises overnight deposit facility rate

Jakarta, 13 June—Indonesia’s central bank raised the overnight deposit facility rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 percent on Wednesday, following the recent weakening of the country’s rupiah currency.

“In efforts to maintain monetary conditions stable following the recent weakening of rupiah exchange rate... Bank Indonesia is ready to take necessary measures,” the central bank said on its website.

The overnight deposit rate, known as the Fasbi rate, is the yield Bank Indonesia pays on money deposited by commercial banks. It was last raised in August 2012. The bank also said it will continue to meet requirements for rupiah and foreign exchange liquidity in the market.

“We hope the measures will be effective in maintaining stable conditions,” it said. The hike in the overnight rate came a day before Bank Indonesia policymakers meet on Thursday. Analysts say the central bank may keep its benchmark interest rate at a record low 5.75 percent, which has been steady since February 2012.
5.4-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

HONG KONG, 13 June—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Vanuatu at 19:12:55 GMT on Tuesday (03:12:55 Hong Kong Time), the US Geological Survey said. The epicentre, with a depth of 75.20 km, was initially determined to be at 18.0075 degrees south latitude and 168.3507 degrees east longitude.

Helicopter crash kills one, injures three in US state of Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 13 June—An EagleMed medical helicopter crashed near a hospital in the US state of Oklaho- ma on Tuesday night, kill- ing one and injuring the rest three on board, local media reported. The accident took place at 6:30 pm local time (1130 GMT) near the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina, a town about 225 km from state capital Okla- homa City, the hospital’s spokesperson Brandy Grif- fin told local media. There were no casualties on the ground.

Among the injured, one was in critical condition and was flown to a neigh- bouring hospital, while the other two were treated at the hospital. Federal authorities were sending investigators to the scene while the iden- tities of the victims have not been released.—Xinhua

5.4-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

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HONG KONG, 13 June—A visitor views video- related devices at the 19th Shanghai TV Festival in Shanghai, east China, on 12 June, 2013. The ongoing TV festival here will last until June 14, which attracted nearly 400 foreign participants like Warner Bros, ITV and Beta Film.—Xinhua

Space dream on course after launch

BEIJING, 13 June—China is pursuing its space dream unswervingly, Presi- dent Xi Jinping said following the successful launch of the Shenzhou X spacecraft on Tuesday. The Long March 2F carrier rocket with three astrono- mers — commander Nie Haisheng, astronaut Zhang Xiaoguang and the second Chinese woman in space Wang Yaping — blasted off from the Jiuquan Satel- lite Launch Centre in Gan- su province at 5:38 pm on Tuesday. Xi met with representa- tives from organizations taking part in the mission at the center in the remote Gobi desert on Tuesday evening, and extended his congratulations and greet- ings. “The Shenzhou X spacecraft has been suc- cessfully launched and pre- cisely put into orbit, which means that our country’s fifth manned space mission has succeeded in the first phase,” he said. “At this very moment, I am sharing the same feel- ing with everyone,” he said. “I am very happy and excited.” Xi said China is purs- uing its space dream con- tinuously by developing the space industry and turn- ing the country into a space power. The Shenzhou X mis- sion is of great significance for the country’s efforts to consolidate and improve the rendezvous and dock- ing technology and pro- mote the development of a space lab and space station, he said.

Xinhua

A visitor views video- related devices at the 19th Shanghai TV Festival in Shanghai, east China, on 12 June, 2013. The ongoing TV festival here will last until June 14, which attracted nearly 400 foreign participants like Warner Bros, ITV and Beta Film. —Xinhua

Space dream on course after launch

BEIJING, 13 June—China is pursuing its space dream unswervingly, Presi- dent Xi Jinping said following the successful launch of the Shenzhou X spacecraft on Tuesday. The Long March 2F carrier rocket with three astrono- mers — commander Nie Haisheng, astronaut Zhang Xiaoguang and the second Chinese woman in space Wang Yaping — blasted off from the Jiuquan Satel- lite Launch Centre in Gan- su province at 5:38 pm on Tuesday. Xi met with representa- tives from organizations taking part in the mission at the center in the remote Gobi desert on Tuesday evening, and extended his congratulations and greet- ings. “The Shenzhou X spacecraft has been suc- cessfully launched and pre- cisely put into orbit, which means that our country’s fifth manned space mission has succeeded in the first phase,” he said. “At this very moment, I am sharing the same feel- ing with everyone,” he said. “I am very happy and excited.” Xi said China is purs- uing its space dream con- tinuously by developing the space industry and turn- ing the country into a space power. The Shenzhou X mis- sion is of great significance for the country’s efforts to consolidate and improve the rendezvous and dock- ing technology and pro- mote the development of a space lab and space station, he said.

Xinhua

A visitor views video- related devices at the 19th Shanghai TV Festival in Shanghai, east China, on 12 June, 2013. The ongoing TV festival here will last until June 14, which attracted nearly 400 foreign participants like Warner Bros, ITV and Beta Film. —Xinhua

Gas transit via Ukraine drops 16.5 percent in January-May

KIEV, 13 June—Natural gas transit via Ukraine to Europe and the Commonwealth of Independ- ent States (CIS) fell 16.5 percent year-on-year to 32.164 billion cubic metres in January-May, according to official data released on Wednesday. Gas transit to European countries plunged 15.1 per- cent to 31.121 billion cubic metres during the period, the state-run Uktragaztrans Company said in a state- ment. During the first five months of the current year, Ukraine delivered 1.043 billion cubic meters of gas to CIS countries, down 29.9 percent year-on-year, the statement said.

Xinhua

Measles outbreak occurs in Dutch “Bible Belt”

THE HAGUE, 13 June—In the so-called Dutch “Bible Belt,” a strip of land mainly inhabited by conservative Protestants, a measles epidemic has broken out since late May, the National Institute for Public Health and the En- vironment (RIVM) said on Wednesday.

Local outbreak of the measles, an infection of the respiratory system, was re- ported around reformatory schools in the Land of Hes- sen and Altena region, the Bommelerwaard and the Ablisserwaard. In addi- tion, patients were reported in the provinces of Zeeland, Utrecht and the rural area in the Randstad.

Most Dutch people are vaccinated against measles through the national vac- cination programme which was introduced in 1976 to protect all children at the age of 14 months and at the age of 9 years against mea- sles. However, some peo- ple living in the Bible Belt choose not to be vaccinated against diseases out of reli- gious considerations.

“There is a phrase in the Bible which says inter- vening is against the will of god,” explained Roel Coutinho, director of the RIVM Centre for Infectious Disease Control, to Xinhua.

“Therefore, people choose to let themselves and their children not be vaccinated. We are talking about several thousands of unvaccinated children currently at risk of getting measles,” Coutinho said.

So far, more than 30 patients with measles have been reported. The actual number is probably much higher because not all pa- tients have attended the doctor.

In recent years, sev- eral outbreaks of measles occurred in Europe. In 1999/2000, the Netherlands witnessed its last measles epidemic, which mainly took place in the Bible Belt, with around 3000 patients with measles reported and 150 children admitted to hospital. Three children died from the effects of the disease.

“We expect the dis- ease to spread again like in 1999/2000. These peo- ple have much contact with each other, through schools or other social oc- casions. But maybe it is OK this time, because it’s the holiday season. All non- vaccinated children born after the last outbreak are susceptible to the disease,” added Coutinho. —Xinhua

5.4-magnitude quake hits Vanuatu

HONG KONG, 13 June—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Vanuatu at 19:12:55 GMT on Tuesday (03:12:55 Hong Kong Time), the US Geological Survey said. The epicentre, with a depth of 75.20 km, was initially determined to be at 18.0075 degrees south lati- tude and 168.3507 degrees east longitude.

Helicopter crash kills one, injures three in US state of Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 13 June—An EagleMed medical helicopter crashed near a hospital in the US state of Oklaho- ma on Tuesday night, kill- ing one and injuring the rest three on board, local media reported. The accident took place at 6:30 pm local time (1130 GMT) near the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina, a town about 225 km from state capital Okla- homa City, the hospital’s spokesperson Brandy Grif- fin told local media. There were no casualties on the ground.

Among the injured, one was in critical condition and was flown to a neigh- bouring hospital, while the other two were treated at the hospital. Federal authorities were sending investigators to the scene while the iden- tities of the victims have not been released.—Xinhua
Dispatch audio reveals details of Paris Jackson suicide attempt

LOS ANGELES, 13 June —Paris Jackson, the 15-year-old daughter of late pop star Michael Jackson, swallowed 20 pain pills and cut her arm last week in an apparent suicide attempt, according to emergency dispatch audio released on Tuesday.

The audio released by the Los Angeles County Fire Department casts new light on the 5 June incident at the Jackson’s family residence in Calabasas, California, which prompted a judge who oversees her guardianship to order an investigation into her “health, education and welfare.”

The call between emergency dispatchers indicated that Paris took 20 Motrin tablets, an over-the-counter pain medication, and cut her arm with a kitchen knife.

The minute-long audio clip also described the teenager as awake and breathing before being rushed to a local hospital.

Paris and her two brothers Prince Michael and Prince Michael II, also known as Blanket, lived under the court-ordered custody of their 83-year-old grandmother, Katherine Jackson, and cousin, TJ Jackson, the son of Jackson’s older brother Tito.

Michael Jackson died in 2009 at age 50 from a lethal dose of the surgical anesthetic propofol.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff ordered an investigator to “address the status of the minor child, Paris Michael Katherine Jackson, and recent media reports concerning her welfare,” according to court documents filed after the she entered a hospital last week.

British music festivals in tune with older, cashed-up fans

LONDON, 13 June—Britain’s summer music festival season kicks off this week with a line-up ranging from the Rolling Stones to Beyoncé to exiled Tibetan monks designed to attract the modern festival-goer - a 36-year-old with a well-padded wallet.

Music festivals have become an integral part of summer for British music fans with Bon Jovi and Blondie at the Isle of Wight festival this weekend, Slipknot and Iron Maiden at metal-fest Download, and Iggy Pop at Yoko Ono’s Meltdown in London.

But figures show a shift in the type of fans attending music festivals with research by website MSN this year finding the average festival-goer is aged 36 and expects to spend about 425 pounds on a ticket, transport, and food to attend the event.

This comes as ticket prices have surged with the UK’s biggest festival, Glastonbury, charging over 200 pounds for the first time this year, 95 percent up on the 2003 price of 105 pounds - more than 2.5 times the rate of inflation.

Catering for the older crowd are older acts with musicians in the 10 top headliners acts an average age of 39. British rockers Mumford & Sons are the only top act this year to have released a debut album in the past five years.

Research director James McCoy from market researchers YouGov said the costs had changed the crowd at big festivals with a survey finding 22 percent of festival-goers from last year planned to go on a holiday instead of paying for a festival.

“They have less money to spend and many of the festival-goers we surveyed were turned off by poor weather and long queues,” said McCoy, joking about the annual photos of Glastonbury festival-goers in raincoats and covered in mud.

“There is clearly some backlash to higher prices and also to the commercialisation of festivals. This won’t significantly impact the industry although we might see some smaller, more alternative festivals emerge on the side.”

With Brad Pitt, son Pax on board a yacht named Ghost

SYDNEY, 13 June — Brad Pitt makes sure to give time to his kids, and the actor recently made the best of what he could for his son Pax during their recent visit to Australia.

The 49-year-old took Pax on a boat trip while they were in Sydney for the promotion of Pitt’s new flick World War Z and they spent some quality time on board a yacht named Ghost, read a statement.

Brad feels it is essential to find time for family.

“I always thought that if I wanted to do a family, I wanted to do it big. I hate it when they’re gone. I hate it. Maybe it’s nice to be in a hotel room for a day — ‘Oh nice, I can finally read a paper’... But then, by the next day...”

Robert Pattinson, Katy Perry new friends?

LOS ANGELES, 13 June —After breaking up with actress Kristen Stewart, Hollywood actor Robert Pattinson is reportedly spending time with singer Katy Perry.

The two attended a Björk concert at the Hollywood Palladium here. They were said to have met up secretly and made their way into the gig together before leaving separately to avoid photographers waiting outside the venue, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Perry, 28, opted for a gothic inspired ensemble, teaming a leather miniskirt with a black and silver Tee shirt.

The Part Of Me singer teemed her outfit with a long black satin coat, black tights and heels. She also wore a black and silver neckpiece.—PTI

Robert, who earlier dated Kristen Stewart, is now spending time with singer Katy Perry.
WOODS THE PLAYER TO BEAT AT RAIN-SOFTENED MERION

Philadelph, (Pennsylviania), 13 June—Merion Golf Club has been linked with some of the most iconic moments in championship golf and Tiger Woods will aim to add to his own at this week’s US Open where he is a heavy favourite.

A host of other play- ers can lay claim to being genuine contenders for the year’s second major, which begins on Thursday, but Woods is widely viewed as the likeliest winner based on his outstanding record and the often dominant form he has shown this season.

The world No. 1, aged 38, has triumphed four times on the 2013 PGA Tour and is clearly the player to beat at Merion.

“Tiger Woods is playing some awesome golf,” fellow American Matt Kuchar, who won the Memorial title to give himself a significant boost for this week, told reporters on Wednesday.

“Winning four times already is just amazing. He seems to be back clicking again and when he’s on, he can dominate more than most of the rest of us can’t do. It’s fun to have him playing well.

“But the great thing about the game of golf, anybody who tees it up has a chance to win. Every field we play on the PGA Tour, the top to bottom, there’s a lot of strength.” Woods has revived memories of his glory days in the late 1990s and early 2000s with much of his play this year and he will be eager to end a major title drought dating back to his playoff victory at the 2008 US Open.

Though the American world number one was bitterly disappointed with his overall game at the Memorial Tournament, and especially his putting, he has put that down as a blip in an otherwise successful season.

“I didn’t really do much that I was real pleased about, but it was just one of those weeks,” 14-times major champion Woods said. “It happens. And move on from there.”

“I had a good week of practice last week at home. We had a tropical storm roll through there. I guess it was getting us ready for this one.” Bad weather has already been a huge factor at Merion with more than six inches (15cm) of rain saturating the area since Friday and severe thun- derstorms have been forecast for the latter part of Thursday’s opening round.

“You’re not going to see a firm US Open this year,” said twice former US Open champion Ernie Els. “We’re going to have a soft golf course... all week.”

It means that if you’re on your game you’re going to have a lot of birdie putts. There are quite a few par fours where you’ve just got to put it in the fairway... then you’ve got quite a short second shot.”

New Jersey crash

Philadelphia, 13 June—NASCAR driver Jason Leffler died from injuries suf- fered when his car slammed into the wall of a dirt race- way in New Jersey, state po- lice said.

The crash occurred dur- ing a race at the Bridgeport Speedway in Logan town- ship in southern New Jersey, near Philadelphia, state police spokesman Sergeant Adam Grossman said.

Leffler, 37, of Hunters- ville, North Carolina, was rushed to the Crozier Hospit- al in Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was pronounced dead at 9:02 pm, police said.

The raceway calls itself the “Fastest Dirt Track in the East.” It consists of a spacious 5/8-mile high-banked dirt oval, where average speeds reach well over 100 miles per hour, according to the track’s website.

Leffler was a two-time winner of the Nationwide Ser- ies. He had been racing for over a decade, with experi- ence in so-called midget race cars as well as the Indianapolis 500, where he placed 17th in 2000, his website noted.

Israel’s Maccabi Tel Aviv name Paulo Sousa as new coach

Videoton FC’s coach Paulo Sousa (R) reacts next to FC Basel’s (FCB) Alexander Frei during their Europa League Group G soccer match in Basel on 8 Nov, 2012.

Paulo Sousa on a two-year contract, the club said on Wednesday.

Sousa, 42, moved to Maccabi from Hungarian side Fehervar. He previous- ly coached the Portuguese Under-16 national side and had stints in England over a three-year stretch with Queens Park Rangers, Swans City and Leicester City.

As a player, Sousa was a midfielder for Benfica, Sporting, Juventus, Borus- sia Dortmund, Inter Milan, Parma, Panathinaikos and Espanyol and made 51 in-ternational appearances for Portugal.

He replaces Spaniard Oscar Garcia who left Macc- abai at the end of last season for personal reasons.

Garcia, formerly the Barcelona youth team coach, was recruited by Maccabi technical manager Jordi Cruyff at the start of last season and led the per- ennial underachievers to their first league title in ten years.—Reuters

FIFA says Brazil will be ready for World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 June—Brazilian tennis icon Pete, Brazilian Minister of Sports Aldo Rebelo and Hublot Chairman Jean-Claude Biver attend the event marking one year to the kick-off of the 2014 FIFA World Cup at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on 12 June, 2013.—Reuters

Frenchman Monfils pulls out of Wimbledon

PARIS, 13 June—Former world number seven Gael Monfils has pulled out of this month’s Wimbledon tournament for “personal reasons”, the French tennis federation said on Twitter on Wednesday.

The Frenchman, who beat fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych in the French Open first round, had looked to have found his feet on grass as he cruised to the quarter-fi- nals of this week’s Halle event, defeating 15th-ranked Mi- los Raonic in straight sets along the way.

The 26-year-old, whose career has recently been plagued by a knee injury, has climbed from 119th to 67th in the ATP rankings in a month following a series of good results including a third-round appearance at the French Open.—Reuters

Gael Monfils of France is pictured as he plays Tommy Robredo of Spain during their men’s singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 31 May, 2013. —Reuters

The grand slam tennis tournament will begin on 17 June.
Stanley ends waiting game with Open spot

**AERODROME, (Pennsylvania), 13 June—**Kyle Stanley says he never really sweated it over but had to play a waiting game before knowing he was in the field for this week's US Open at Merion Golf Club.

Having played six events out of the previous seven on the 2013 PGA Tour, the 25-year-old American decided to skip last week's St Jude Classic in Memphis, well aware that he could lose his place in the top 60 world rankings, and therefore also at the Open.

As it happened, Stanley slipped from 59th to 60th and became the last player to earn an exemption for the season’s second major through the world rankings when the field was set for Merion on Monday.

"It wasn’t too much of a sweat for me," Stanley told Reuters with a slight grin on Wednesday after completing a practice round on a sun-splashed afternoon at Merion. "I was never going to play in Memphis. "In my mind, I had kind of done all I could. I’ve played decent the last couple of months, so it was just a waiting game for me.”

“arley says he never really knows how it’s going to play a waiting game before qualifying in Columbus, Ohio nine days ago.

"It was just kind of done all I could. I’ve played decent the last couple of months, so it was just a waiting game for me.”

The American, who has recorded three top-six finishes in the season, including the Memorial Tournament two weeks ago.—Reuters

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**38 countries have met int’l target on hunger eradication**

**UNITED NATIONS, 13 June —**The UN food agency confirmed on Wednesday that 38 countries have met internationally—established targets in the fight against hunger, chalking up successes ahead of a deadline set for 2015.

UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said on Wednesday. During the annual report launched by the FAO chief as saying.

"Globally, hunger has declined over the past decade, but 870 million people are still undernourished,” del Buey quoted the FAO chief as saying.

"Two billion people suffer from one or more micro-nutrient deficiencies, while 1.4 billion are overweight, of whom 500 million are obese, according to an annual report launched by the agency earlier this month.

The FAO chief urged all countries to keep up the momentum, aiming for the complete eradication of hunger, in keeping with the Zero Hunger Challenge launched in 2012 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, del Buey said.

First proposed at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Brazil last June, the challenge aims for a future where every individual has adequate nutrition. Globally, hunger has declined over the past decade, but 870 million people are still undernourished,” del Buey quoted the FAO chief as saying.

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**H1N1 flu cases rise sharply in Venezuela**

**CARACAS, 13 June—**The number of people infected with the H1N1 virus in Venezuela rose sharply by 57.18 percent in a week’s time, to reach 1,138 cases, the country’s health ministry reported on Wednesday.

The report covering the week of 26 May to 1 June showed an increase of 414 cases, with the most affected states located along the northern coast and western Venezuela.

Health Minister Isabel Iturra called for the public to remain calm, saying the situation was “under control,” as 3 million people were vaccinated in May.

The H1N1 virus first appeared in 2009 in Venezuela, infecting about 900 people and causing eight deaths.

As a particularly aggressive type of the flu, H1N1 is not lethal itself, but can be fatal for those whose immune systems have been already weakened by another ailment, such as cancer, AIDS or diabetes, especially for the old people and pregnant women.

In Venezuela, test methods now are short of quickly determining whether a patient has been infected by the virus, but the country reportedly has a greater reserve of medicine needed to combat the disease.

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**Cambodia’s largest port sees 14 pct rise in cargo shipment in 5 months**

**PHNOM PENH, 13 June—**The Shinanokiville’s Autonomy Port, the kingdom’s largest shipping facility, has seen a 14 percent increase in cargo shipped in the first five months of this year thanks to growing business activities, a port senior official said on Wednesday.

During January-May period this year, the state-owned port had received 112,200 twenty-foot-equivalent units, or TEUs (standard-sized containers), up 14 percent from 98,500 TEUs in the same period last year, according to the port’s statistics.

The growth in the port came in thanks to better economic situation in Cambodia and in the world,” the port’s director general Lou Kim Chhum said. He said goods leaving Cambodia through the port were mostly garment and footwear products, and agricultural products, whilst devotion to Cambodia via the port were consuming products, autos, construction materials, machinery, steel, steam coal, and petroleum.

The port was expected to list on Cambodian Security Exchange later this year, he said.—Xinhua

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**Extra budget, rate cut in S Korea to boost growth: central bank**

**SEOUL, 13 June—**Extra budget and policy rate cut would boost the growth rate of South Korean economy by 0.2 percentage point in 2013, central bank governor said on Thursday. “The effect of supplementary budget and rate cut will be a rise of economic growth by 0.2 percentage point this year. The 2013 growth outlook may be revised up by such margin,” Bank of Korea (BOK) Governor Kim Choong-soo told reporters after the June rate-setting meeting.

The central bank kept the benchmark seven-day repurchase rate on hold at 2.5 percent after cutting the rate by 0.25 basis points in May.

Kim noted the effect of the monetary and fiscal stimulus measures would increase the 2014 growth rate by 0.3 percentage points, saying that the country’s economic growth may reach near 4 percent next year.

The governor said that the central bank decided to freeze the rate in a bid to monitor the effect of the rate cut in May and the extra budget based on the assessment of no change in the future growth path.—Xinhua

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**A woman waits for customers at the fishing market of the Qilingan port in Wenchang City, south China’s Hainan Province, on 11 June, 2013.—Xinhua**

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**The “Zhongbaoadao” ro-ro cruise ship moves in the Yinzhuangxiao section of the Three Gorges reservoir region in Zigi County, central China’s Hubei Province, on 11 June, 2013. “Zhongbaoadao” ro-ro cruise ship, the first one of this kind in Three Gorges reservoir region, was officially put into service on Tuesday.—Xinhua**

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**Kylie Stanley of the US watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during the final round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio on 2 June, 2013.—Reuters**

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**A Simple and Peaceful Devotion Pa O Region**

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**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

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**Myanmar government to coordinate with Malaysian government to ensure safety of Myanmar workers**

**Q:** How did they reply to current incidents there?  
**A:** We have a chance to know their current conditions. Most of them told us that some Myanmar workers were attacked in Selayang region, other rumors and some news on Facebook. Some have been there for five years and six years, ten years respectively. Most of them don’t want to go back home as they have got not bad jobs. It is assumed that they extend their passports so as to continue staying there.  
**But,** they are afraid to go outside. Their employers don’t let them go outside as being anxious. They heard that their parents and relatives in Myanmar want them to go back home due to widespread rumors there.  
**Q:** Where did the Myanmar delegation proceed?  
**A:** We went to Selayang Market in Selayang region where violence has occurred. There are old Selayang Market and new Selayang Market. We went to new Selayang Market, escorted by Malaysian police force. Selayang region is a hotbed of crime in Malaysia. That wholesale market sells vegetables and fruits in the afternoon and fishes at night. We found illegal migrant workers there. They have no passports and did not give taxes and had been staying there for 10-15 years. Some run food shops and wheel shops. About 4000 Myanmar people are staying there. They confirmed the outbreaks of violence there, but did not know all incidents. They also said the gangs and other groups attacked Myanmar workers. But they said they do want to go back home. We saw some illegal young workers who come to Malaysia on recent days. They are from different parts of Myanmar. We asked them to take care each others and have security alert.  
**Q:** Did the delegation visit Selayang Hospital?  
**A:** We proceeded to Selayang Hospital through Selayang Market. The Myanmar ambassador met four warded patients at the hospital, two of them have been discharged from the hospital. One of warded patients died on 8 June, and one remains in Hospital. Now he is not in serious conditions. He is from Myingyan. We donated 1800 Malaysia Ringgits. The embassy is taking care of him as he is alone there.  
**Q:** Didn’t the Myanmar employer visit the patient?  
**A:** Myanmar Embassy has been doing well to keep workers doing well-paid work there.  

**Myanmar special delegation encourages Myanmar workers**

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