Myanmar would help foreign investors the most possible degree:

President

U Thein Sein shakes hands with former World Bank President and former U.S Deputy Secretary of Defence Dr Paul Wolfowitz, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, today.

The President said the new government could establish good relations with other world countries in its two-year term. Relations between Myanmar and US had reached better status after a 20-year hiatus of ties. He said he was satisfied with his recent visit to U.S, which bring better prospects for amity and cooperation between the two countries. Myanmar was inviting foreign investors for revival of country’s economy as the country was in urgent need of capital and technology. It was the best time for foreign investors as the government has made relaxations on foreign investments. He reaffirmed that Myanmar would help foreign investors to the most possible degree.

Dr Paul Wolfowitz said his visit to Myanmar was aimed at making investments in Myanmar and helping support Myanmar’s reform processes. Economic development of a country plays a crucial role in national security of the country. Last 25 years, he served in Indonesia. Indonesia now had achieved successes in political and economic sector. He strongly believed that Myanmar’s development would be a support for other countries in the region as well as for ASEAN.

The two cordially exchanged views on investments, establishment of factories and workshops that can create more job opportunities, development of small and medium enterprises and human resources development.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Win Shein, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and departmental heads.

MRTV retransmission station in Panglong Sub-Township launches pilot transmission

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—Myanma Radio and Television has been implementing retransmission station project in Panglong Sub-Township of Hopang Township in Wa Self-Administered Division in Shan State (North) and works have been completed on 9 June.

The retransmission station is airing Myanmar Radio and Television Programmes through 50 W and wave frequency UHF Channel J-16 starting from 9 June.

MNA

Timber extraction reduced for sustainable forest development

Sustainable forest development by means of extracting annual yield without affecting the forest capital is aimed at hanging down the forest products and services to the next generation by reducing the environmental impact to minimum level while fulfilling the current demands of the population.

Myanmar Selection System, a choosing method of trees suitable for extraction through set criteria, and use of elephants in logging ensures least impact to ecological balance.

Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry targeted to produce 208,900 Hoppus Tons of teak and 1,391,600 Hoppus Tons of hardwood from its reserves in 2012-2013 timber extraction season.

Its targets for 2013-2014 timber extraction season are announced to be 180,000 Hoppus Tons of teak and around 800,000 Hoppus Tons of hardwood, reducing the amount of timber extraction by half in its efforts for sustainable development of forest sector.

The reduction measure would lead to certain benefits like increasing the forest coverage area thereby preventing the natural disasters; contributing to water resources like rivers, creeks and lakes; and sustainable forest development with possible long-term exploitation of forest resources.

In addition, value-adding the forest products through modern technologies will help fetch high prices.

Moreover, rural people and communities whose main livelihood is inseparable from forests need to abide by regulations of Forest Department.

Kyemon: 12-6-2013

Trs: TKK

School buildings constructed, trees planted in Yedashe Township

Page-2

Khawkuywa suspension bridge opened

Page-7

Abe’s Cabinet OKs growth strategy, but it may fall short of hopes

Page-3

Banya Aung

Page-8

Public Service Media Law under Democratic Reform (4)

One of the systems that makes sure the autonomy of PSM Council is monitoring by an independent admin-tration council. Though government-owned media run on public funds, government can intervene in administrative affairs since they are formed as subordinates of the government ministries.
School buildings constructed, trees planted in Yedashe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—As the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is cooperating with international organizations, REDD project is being implemented for uplifting rural region development on both sides of Thagara-Koebin Road in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District.

The school buildings of Basic Education Primary Schools were built and trees planted in 9°-Mile, 8°-Mile, 7°-Mile and 6°-Mile village on Thagara-Koebin Road. The ceremonies were held on 10 June, attended by Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung together with Bago Region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, local people and students, totaling about 400.

They planted 1300 teak plants, flower plants and vegetables.

—MNA

Modern dental equipment donated

YANGON, 14 June—A ceremony donate modern dental equipment to Latha Township Health Department by Myanmar Chinese Merchants Association was held at the office of the association, here, on 12 June morning.

Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr Swe Zin Win made a speech. Next, Latha Township Administrator U Lwin Min spoke words of thanks. The ceremony was also attended by departmental officials, members of Chinese Merchants Association and members of social organizations.

The donations amounted to K 2.7 million. Kyemon-Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)

The team comprising personnel of Directorate of Road Administration, Judicial Office and Development Affairs Co Ltd, houses in Sabyusu, Gyobinsike and Thektekon villages in Kyauggon Township, Khettu Village in Latmyethna Township and Megon and Thaukkkyadu villages in Kyangin Township have been installed with solar panels.

As a result, a total of 1019 houses from those villages are now enjoying electrification.

Kyemon-Phyu Phyu (Myaing)

Villages in Ayeyawady Region installed with solar panels

KYAUNGGON, 14 June—With the concerted efforts of Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs and Myanmar Solar Power

With the concerted efforts of the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, REDD project is being implemented for uplifting rural region development on both sides of Thagara-Koebin Road in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District.

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They planted 1300 teak plants, flower plants and vegetables.

—MNA

Buses equipped with CCTVs

YANGON, 14 June—No 5 Bus line namely Myitta Hline started its runs on 8 June.

Bus fare will be collected for K 50 per each section of the route. A total of 26 buses are installed CCTVs. It starts the route from Pale Myothit on Yakhaingkyaw Road and passes Aungmingala Highway Bus Termina, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Sule Road, Pyay Road, Insein, Danyingon, Mingaladon, Khayaybin Junction and No 3 Highway. The installation of CCTV is aimed at checking the misconducts of unscrupulous elements onboard the bus and ensuring safety of passengers.

Kyemon-KTS

Vehicles put under traffic rules

YAMETHIN, 14 June—SIP Kyaw Kyaw Tun and party checked undisciplined motorcyclists and motorcyclists for their life safety on Sibinthaya Road in Yamethin of Mandalay Region.

The team comprising personnel of Directorate of Road Administration, Judicial Office and Development Affairs

Department charged the traffic rule offenders with K 30000 to K 60000 fine. Kyemon-Tin Oo (Yamethin)

Oil press can earn family income in Myaing Tsp

MYAING, 14 June—The traditional oil press pulled by cow are now operated with the use of electricity in urban area of Myaing. Thus, pure groundnut oil and sesame oil are marketable.

One traditional oil press can crush five viss of groundnut or sesame per hour and produces over two viss of oil and over three viss of groundnut expeller cake. Double oil presses can be used for 10 times a day. The owner of the oil press charges K 700 for one time pressing of groundnut and pays K 200 for controlling the press to the worker.

The traditional oil press can earn income in crushing groundnut, sesame and others on a manageable scale and sell groundnut expeller cake.

Kyemon-Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

Drowsy driver plunges car into canal

YANGON, 14 June—A drowsy driver plunged the car into the canal in North Okkalapa Township on 8 June morning and the car was pulled out by the crane. Thet Ko Ko, 29, of Padawk 7th Street in Hta Ward in North Okkalapa Township driving from North Okkalapa Sixth Corner to Mya Nursery at 4 am on 8 June plunged the Probox car into Bohmu Tun Sein Canal near Mya nursery.

Although the driver was no injury in the incident, the car was damaged at right part of head. It was pulled out by the crane.
Abe’s Cabinet OKs growth strategy, but it may fall short of hopes

Tokyo, 14 June—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Cabinet on Friday endorsed its growth strategy, the last of the three arrows of “Abenomics,” aiming to end nearly two decades of deflation by setting a new goal of reducing the ratio of Japan’s public debt to gross domestic product from fiscal 2021 in a stable manner.

But most of the policy proposals in the strategy do not break new ground and the blueprints gave no details on how to pave the way to sound public finances, failing to map out concrete steps to simultaneously attain economic growth and fiscal consolidation.

Kyodo News

Dubai, 14 June—Iran votes on Friday in a presidential election unlikely to result in seismic shifts in its troubled relations with the West and Gulf Arab neighbours, but which could bring a softening of the confrontational style preferred by outgoing president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

World powers embroiled in talks with Iran over its nuclear programme are looking for signs of a re-calibration of its negotiating position after eight years of intransigence under fiery populist Ahmadinejad.

Iran’s Gulf Arab neighbours are also wary of Iran’s influence in Iraq next door and its backing for President Bashar al-Assad and his Lebanese allies Hezbollah in the Syrian civil war. The Sunni Arab kingdoms are backing rebels in Syria.

Of five hardline candidates professing unswerving obedience to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, three are thought to stand any chance of winning the vote, or making it through to a second round run-off in a week’s time.

Of those three main conservative hopefuls only one, current chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, advocates maintaining Iran’s robust, ideologically-driven foreign policy.

The other two, Teheran mayor Mohammad Baquer Qalibaf and former foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati, have pledged never to back away from pursuing Iran’s nuclear programme but have strongly criticised Jwild’s inflexible negotiating stance. They face a single moderate candidate, the only cleric in the race, Hassan Rohani. Though very much an establishment figure, suspicious of the West, Rohani is more likely to pursue a conciliatory foreign policy.

With no independent, reliable opinion polls in Iran, it is hard to gauge the public mood, let alone the extent to which Khamenei and the Revolutionaries will exert their powerful influence over the ballot.

Reuters

Nicaragua approves proposal to build transoceanic canal

Managua, 14 June—Legislators in Nicaragua on Thursday approved a proposal to build a massive transoceanic waterway project that would rival the famed Panama Canal and potentially boost the country’s economy.

Nicaragua’s National Assembly approved the proposal by a 61-28 vote after a Law of Concession for the Great Transoceanic Canal, a mega project that is estimated to cost an investment totaling 40 billion US dollars. The legislation approved on Thursday, however, contains no specific route for the canal and virtually no details of its financing or economic viability.

Ruling party deputy Edwin Castro, however, shed light on the project by disclosing in a televised interview earlier on Thursday that a decision had been made in regard to granting the concession to the Hong Kong-based HKDN Group Holding Limited which will be responsible for building and operating the canal.

Xinhua

White House says Syrian government using chemical weapons against rebels

Washington, 14 June—White House concluded in a statement on Thursday that the Syrian government had used chemical weapons against rebels, a major move that signals deeper US involvement in the Syrian conflict.

“Following a deliberative review, our intelligence community assesses that the Assad regime has used chemical weapons, including the nerve agent sarin, on a small scale against the opposition multiple times in the last year,” said White House Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes in the statement.

“The intelligence community estimates that 100 to 150 people have died from detected chemical weapon attacks in Syria to date; however, casualty data is likely incomplete,” he said.

Rhodes added that no “credible” evidence indicated that the Syrian rebels had used chemical weapons.

US President Barack Obama said evidence has pointed to the use of chemical weapons inside of Syria. He had called time and again the use of or failure to secure chemical weapons by the Syrian government a “red line” or “game changer” in his handling of the conflict in the Middle East country. But Obama had also made it clear that he needed more specific information about what had actually happened there.

In the statement, Rhodes said that Washington is working with its allies to present a “credible, evidentiary” case to share with the international community.

“The president has said that the use of chemical weapons would change his calculus, and it has,” he noted.

The Syrian government’s actions have led to increased support by Washington to the Syrian opposition, said Rhodes, adding that the United States has other “legal, financial, diplomatic, and military responses” available.

“We are prepared for all contingencies, and we will make decisions on our own timeline,” he said.

Rhodes stressed that any future US actions must serve its national interests and its objectives, which include achieving a negotiated political settlement, protecting the rights of all Syrians, securing non-conventional and advanced conventional weapons, as well as countering terrorist activity.—Xinhua
Antitrust probe of Lockheed-Boeing rocket venture

WASHINGTON, 14 June—US regulators have opened a probe into whether a Lockheed-Boeing joint venture that launches US-government satellites into space has flouted antitrust laws.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is investigating whether United Launch Alliance (ULA), a joint venture of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, violated federal anti-trust laws by “monopolizing” or restraining competition through an exclusivity agreement with the maker of the engines used in its rockets, according to a FTC document obtained by Reuters on Wednesday.

RD Am moss, a joint venture of Russia’s NPO Energомash and Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, a unit of United Technologies Corp, provides RD-180 engines for ULA rockets. Industry sources say ULA is preventing RD Amoss from selling the engines to other rocket makers, including Orbital Sciences Corp, which is trying to break into the lucrative market for government rocket launches. Jessica Rye, spokeswoman for ULA, confirmed the investigation and said the company was cooperating with antitrust regulators.

“ULA’s contracts to purchase the RD-180 engine are lawful, pro-competitive and designed to provide the most reliable launch vehicle possible for critical US government missions,” Rye said. “Because this is ongoing, we could not comment on specifics.”

Pratt & Whitney spokesman Jay DeF rank said his company is aware of the investigation and cooperating with US regulators. The FTC declined comment.

The US government has been approached with “kill switches” that would deter rampant theft of the devices.

Nokia sets date for expected camera phone announcement

HELSINKI, 14 June— Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia has plans to make an announcement on 11 July, according to a press invitation sent out on Thursday and amidst widespread speculation in online media that it is about to launch a new flagship camera phone.

An e-mailed press invitation to the event in New York featured the phrase “ZOOM, REINVENT-ED”. Technology blogs and websites have recently published pictures online purporting to show the new phone with a 41-megapixel photographic sensor.

Nokia has launched a succession of new phones in various price segments over the past month after first-quarter results showed a surprisingly steep drop in lower-end handset sales. The company declined to comment further on its press invitation.

Apple looking at bigger iPhone screens, multiple colours

NEW YORK, 14 June—Apple Inc is exploring launching iPhones with bigger screens, as well as cheaper models in a range of colours, over the next year, said four people with knowledge of the matter, as it takes a cue from rival Samsung Electronics.

The moves, which are still under discussion, underscore how the Californian-based firm that once ruled the smartphone market is increasingly under threat from its aggressive South Korean competitor. Samsung has overtaken Apple in market share through the popularity of its bigger-screens “Galaxy phablets” and by flooding the market with a range of products at different prices.

Apple is looking at introducing at least two bigger iPhones next year—one with a 4.7-inch screen and one with a 5.7-inch screen—said the sources, including those in the supply chain in Asia. They said suppliers have been approached with plans for the larger screens, but noted it is still unclear whether Apple will actually launch its flagship product in the larger sizes.

They constantly change product specifications almost to the final moment, so you’re not really sure whether this is the final prototype,” said one person with direct knowledge of the matter. Apple’s possible shift to offer what is often referred to as “phablets”—chunkier smartphones not quite big enough to qualify as tablets—comes as the long-time consumer and investor darling faces pressure to deliver more than one new handset model a year. Critics say its pace of innovation has slowed since the death of legendary co-founder Steve Jobs.

The iPhone 5 launched last September was the first to veer away from the Apple phone’s 3.5-inch screen, which Jobs famously deemed “the perfect size for consumers” and had been used in every iPhone since the iconic device was unveiled in 2007.

The current iPhone 5 has one of the smaller screens among the best-selling smartphones in the mobile market, where consumers spend more time browsing the web and streaming content. Samsung’s Galaxy S4 and Galaxy Note 2 have 5-inch and 5.5-inch screens, respectively. For this year, Apple is expected to launch two new models, widely referred to as the iPhone 5S with new fingerprint technology, and a cheaper version in plastic casing, supply chain sources have said.

Apple plans to dress up the cheaper phone in a range of 5-6 colours to differentiate it from the more expensive model that has traditionally come only in black and white.

The US firm has dusted off the price of $99 for the cheaper phone, the timing of which could slip to next year, one of the people said. It’s not yet clear what the final price would be.

Cellphone theft has become an escalating and increasingly violent problem, according to law enforcement authorities. About half of San Francisco’s robberies last year, for instance, involved stolen mobile devices, according to Gascon. One study found that lost and stolen cellphones cost consumers $30 billion last year.

The initiative to combat what has been dubbed “Apple-picking” was expected to be announced before a meeting in New York on Thursday with Schneiderman, Gascon and representatives of Apple, Samsung Electronics Co, and Google Inc’s Motorola Mobility and Microsoft Corp (Reuters)—US state and city officials are banding together to press cellphone makers to adopt technology, including “kill switch” to disable stolen phones, that would deter rampant theft of the US officials push cellphone makers to add theft deterrents

NEW YORK, 14 June— Authorities have criticized cellphone carriers and handset makers for their perceived unwillingness to make changes to technology to combat the problem.

A new coalition slated to be announced on Thurs- day by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon will analyze patterns behind the thefts and work with Apple Inc and other smartphone makers to create “kill switches” that would render devices inoperable if they are stolen.

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"This nationwide coalition of leaders is committed to doing everything in our power to encourage industry to be good corporate citizens and take responsible steps to ensure the safety of our consumers,” Schneiderman said in a statement obtained by Reuters.

Aside from New York and San Francisco, the new coalition includes attorneys general from Illinois, Massachusetts, Delaware, Minnesota, Connecticut, Nebraska and Hawaii, and district attorneys, police and other officials from cities including Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago. Amid pressure from authorities, Apple announced on Mon- day that it would add a new “activation lock” feature in its new mobile software.

The new feature, available with the launch of iOS 7 this autumn, will require a legitimate owner’s ID and password before an iPhone can be wiped clean or re-ac- tivated after being remotely erased. US state and city of- ficials are banding together to pressure cellphone makers to adopt technology, including a “kill switch” to disable stolen phones, that would deter rampant theft of the devices.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Boeing set to confirm plans for larger 787 Dreamliner**

NEW YORK, 14 June—Boeing Co (BA.N) is poised to launch a larger member of its 787 family to meet demand for long-haul travel within Asia and other long-haul routes, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

Long-discussed plans for a 323-seat version of the 787 are likely to be formally announced at next week’s Paris Airshow, the sources said, confirming a Wall Street Journal report.

“We have no comment on the report but we are engaged in discussions with customers on a potential new member of the 787 family,” a Boeing spokesman said.

The arrival of a new 787 version has been well anticipated, especially after Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIAL.SI) recently made a provisional commitment to buy the new $300 million plane if Boeing decided to go ahead and build it.

Boeing’s plans attracted attention on the eve of the maiden flight of the Airbus A350, which will compete for many of the same buyers. Both aircraft are made of lightweight carbon composites to help airlines save fuel. The A350 is expected to take to the skies in Toulouse, southwestern France on Friday.

British Airways parent IAG (ICAG.L) has an option to buy more Dreamliners and there has been speculation it will use some of these to buy the larger version, known as the 787-10.

US lessor Air Lease Corp (AL.N) has been offering suggestions on the design and has publicly expressed interest in the 787-10. United Airlines (UAL.N) has also backed it.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said other airlines could also be part of an early pool of buyers to give the plane a commercial boost. Later, Germany’s Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) is expected to look closely at the plane, they said. Reuters

In December, Sun Life Financial Inc sold its variable annuity unit to Protective Life Corp (AL.N) has been offered for $1.06 billion. J.C. Flowers was a contender but lost to Delaware, Business Professor Starboard and Goldman Sachs declined to comment.

Starboard has nominated six members, including former Home Depot CEO Robert Nardelli, for the 10-member Office Depot board.

The investor cited the lack of retail experience among current board members and stressed the need to reconstitute the board whether or not its proposed merger with smaller rival OfficeMax Inc (OMX.N) takes place.

New York, 14 June—Top Office Depot Inc (ODP.N) investor Starboard Value LP sued the second-largest US office supplies retailer on Thursday for not holding an annual shareholder meeting to elect directors, an unusual step on the eve of a merger.

The activist investor said in the complaint the company had not held an annual shareholder meeting for 13 months. The complaint was filed with the Court of Chancery in Delaware, where Office Depot is incorporated.

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**TPG, JC Flowers, Resolution bid for Allstate unit**

TPG and JC Flowers have teamed up to bid for the insurance subsidiary, according to people familiar with the situation. JC Flowers and TPG declined to comment.

**Mother’s age tied to risk of delivery complications**

NEW YORK, 14 June—Teenage mothers are at increased risk of delivering their babies prematurely, while older mothers are more likely to give birth via C-section, according to a study from Ireland.

“It more or less confirmed what we know from previous studies,” said Dr Deirdre Murphy, the study’s senior author from Trinity College in Dublin. Still, Murphy told Reuters Health these studies were done years ago and there have been cultural changes among women that might have influenced delivery patterns.

She and her colleagues examined data on 36,916 first-time mothers giving birth in one Irish hospital between 2000 and 2011. The researchers were especially interested in comparing the deliveries of both very young and older women to those of new moms between the ages of 20 and 34 years old.

About 3 percent of women were 17 years old or younger and close to 2 percent were 40 and above. Women between 20 and 34 years old made up about 78 percent of mothers in the study. Overall, about 6 percent of moms in the 20 to 34 age range gave birth before 37 weeks. (A normal-length pregnancy is considered to last 37 to 42 weeks.) That compared to about 10 percent of women in the youngest group who had a premature delivery.

Younger women, however, were least likely to deliver their babies by C-section. The researchers found only 11 percent of the young-est group had a C-section. That compared to about 54 percent of the oldest women and 24 percent of those in between.

Babies born to older moms were also more likely to have birth defects and to be admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit, Murphy, who published her findings in BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, said there may be something to learn from teenagers about why they have fewer C-sections than any other age group.

Currently, about 32 percent of US births are by C-section, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Murphy said the rates are typically lower in some European countries, including Ireland and the UK.

In November, Starboard sues Office Depot for not holding annual meeting


**Arrhythmias more common in intense athletes**

NEW YORK, 14 June—Cross-country skiers who have completed more races at faster speeds have a higher risk of developing a heart rhythm disorder than their slower, less-seasoned peers, a new study from Sweden suggests.

Researchers found athletes who completed at least five races over ten years were 30 percent more likely to be diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat, known as an arrhythmia, than those who only finished one race.

That surprised the notion that’s been around forever that athletes are not immune to heart disease,” said Dr Aaron Baggish, who studies athletes’ heart health but wasn’t involved in the new research.

Still, the new findings don’t suggest athletes’ extra exertion caused heart problems. Previous studies suggested that endurance athletes were at an increased risk of atrial fibrillation (AF), a type of rhythm disorder affecting the heart’s upper chambers, but few looked at large numbers of athletes. AF raises the risk of blood clots and stroke.

For the new study, Dr. Kasper Andersen from Uppsala University and his colleagues tracked about 53,000 skiers who finished the race in the shortest amount of time at about 30 percent more likely to develop an arrhythmia than slower skiers. The most common type of arrhythmia in the study was AF. But the researchers also found an increased risk of a slow heartbeat, known as bradycardia, with greater racing experience.

Andersen said he was surprised to see a higher risk of slow heart rhythms among intense athletes, because that had not been reported in past studies.

“It hasn’t really been suggested before,” he told Reuters Health.

Baggish, associate director of the Cardiovascular Performance Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital Heart Center in Boston, said it’s hard to know what to do with the finding about slow heart rhythms.
Afghan interpreters awarded New Zealand military medals

SUNIGHT, 14 June — Thirty Afghan interpreters who served with New Zealand forces in the Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Bamyan Province were awarded New Zealand military medals on Friday.

Chief of Army, Major General Dave Gawn, presented the group, who have resettled in New Zealand, with the New Zealand General Service Medal (Afghanistan) Primary Operational Area (NZGSM) and the New Zealand Operational Service Medal (NZOSM).

Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said it was appropriate the interpreters, as New Zealand residents, should receive the same medallion recognition as the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and New Zealand Police personnel they served alongside.

“The interpreters played a vital role in the operation of the NZPRT. They risked their lives to help New Zealanders, and we are very grateful for their service,” Coleman said in a statement.

24 injured after Miami restaurant’s deck collapses during NBA Finals game

WASHINGTON, 14 June — Twenty-four out of NBA fans were injured, three critically, on Thursday night when the back section of a restaurant and bar in Miami, Florida, collapsed into water, local media reported. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue received a call after a part of the outdoor patio deck of Shuckers Bar & Grill in North Bay Village, north of Miami Beach, collapsed into Biscayne Bay.

24 injured after Miami restaurant’s deck collapses during NBA Finals game

Washington, D.C. — Twenty-four out of NBA fans were injured, three critically, on Thursday night when the back section of a restaurant and bar in Miami, Florida, collapsed into water, local media reported. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue received a call after a part of the outdoor patio deck of Shuckers Bar & Grill in North Bay Village, north of Miami Beach, collapsed into Biscayne Bay. There were about 100 people gathering on the deck to watch a NBA Finals match held in San Antonio between the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs, the reports said.

Police and divers were immediately sent to the scene to rescue the victims, as an air rescue chopper was used for lighting to make sure all victims are out of the water. The victims were transported to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment, according to the reports.

“The at the time we received the call, eye witnesses said approximately there was 100 people on the deck give or take. When our divers arrived and our units arrived on scene, we were able to reach 24 victims and those are the victims we are treating at this time,” Miami-Dade Fire Rescue officer Eugene Germain was quoted by local WSVN TV as saying.

Cuba sees 14 mln USD in losses from forest fires

HAVANA, 14 June— Cuba’s economy sustained nearly 14 million US dollars in losses this year from forest fires, the National Council of Forest Ranges (NCR) reported on Thursday.

The damage was caused by some 342 forest fires during this year’s dry season, which lasted from January to May, the report said. According to the NCR’s Fire Management Department, the fires destroyed more than 9,390 acres of woods, though the figure represents a decrease compared with the year before.

The provinces of Pinar del Rio, Mayabeque, Matanzas, Camaguey, Holguin and Santiago de Cuba, as well as the Isle of Youth, registered the highest incidence of fires, equivalent to 66 percent of the total figure, the source said.

The months with the most fires were February and March with 67 percent of the fires occurring during that time.

Human negligence, intentional fires that burn out of control, and heavy machinery or vehicles without spark arresters were considered to be the main reasons of fires affecting natural forests, grasslands and pastures.

To fight negligence, officials imposed 2,159 fines worth 214,983 Cuban pesos (8,113 US dollars) from January to May. In 70 percent of the fines, flames spread to less than five acres, demonstrating the effectiveness of the NCR, which was awarded the National Environmental Prize on Tuesday for its work in conserving the island’s forest land.
Khawkyuwa suspension bridge opened

YANGON, 14 June— The opening ceremony of self-reliant Khawkyuwa suspension bridge was held in Khawkyuwa village in Hlinethaya model village tract in Hlinalin Township on 9 June.

Sagaiing Region Shan National Affairs Minister U San Shwe, Township Management Committee Chairman U Kaung Myat Nyi, Executive Officer Chairman U Aung Kyaw, the village-tract administrator and the bridge committee chairman formally opened the bridge. Pyithu Hlut-taw Representative U Aye unveiled the signboard of the bridge. They then took a stroll on the bridge.

The bridge has the length of 240 ft and the width of six ft. The construction of the bridge started in February this year.

Local residents and MRT timber company jointly funded K 20.4 mil-lion for the construction of the bridge.

The schoolchildren were in transport difficulty before the construction of the bridge.

Japanese speaking contest on 30 June

YANGON, 14 June— Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni organizes 14th Japanese speaking contest at Parkroyal Hotel Ballroom on 30 June morning.

The contest shall be between 17 and 55. He or she must be attending a Japanese class or have completed the class. The potential contestant must have at least basic Japanese knowledge.

Owner U Ko Ko Naing gives educative talks on environmental conservation, pollution control, and ecosystem at Shwekyabin ward on 12 June.

The script that has no more than 400 words and recorded audio tape or CD must be submitted to MAJA (Ph: 098612151 and 098613848), HITO Center Mandalay (Ph: 02-31762) by 14 June.

The shortlist of contestants who are allowed to take part in the finale will be announced by MAJA and HITO Center Mandalay on 24 June.

The shortlist of contestants will have to give talks on their own topics within 4-5 minutes.

The efforts at No (22) Basic Education High School in Shwekyabin ward on 12 June.

Myanmar Airways suspends flights of MA-60 fleet

KAWTHOUNG, 14 June— State flag carrier Myanmar Airways has suspended flights of MA-60 fleet one of which slipped off the runway at Kawthoung airport on 10 June.

The crashed flight is a scheduled flight of Yangon-Mawlamyine-Kawthoung route.

Another MA-60 airplane also suffered the same fate as it landed Mongsa airport on 16 May reportedly due to failure of break system. The Myanmar Airways announced it has suspended MA-60 flights since 1 pm on 10 June.

According to an AP report, another MA-60 airplane of Indonesia’s state flag carrier Merpati Nusantara Airlines crashed at Kupang airport, causing scores of injuries.—MMAL

TRANSPORT

Anti-DHF measures carried out in Nay Pyi Taw

NAVPyiTaw,14June— Anti-Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever measures have been taken in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area since 28 May as the infection rate is higher than any other years.

The efforts include sterilization, sanitation and drainage works.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt, district and township administrators, head of township Health Department Dr Sandra Hlaing, and members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association led the efforts at No (22) Basic Education High School in Shwekyabin ward on 8 June.

A total of 22 basic education schools in Zabuthiri Township followed suit, sterilizing water sources and taking sanitation measures.

MMAL-Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)

Heath Care Service

MMAL-Aung Min Win (Myawaddy)
Child labour

Child labourers are fairly common in teashops mostly in urban areas in our country, working as waiters. But, it would be wrong to define them as child labour because they at least somewhat support their families and are often the secondary earners. Who else would earn for a living of their family members when they are labeled as child labour and pulled out of the work?

In poverty-stricken families, a child’s own needs, mostly of the eldest one, are often subjugated to the needs of his/her family. They just take it as a family duty and will not go to school even if the schooling is free. Under such circumstance, it is common for boys to work in farming if they are in rural areas or teashops or something like eateries. Unfortunately, girls do not appear to be as lucky as boys and often become either paid or unpaid domestic helpers at young age, being uneducated and afraid of interaction with police because of the blurred relationship between the owners, but it is rather rare in comparison with the hands of some employers.

Boys working at teashops and beer stations are also vulnerable to physical violence of the owners, but it is rather rare in comparison with labourers is often beyond imagination in the cruel hands of some employers.

From the point of view of human rights, the government should take a central role in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by adopting and enforcing national legislation against child labour. In addition, public awareness should be raised systematically apart from putting in place effective enforcement and monitoring mechanism.

Strong earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAT PYI TAN, 14 June—A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.7 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (South of Java, Indonesia) about 2330 miles southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 11 hrs 24 min M.S.T yesterday night, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

PSM Council

One of the systems that makes sure the autonomy of PSM Council is monitoring by an independent administra-tration council. Though government-owned media run on public funds, government can interfere in administrative affairs since they are formed as subordinates of the government ministries.

Being the voice of the nation and voice of the voiceless and not the voice of the government, PSM must have financial independence and autonomy. PSM, according to international norms, is governed by an independent governing body or a supervisory council under which is an executive body or management board that operates daily functions. Therefore, it can be seen that BBC Trust manages BBC in Britain, ABC Board of Directors, ABC in Australia, CAS public service media in France and PBS Board of Governors Thai PBS in Thailand.

PSM administrative hierarchy suggested by European Council for European countries is as follows:

(a) Legislative protection of the freedom of the council;
(b) Transparency in appointing council members that enables public suggestions;
(c) Appointment of those well versed in respective fields without vested interest in political and economic gains;
(d) Accountability of the council through adopting and enforcing legislation.

The Public Service Media Governance Criteria formulated by 47-member EC states that the governing council is formed (not to intervene in daily functions of the executive board and editorial policies but to adopt the necessary policies and set targets for public service media and to assess its performance; and that such division of responsibilities should be explicitly embodied in public service media law.

Even those criteria allow the member countries to adopt a council member selection system that best suits them but demand to meet such requirements as transparency, public suggestions, and representation of all social classes and groups in selecting council members to reflect diversity within the society regardless of the selection system.

Therefore, BBC Trust is formed with 12 members in Britain appointed by the Queen with the approval of the cabinet. Those wishing to join the council need to apply for themselves and the cabinet selects according to Norlan principles which call for appointment of representatives from England, Wales, Scotland and North Ireland, collectively formed as United Kingdom.

The CAS is formed with nine members in France—three each nominated by the President, the upper house and the lower house. The governing council in Spain is formed with 12 members, eight of whom is selected by the lower house and four by the upper house and the appointment needs two third of the parliamentary votes.

The governing council in Poland is constituted with five members—two appointed by the lower house, one by the upper house and two by the President. In Denmark, the governing council is formed with 10 members, six of which nominated by the parliament, three by government, one by the cabinet and two by the social partners.

In addition, to protect the autonomy of PSM Council, it is prescribed that a council member shall not be dismissed only other than disqualification, being punished by a court during capacity as a council member, being asked to leave by two third of the council members and failure to perform the duty for five consecutive months for some reasons.

Test & Scholarship Test

Study Overseas & Career Fair 2013 kicks off

Yangon, 14 June—Study Overseas & Career Fair 2013 was opened at Park Royal Hotel, here, today. Leading Singaporean and Australian universities affiliated with RVi Centre will participate in education seminars and free one-to-one counseling session. It also covers workshop for teachers, English Placement Test & Scholarship Test and executive talks on hot jobs. Job seekers can find job opportunities from leading companies at Recruitment booths and Career Development Section of RVi Centre. RVi Centre will give 17 scholarships with internship for hot jobs subjects to mark its 17th Anniversary.

Study Overseas & Career Fair 2013 will be held at Mandalay Swan Hotel in Mandalay on 16 June. For more information, contact RVi Centre, at No. 44, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon (Ph:01-535433, 242410, 255338, 541886 and 09-8612246 and visit www.rvcentre.com.sg.

Sagowar

New Light of Myanmar
The President also stressed the importance of the land survey with the use of advanced equipment to ensure the country’s short-term and long-term projects. He also urged officials concerned to educate the farmers for mix-cropping which can generate extra income for farmers. They also visited the 70-ton Satakira rice mill of Shwethalin Company and Alliance Starts Companies.

### Data Center launched in Yangon

**Yangon, 14 June—** Myanmar ICT Development Corporation Ltd (MICTDC) and Hitachi Limited launched a data center at MICT Park in Hlne Township on 12 June, with an address by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

The data center would create job opportunities for young IT engineers besides promoting of ICT sector of the country.

The chief minister, the chairman of Myanmar Industries Association and the chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society and the organizers of the Global Networks Pte Ltd opened the International Mechanical Engineering Expo (Myanmar-2013) at Tatmadaw Convention Hall.

### MPT announces low-priced SIM cards sale plan for June

1. **Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology** has sold 350,000 units of SIM cards each in April and May under the arrangement of the respective region and state governments.

2. According to the inspection of mobile exchanges data to control the quality of mobile service delivery, mobile phone usage in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions and Kayin, Mon, Shan (North) states where the equipment and BTS are being extended will receive fewer shares this month.

3. The monthly SIM card sale programme will start on 20 for June and the unit price of a CDMA 800 MHz SIM card with K-300 top-up sells for K 1,500.

5. Beginning 15-7-2013, 5,000 units of CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards will be on sale in Haka and Falan in Chin State.

6. As the sale is intended for end users to be able to have mobile communications access at low cost, the subscriber must fill at least K-5,000 top-up before using the original K-300 top-up within 15 days from the date of purchase. SIM card would be deactivated if it is not used within 15 days, in order to prevent the transferred sale of SIM cards.

7. As it is intended to cover the cost of equipment and installation from phone charges, at least K 2,500 is to be spent on calls with those low-priced SIM cards.

### Golden Jubilee Myanma Gems Emporium on 15-27 June

At the Emporium, a total of 9657 jade lots, 273 gem lots and 234 pearl lots have been registered to join in the emporium, according to the Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee.

In order to attract investors to formulate the human rights laws in Myanmar and efforts of Hlutaw in fulfilling the requirements of the people from all walks of life by listening to their voices, and UNOHCHR’s plans to provide human rights laws being practised in international community to formulate the human rights law in Myanmar.

The President also visited the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has sold 350,000 units of SIM cards each in April and May under the arrangement of the respective region and state governments.

The chief minister, the chairman of Myanmar Industries Association and the chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society and the organizers of the Global Networks Pte Ltd opened the International Mechanical Engineering Expo (Myanmar-2013) at Tatmadaw Convention Hall.

### President views process of paddy seed sorting machine

President U Thein Sein views process of paddy seed sorting machine of Shwethalin Company and Alliance Starts Companies.

### Agricultural sector needs 3 Ps, cooperative societies to achieve quick-win: President

President U Thein Sein called for extensive participation of three Ps (Private, Public, Partnership) and cooperative societies in a drive for upgrading the agriculture sector which can create many opportunities to achieve quick-win in rural area development.

On his visit to two model farmlands: 500-acre farmland at Nyaungpingyisu Village in Pobbatthiri Township and the 500-acre farmland at Aliynlo Village in Pyinmana Township today, the President also called on Agricultural Cooperative Society for implementing a system of supplying quality strain of rice seedlings to farmers and encouraging the three Ps initiatives in an attempt to attract investors to the agriculture sector.

### Meanwhile, agro-based industries should be established as a first step during transition to an industrialized one as the agriculture sector contributes the largest to the country’s GDP, he said.

He also urged Ministry of Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry Livestock and Fisheries to speed up efforts for formation of agricultural cooperative societies in states and regions to help farmers with small capital.

During the visit to the 500-acre modern farmland at Nyaungpingyisu Village, the President and Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected land survey here with the use of a sky survey drone.

At the meeting with experts, the President stressed the importance of the latest statistics given by the land survey with the use of advanced equipment to ensure the country’s short-term and long-term projects.
**School Environment Day activities**

**Kalay, 14 June**—Every basic education high school in Chin State will be equipped with computers and Internet access as of this academic year after the Danish Ambassador to Thailand and CNF General Secretary-3 Dr Shwe Kha signed an agreement in Bangkok.

“It is expected every 15 basic education high school students can share a computer. Though there are teachers who can teach computer subject, but there have been no computers and no Internet. So, we have tried for that,” said Dr Shwe Kha.

Thirty basic education high schools in Chin State will be equipped with computers with Internet access which still do not cover the BEHS and BEHS (Branches) opened this year.

“I’m really glad to hear that. It would help us, both the teachers and students, a lot to learn, said a teacher from Lailim BEHS.

A management committee to maintain those computers will be set up with one representative from Chin State government, CNF, teachers, students’ parents and community elders.

Kyemon-Poe Hay Sar
(Chintaungmay)

**School building handed over in Singaing**

**Singaing, 14 June**—Cherry Mon new school building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) was handed over to the Ministry of Education at the school in Dattawgote Village, Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region on 9 June.

The school, 120 ft long and 30 ft wide, was built at a cost of over K 40 million. It was donated by U Win Hay and Daw Nan San Nwan of Phakant in Kayin State, who also donated 45 desks worth K 4.5 million for the students.

At the ceremony, Singaing Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyi Pyone, Region Hluttaw Representative U Nyi Nyi, Singaing Township Administrator U Myint Thein, Singaing Township Education Officer Daw Khin Win and donor U Hay Win cut the ribbon to open the school, and the donor family handed over the documents related to the new school building to Singaing Township Education Department.

The BEMS (Branch) was upgraded from Basic Education Post-Primary School as of 2013-2014 academic year.

Kyemon-Kyaukse District IPRD

**Basic tailoring course concludes in Myitkyina**

**Myitkyina, 14 June**—The basic tailoring course jointly organized by Kachin State Women’s Affairs Organization and Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee concluded at the hall of Kachin State MCWSC, here, on 10 June.

At the ceremony, Patron of State MCWSC Daw Kan Hsee Hsai Long explained the purpose of the training course to the trainees.

Then, Patron of State MCWSC Daw Kan Hsee Hsai Long and Secretary General of Kachin State Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mya Nu presented prizes to outstanding trainees and gifts to trainers.

A total of 30 trainees attended the 45-day course.

Kyemon-State IPRD

**Preliminary meeting on Improvement of Road Technology held**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June**—A preliminary meeting on Improvement of Road Technology in Disaster Affected Area Project being implemented by the Ministry of Construction and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Construction, here, on 12 June.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said, in his speech, that the project aimed at producing two results: one is to get technology for roads suitable for climate in Myanmar and another is to impart both in theoretical and practical knowledge to engineers.

The managing director of Public Work and Mr. Sone Shinri of JICA led the discussion.—NLM

**MEB uplifts banking services to customers**

**Toungoo, 14 June**—At present, Myanmar Economic Bank is playing emphasis on giving modern banking services to the customers with smooth process and uplifting better capabilities of staff.

Under the supervision of Myanmar Economic Bank in Bago Region, the banking accounts keeping course No 1/2013 was opened at the branch of Toungoo MEB on 10 June. A total of 15 trainees from bank branches of Bago Region (East) are attending the two-week course.

Kyemon-Toungoo District MEB

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

**Three teak saplings for every Kalay household household**

**Kalay, 14 June**—Under the arrangement of the Forest Department, a ceremony of distributing three teak saplings to each household in 2013 rainy season was held at TaungU Village in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region, on 9 June.

Head of Kalay Township Forest Department U Myo Nyunt distributed 600 teak saplings to local people.

Kalay Township Forest Department plans to grow 19200 saplings along both sides of the road in addition to distribution of three teak saplings to each household in June.

Kyemon-Shin Nay Min
One killed, 22 missing as ship sinks off central Philippines

MANILA, 14 June—A 59-year-old female passenger was killed while 22 others were missing when a roll-on-roll-off (Roro) vessel sank off central Philippine Province of Masbate early Friday morning, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said.

As of 8:30 am, the state agency said that 34 passengers were rescued from MV Lady of Mount Carmel that capsized near the Burias Island in Masbate.

The fatality was identified as Perilita Zena. According to the PCG, the Coast Guard Masbate received a call from Masbate police, informing about the incident at around 5:30 am.

The Coast Guard manned fisheries vessel, MCS 3006, and a chopper were immediately deployed in the area for search and rescue operation.

The ill-fated ship, which has the capacity of 212 people, carried 22 crew members and 35 passengers when the tragedy happened, the PCG said, noting that there was no overloading.

The vessel came from Pio Duran in the northern province of Albay and was on its way to Aroroy, Masbate when the accident occurred. Authorities were yet to determine the cause of the incident.—Xinhua

S Korea aims to become linchpin of economic integration in East Asia

SEOUL, 14 June—South Korea’s trade ministry said on Friday that it aimed to become the linchpin of economic integration in East Asia through the new free deal with China and the already signed deal with the United States.

“Based on the existing network of free trade agreements (FTAs), Korea will seek to play the role of a linchpin in bridging the East Asian market centered around China with the pan-Pacific market led by the US,” the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOIIE) said in a new roadmap for trade policy under the Park Geun-hye government.

“South Korea already signed the free trade deals with the United States and the European Union (EU), which took effect in 2012 and 2011 respectively. Seoul and Beijing held live rounds of negotiations for their bilateral FTA. Under the new policy, Seoul planned to conclude the ongoing trade deals such as the bilateral deal with China and the trilateral pact with South Korea and Japan at an earliest date possible, while seeking to actively participating in negotiations for the Regional Comprehensiveness Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The RCEP is a multilateral FTA that will include China, Japan, South Korea and 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as India, Australia and New Zealand.

Based on the planned FTA with China and the already signed US-Korea FTA, Seoul aimed to play a role in linking the Chinese-led RCEP with the US-led Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), which includes Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Canada, Peru, Chile and Mexico.

The ministry said it will strengthen exchanges of information with participants of the TPP negotiation such as the United States and Japan.—Xinhua

Korea looks to double sales in ASEAN in fiscal 2016

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Photo taken on 13 June, 2013 shows broken city walls of the Citadel of the Ho Dynasty in Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. The Citadel of the Ho Dynasty once was the capital of Vietnam’s Ho Dynasty (1400-1407). The citadel, built according to the “feng shui” principles, sited in an area of scenic beauty, represents a new style of southeast Asian imperial cities. After over 600 years, however, the citadel is left with nothing but the ruined city wall and gates.—Kyodo

Sharp Corp Executive Managing Officer Noboru Fujimoto, who is in charge of the company’s Asia-Pacific operations, holds a press conference in Osaka on 13 June, 2013, on Sharp’s operations in member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He said the same day it is looking to double its sales in the ASEAN region to 300 billion yen in the year through March 2017 by expanding its electrical appliance operations.

KYODO NEWS

Shen Yueyue (C), vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and president of the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF), poses for a group photo while meeting with a delegation of wives of Ambassadors to the United Nations, in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 June, 2013. —Xinhua

S KOREA AIMS TO BECOME LINCHPIN OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN EAST ASIA

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Buddhists offer prayers to the Buddha statues at the Great Buddha Temple in Mandalay, Myanmar on 12 June, 2013.—Kyodo

Buddhists offer prayers to the Buddha statues at the Great Buddha Temple in Mandalay, Myanmar on 12 June, 2013.—Kyodo

A farmer harvests the onion in his field at the S Korean town of Pusan on 13 June, 2013. South Korea’s exports to China’s central plains have been growing at a fast pace since the two nations signed a bilateral trade deal in 2007. Despite the slow Chinese economy, South Korea has managed to expand exports to China, with its biggest share in the Electronics industry. China’s central plains are the world’s largest market for electronics. In 2012, South Korea’s exports to China’s central plains reached 308.65 billion won (3.33 billion US dollars), up 7.1 percent from a year earlier, and accounted for 20.5 percent of South Korea’s total exports. —Kyodo

KYODO NEWS

Buddhists offer prayers to the Buddha statues at the Great Buddha Temple in Mandalay, Myanmar on 12 June, 2013.—Kyodo

A performer dances in the opening ceremony of the National Cultural Center in Seoul on 13 June, 2013. The state body was built on the same site where a colonial-era Imperial Japanese Army Headquarters once stood. The center is a complex of multiple buildings and restaurants featuring Korean traditional design. The center includes a large auditorium, a museum, an exhibition hall and a library. —Kyodo

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**US troop training numbers in Australia to reach 1115 in 2014: defence minister**

**Cannberra, 14 June—** The rotation of US Marines to Darwin, northern Aus- tralia, will increase in num- bers to 1115 from next year under a training agreement between the two nations, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said on Friday.

Until now, Darwin has hosted two rotations of 200 Marines as part of a pact signed by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and US President Barack Obama. And according to that pact, the number of the rota- tion will be up to 2500 by 2016. “We’ve seen last year and this year between 200 and 2500. We’ve released recently the economic and social impact assessment of 1100 marines in Darwin or the Northern Territory and today the Prime Min- ister and I and the Defence Personnel Minister, Warren Snowdon, announcing that next year, 2014, we’ll step up to 1115 and then follow- ing next year, we’ll do the usual assessments to see what next step we get to,” Smith told ABC Tele- vision on Friday.

**Beijing set to crack down on large and dangerous dogs**

**Beijing, 14 June—** Yuan Zhi worries about her two pets, which is why she decided to stop walk- ing them after hearing that Beijing police launched a citywide crackdown on large and dangerous dogs on Wednesday.

A rule published by the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau on 2 June said dogs 35 cm in height or taller, or that are one of 41 breeds identified as vio- lent such as bulldogs and collies, will be banned in designated areas, including central districts and some rural regions across the capital.

District governments and local police have the right to decide where dogs can and cannot be raised, and the city rule is not as simple as saying that large and dangerous dogs are banned within the Fifth Ring Road.

Yuan’s two dogs, a husky and a golden re- treiver, are much taller than average dogs, while the 28-year-old’s residence, Daxing District, is an area that police said they will pay more attention to.

“I registered my dogs, and similar crackdowns before were not strict, so I wasn’t too worried. But it seems tougher this time,” she said. “I’m afraid the police will take them away, so I won’t walk them in the near future.”

Zi Xiangdong, a po- lice officer in the bureau, confirmed that they had already begun enforcing the rule, declining to elaborate.

But he added that crackdowns are routine and occure regularly.

The bureau suggested that owners who have dogs affected by the rule take their pets to areas that al- low them to be raised there, or ask qualified places like animal shelters to accept them as soon as possible. Otherwise, the bureau will send illegal or abandoned dogs to a shelter in Chang- ping District.

Dog owners who diso- bey the rule will be fined 5,000 yuan ($815), and organizations with illegal dogs will face a 10,000- yuan fine, the bureau added.

Wang Liqun, founder of an animal rescue organi- zation in Beijing, has been keeping an eye on the rule, saying such a harsh crack- down will not solve the root cause of the problem.

The official shelter cannot provide a good en- vironment for illegal and abandoned dogs, and the regulation on banned breeds is out of date, she said.
Sarah Palin rejoins Fox News Channel after brief departure

**NEW YORK**, 14 June—Sarah Palin, a former Republican governor of Alaska, will rejoin Fox News Channel as a commentator five months after she left the network, Fox said on Thursday.

Palin, who went from governor to overnight political sensation after Senator John McCain chose her as his running mate in the 2008 presidential election, will make her first appearance on the morning program “Fox & Friends” on 17 June.

“I’ve had several conversations with Governor Palin in the past few weeks about her rejoining Fox News as a contributor,” Fox News Chairman and CEO Roger Ailes said in a statement.

Palin, a polarizing figure in US politics, was one of the channel’s biggest names despite appearing only occasionally. Her first stint at the network lasted three years.

She will now appear on the network’s daytime and prime time programming as well as its business channel, Fox Business Network. “I have great confidence in her and am pleased that she will once again add her commentary to our programming,” Ailes added.

“I hope she continues to speak her mind.”

Rupert Murdoch files for divorce from Wendi Deng

**NEW YORK**, 14 June—News Corp boss, Rupert Murdoch, has filed for divorce from his third wife, Wendi Deng. A spokesman for the media mogul says he made the decision after their 14 year marriage had “irretrievably broken down.”

Murdoch met the Chinese-born Deng in 1997 at a cocktail party in Hong Kong. They were married two years later, just weeks after his second divorce.

The couple have two daughters together, Grace and Chloe.

They are said to have had a pre-nuptial agreement so the divorce is unlikely to lessen Murdoch’s grip on his media empire.

Murdoch’s global media portfolio includes the Wall Street Journal, Fox News and Sky TV, and the 20th Century Fox movie studio.

The divorce filing comes just two days before New Corp is to be split into two companies, one for its entertainment assets and the other for its publishing business. Murdoch is to be chairman of both firms.

Seal apologises for Twitter rant against Australian media

**SYDNEY**, 14 June—British singer Seal has apologized for a series of stinging tweets against the Australian media.

Seal, who is in Australia as a judge on the talent hunt show, The Voice Australia, launched an attack on what he called Australia’s “trash media” after his fellow judge on the show Joel Madden was kicked out of his Sydney hotel for allegedly possessing drugs.

The Kiss from a Rose singer tweeted that he “can’t wait to go home”, but has now switched instead to profess his love for the continent.

The Daily Telegraph tabloid ran a front-page story on Good Charlotte singer Madden, saying a small amount of cannabis had been found in his penthouse room and he had been asked to leave the apartment.

No charges were laid against the American, who issued a statement saying he hoped the incident did not cause “too much drama.”

But Grammy Award-winning Seal weighed in on his side.

“Way to respect a guest in your country trash media, way to make us feel welcome,” he tweeted on 12 June, 2013.

“Keep it up... sure we’ll be back next year. And yes, I say we, because it’s just a matter of time before you gun us all down.”

I for one will not stand by and watch you attempt to destroy my Brother, you gun one you gun us all!” he further posted on Twitter.

He also rounded on The Star casino complex where Madden’s hotel was located, saying “Shame on the Star...you ask him to meet n greet a cancer vic-tim in your hotel then send police to his room? Nice... very classy... keep it up Judas. I’m done here.”

However, later, Seal backtracked from his statement and blamed being away from his children for 11 weeks for the outburst which ended with him saying: “Can’t wait to go home...I want to apologize for my rant earlier. Joel is one of my best friends and I was really hurting for him.”

“I want to say I have loved being in Australia, I’ve loved working on The Voice and with an incredibly talented group of Australian artists,” tweeted the singer. Apart from Seal and Madden, Australian singer Delta Goodrem and Puerto Rican superstar Ricky Martin are also on the show’s judging panel.
**Liverpool agree deal to sign Aspas from Celta Vigo**

**Chelsea agree to buy Leverkusen winger Schuerre**

**Valdes to complete contract with Barcelona**

**Murray proves his fitness with back-to-back wins**

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**Oslo, 14 June**—Olympic champion Usain Bolt responded to last week’s surprise sprint defeat in Rome by stormsing to a world-leading time of 19.79 seconds over 200 metres at the Bislett Diamond League meeting on Thursday. The Jamaican world record holder, surprisingly beaten over 100 metres by American Justin Gatlin in Italy, streaked away from the field to win comfortably on a chilly night in his first competitive race over the distance this season.

“I need to work on my curve, as my coach has said, but overall it was a good race,” said the 26-year-old who is the first man to break the 20 seconds mark this year. “Under better, warmer conditions... I could do a 19.50 race, easily,” he told a news conference. Bolt said his confidence was high ahead of the Jamaican trials, starting on 20 June, where he needs to be in the top three in the 100 to qualify for the world championships after the country’s Loomer automatic entry went to titleholder Yohan Blake.

Ever the showman, Bolt appeared to have put the loss to Gatlin out of his mind as he rubbed his arms and pranced to shiver while standing at the blocks before the start.

But once down to business, the six-times Olympic gold medallist showed he had recovered from the hamstring injury that dogged him earlier this season with a meeting record, having said earlier in the week he was in shape to go below 20 seconds.

Home favourite Jassuyi Saïdy N’Dure was second in 20.36 in a field lacking any other Jamaican or American athletes. European champion Churandy Martina of the Netherlands was disqualified from the event for a false start.—Reuters

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**Celta Vigo’s Iago Aspas**

**Aspas, who was Celta’s top scorer last season with 12 goals in 34 La Liga games, helped set up the winner as they stayed up on the final day thanks to a 1-0 home victory over Espanyol. The 25-year-old, who can play in a central role or wide, is an idol to the Celta supporters having come through the youth ranks before breaking into the first team in 2009.**

Liverpool have agreed a deal to sign striker Iago Aspas. The English Premier League club said on Thursday: “Aspas, who was Celta’s top scorer last season with 12 goals in 34 La Liga games, helped set up the winner as they stayed up on the final day thanks to a 1-0 home victory over Espanyol. The 25-year-old, who can play in a central role or wide, is an idol to the Celta supporters having come through the youth ranks before breaking into the first team in 2009. Liverpool have agreed a deal to sign striker Iago Aspas. The English Premier League club said on Thursday: “Aspas, who was Celta’s top scorer last season with 12 goals in 34 La Liga games, helped set up the winner as they stayed up on the final day thanks to a 1-0 home victory over Espanyol. The 25-year-old, who can play in a central role or wide, is an idol to the Celta supporters having come through the youth ranks before breaking into the first team in 2009.

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**Liverpool agree deal to sign Aspas from Celta Vigo**

**Chelsea agree to buy Leverkusen winger Schuerre**

**Valdes to complete contract with Barcelona**

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**LONDON, 14 June—Goalkeeper Victor Valdes will play out the last season of his contract with Barcelona, president Sandro Rosell said on Thursday.** The club has been rocked by the news on Wednesday that their World Player of the Year Lionel Messi and his father have been accused of tax fraud related to image rights by the Spanish tax authorities. Reuters

*Barcelona’s goalkeeper Victor Valdes takes part in a training session at Joan Gamper training camp, near Barcelona on 30 April, 2013. —Reuters*
Colsaerts wins battle of the bombers at US Open

ARDMORE, 14 June—Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium won an early battle of the big-hitters at the US Open on Thursday, outscoring fellow bombers Dustin Johnson and 2012 Masters winner Bubba Watson in the first round.

Colsaerts teed off with Johnson and the left-handed Watson as the first players off the 11th tee and shot a one-under par 69 to finish two shots behind clubhouse leader Phil Mickelson in the weather-interrupted opening round at Merion.

Watson and Johnson both registered one-over-par rounds of 71 in a first round that was halted for three and a half hours due to lightning and heavy rain. “Being paired with two very good players, it feels good to play good on a big stage like this,” said Colsaerts. “It is cool, especially on big tournaments like this, when you see big names up against you.”

Colsaerts, 30, was a big hit at last year’s Ryder Cup on the outskirts of Chicago, demonstrating his skills and long-driving ability with an impressive debut in Europe’s narrow win over the United States.

He was selected by European captain Jose Maria Olazabal as a wildcard pick after winning last year’s Volvo World Match Play Championship and immediately showed why he was chosen.

On the first day of the Ryder Cup, he carded eight birdies and an eagle in teaming up with Englishman Lee Westwood to defeat Tiger Woods and Steve Stricker.

Colsaerts missed his last two cuts on the PGA Tour this season after finishing tied for eighth at the Zurich Classic, but provided a reminder of what he is capable of at Merion on Thursday.—Reuters

UN says more accountability needed on Afghanistan’s Kabulbank scandal

NEW YORK, 14 June—More people must be held accountable for the 2010 collapse of Afghanistan’s Kabulbank and robust action on asset recovery and financial regulation is essential to ease foreign donor worries and ensure continued aid, the United Nations said on Thursday.

An Afghan court sentenced 20 men in March, including four and five years in jail after $935 million was stolen from what was then Kabulbank and robust action on asset recovery and financial regulation is essential to ease foreign donor worries and ensure continued aid, the United Nations said on Thursday.

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met a delegation led by former President of World Bank President and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence Dr Paul Wolfowitz, at the Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this morning.

The two sides held a cordial discussion on new government’s political, economic and administrative reforms, cooperation between the government and Tatmadaw on peace and stability, welfare of Tatmadaw families and undertakings in support of State’s economy without direct involvements in businesses, democratic economy system, job opportunities for national races and development of small enterprises.

It was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. The US guest was accompanied by Mr Jimmy Lai and officials.

MNA

10th meeting of Committee for implementation of Latpadaungtaung investigation report

The 10th meeting of the Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project in progress.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—The 10th meeting of the Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project was held at the meeting hall of the President Office, here, this morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Hla Tun elaborated on six major suggestions of the commission and undertakings of the committee. Teams led by deputy ministers and regional ministers, with the participation of representatives from villages, are carry out development tasks acting on the suggestions of the investigation commission, he said.

He also urged responsible personnel and bodies including MEHL and Wanbao Co Ltd and ministries concerned to assume their responsibilities acting on the suggestions of the commission.

Next, the vice-chairman of the committee, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, committee members Union ministers, group leaders deputy ministers and officials concerned respectively presented reports on progress of implementation tasks, undertakings and follow-up plans.

Union Minister U Hla Tun attended to the needs. And the meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the Union Minister.

The Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project is making strenuous efforts on environmental conservation tasks in line with international standards for being able to implement EIA/SIA works.

ESIA Scoping Study Report and Terms of reference (TOR) have been under scrutiny as the committee is inking with Knight Piesold from Australia. Environmental management plan is being carefully implemented. As compensation, K 2521.612 million had been paid out to 889 farmers for 2450.98 acres of land on 16 March. Of 283.69 acres of confiscated land, 211.26 acres had been handed over to farmers.

Besides, compensation for long-term crops would be increased for the sake of kindness of rural people.

MNA

Environmental conservation planning for Latpadaungtaung Copper Mines

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—Knight Pie’sold Pty Ltd, an Australia-based company engaging in environmental and social impact assessment and environmental management planning of Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project elaborated on its works in progress and follow-up plans, at Amara Hotel here on 11 June, attended by personnel concerned from government side and Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Wengbo Co.

Technicians from Knight Pie’sold Pty Ltd explained findings of the assessment and environmental conservation measures and those present gave suggestions.

Technicians from Knight Pie’sold Pty Ltd and environmental conservation group of the committee for responding to report on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project discussed in detail the suggestions from that meeting at the same venue today, focusing on technical requirements.

MNA

FPTP or PR?


The UEC discussed the recommendation at its coordination meeting with 44 political parties on 3-1-2013, with 55 political parties on 8-4-2013 and with 21 political parties, nine civil society organizations (CSOs) and electoral stakeholders on 26-4-2013 and found out that some political parties prefer to PR System and some to the FPTP System. The UEC for its part reckons electoral system change is concerned with the public and views it the national matter to be decided by people’s representatives.

Now matter what electoral system is practiced, the UEC will make sure the general elections are free and fair. However, if the FPTP System currently in practice is to be replaced with PR System, the UEC would need certain period time for all the operational changes.

Therefore, the UEC has asked the Pyidangusu Hluttaw to make a decision within 2013 with a letter dated 13-5-2013 and hereby announces that it has also informed the lawmakers of respective political parties including the 10-member democratic alliance about the case.

Union Election Commission

Low pressure area to South Orissa Coast of India

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 June—According to the observation at 6:30 am M.S.T today, yesterday’s the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved to South Orissa Coast, India, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

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