Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends Golden Jubilee
Myanmar Gems Emporium opening ceremony

By: Maung Maung Kyaw Soe (Botany)

While touring Myanmar’s map, we can see a town which is located at the southernmost tip named Kawthoung surrounded by a flood of islands. We can see a 15ft wide and 2690ft long wooden bridge that links Kawthoung with Pulonetonetone island. Pulonetonetone village with a population of 2000 and 600 households is a pleasant beach. The village named “Turtle Island” (Pulonetonetone) in Malaysian (Pashu) language.

In the olden days, local people faced many difficulties as they had no easy access to Pulonetonetone village. The construction of facility

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 June
— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended opening ceremony of Golden Jubilee Myanma Gems Emporium at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, this morning.

Union Ministers Dr Myint Aung, U Thein Nyunt and U Win Shein, Patron of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Ko Win and Chairman U Tay Za formally opened the ceremony, and the Vice-President unveiled the signboard. Next, the Vice-President watched a video report on preparations for organizing the emporium.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr Myint Aung received a jade statue of Bodaw donated by MGJEA, a raw ruby weighing 1907 carats by MGJEA Chairman U Tay Za, a jade carved flower by U Yone Mu and Daw Pe Nan and family of Seinn Lin Yadana Jewellery Company, a jade statue of a dragon by U Zaw Bo Khant and Daw Malar Phyu and family of Myanmar Tagaung Jewellery Company, and a jade statue of rooster by U Yone Phu of Lucky Star Jewellery Company honouring the emporium.

Then, the Vice-President observed jade lots and gems lots and jewellery on display at the booths and shops.

It was the 86th Myanmar Gems Emporium and the emporiums have been held since 1964.

The Golden Jubilee Emporium where 10003 lots of jade, 379 lots of gems and jewellery and 255 pearl lots are on display will continue up to 27 June.

A total of 9657 jade lots will be sold through open tender from 19 to 24 June and 346 jade lots through competitive bidding from 24 to 27 June. A total of 91 jade lots with the floor price of over one million euros are included on the sales. The highest floor price for a jade lot mined at Warkyal mine in Lonkhin-Phakant area by Myanmar Aung Naing Nay Mote-U Gems and Jewellery Company is 15 million euros.

A total of 273 lots of jewellery will be sold through open tender and 106 lots through competitive bidding on 19 June. Four jewellery lots with the floor price of over one million euros will go on sales at the emporium.

Gems and jewellery will be displayed and on sales at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. A total of 233 State-owned pearl lots and 22 pearl lots of two companies will be sold on the gems market floor of the Myanmar Gems Museum. On 16-17 June, 234 pearl lots will be sold through open tender and 21 lost through competitive bidding.

It is learnt that the central committee for organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium formed respective committees for convenience of local and foreign gems merchants in their accommodation, transportation, health and security matters.— MNA

Pulonetonetone wooden bridge in Kawthoung

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**LOCAL NEWS**

Lt-Gen Wai Lwin receives Former World Bank President and Former US Deputy Secretary of Defence

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—** Lt-Gen Wai Lwin of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) received a delegation led by Former President of World Bank and Former US Deputy Secretary of Defence Mr. Paul Wolfowitz at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, yesterday morning. Also present at the call together with Lt-Gen Wai Lwin were senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. Mr. Paul Wolfowitz was accompanied by Mr. Jimmy Lai and officials.—MNA

Workshop on Red Cross knowledge dissemination held

**YANGON, 15 June—** Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies jointly held a workshop on Red Cross knowledge dissemination at Myanmar Red Cross Society (Yangon) Branch on Strand Road this morning.

At the workshop, President of MRC S, Professor Dr Tha Hla Shwe and Programme Coordinator Ms. Jethma Cumplo Dela Pena of IRFC delivered addresses.

The workshop aims at disseminating knowledge on health care services, vaccination and disaster risk reduction activities being undertaken by MRCs through media persons.

The workshop lasts till tomorrow.—MNA

Microfinance provided to township MCWAs of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—** Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MNA) presented microfinance to members then presented K 500,000 each to MCWAs of five townships.—MNA

CONSTRUCTION

Roads under maintenance in Kengtung

**KENGUTUNG, 15 June—** Roads outside and inside Kengtung Township on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachileik Union Highway is under maintenance to avoid traffic congestion.

Public Works (Kengtung) is repaving Tachileik-Taunggyi Road near Local and Highway Bus Terminal and Yangkham Market on 11 June with the use of heavy machinery, and the Taunggyi road near Kengtung railway station in Naungyin Village of Yanglaw Village-tract.

Those wishing to enquire duty and function of Public Works in Kengtung Township may contact the Staff Officer of Administration Department.

**Kyemon-513**

Phaungpyin gets rural bridge

**PHAUNGPYIN, 15 June—** A ceremony to inaugurate Myaseinyaung Yaykyaw (Yayle) Bridge linking Minya and Posagon villages of Phaungpyin Township of Mawlaik District was held at the new bridge on 12 June morning. Sasantha Thukhapala Monastery Abbot Bhaddanta Naninda of Naungyin Village, Executive Officer U Lay Maw of Township Development Affairs Committee and Minya Village-tract Administrator U Sein Tun formally opened the bridge.

Roads and paddy plantations were damaged in the rainy season due to floods from Chindwin River. Under the auspices of Naungyin Village abbot, the bridge, 54 feet long and 18 feet, was built at a cost of K 2.1 million.

**Kyemon-Hun Tun (IPRD)**

CRIME

Bronze Buddha images seized in Kengtung

**KENGUTUNG, 15 June—** A vehicle carrying ancient Buddha image and bronze Buddha images kept in oil barrels was seized in Kengtung of Shan State (East) on 11 June.

Police officers from Kenghawng police outpost searched the vehicle driven by U Sai San from Taunggyi to Kengtung at 10.30 am on 11 June. The policemen seized 20 ancient type bronze images and 27 bronze Buddha images hidden in oil barrels onboard the car. Action is being taken over the seizure of the images. —Kyemon-513

Milk makes you smarter: healthier and more intelligent

**7th Myanmar-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations held**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—** The 7th Myanmar-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations led by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, yesterday morning.


During the consultations, leaders and representatives of the two delegations exchanged views on further strengthening of the existing friendly relations and promoting cooperation between the two countries in the areas of immigration, boundary matters, defence, energy, transportation, trade and commerce and culture.—MNA

Ngamoeyeik Creek needs re-dredging

**YANGON, 15 June—** Watercrafts carrying passengers, sand and commodities are running along rivers and creeks in Yangon Region.

“We have read a piece of news that appeared in Kyemon Daily that a sand boat hit the suspension bridge linking North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (North) townships. Indeed, Ngamoeyeik Creek is silted. In the rainy season, the water level of the creek is higher so the boat will not be clear from the bridge. I am worried about the more hit of watercraft at the bridge,” said a local.

In the past, a boat carrying sand had hit the bridge. Therefore, the local people are hoping for dredging Ngamoeyeik Creek by authorities.

Kyemon-Maung Thonnya

Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee dredging drains in Shwenatha Ward of Ottarathiri Township for proper flow of water in rainy season on 10 June.

**Kyemon-Ko Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw)**
Rohani tops early Iran election results

DUHAI, 15 June—

A Free Syrian Army fighter wearing a gas mask, carries his weapons as he walks past a damaged shop after seizing a government military camp used by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad, near Idlib, on 13 June. —REUTERS

US considers no-fly zone after Syria crosses nerve gas ‘red line’

PARIS, 15 June—

A man sleeps outside a music studio in the Greek state television ERT headquarters in Athens on 14 June. —REUTERS

Greek PM offers to restart news broadcasts to defuse crisis

ATHENS, 15 June—

A man poses for group photos with Indiana Fever players during the welcome ceremony of WNBA champion Indiana Fever at the White House in Washington DC on 14 June 2013. —XINHUA

US free trade talks agreement on the mandate, European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht had to admit at a Press conference after nearly ten hours’ discussion that “at this moment of time, the audio-visual sector will not be in the mandate.” “The Commission, according to the EU treaties, may make recommendations to the European Council on possible additional negotiating directives on any issue with the same procedure requiring additional negotiating mandate from EU member states,” he added.

EU countries reach agreement on US free trade talks

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US President Barack Obama (below C) poses for group photos with Indiana Fever players during the welcome ceremony of WNBA champion Indiana Fever at the White House in Washington DC on 14 June 2013. —XINHUA

President candidate Hassan Rohani casts his ballot during the Iranian presidential election in Teheran on 14 June 2013—REUTERS

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BRUSSELS, 15 June—
Cushion added for life in orbit

BEIJING, 15 June—Those concerned about astronauts’ living conditions need not worry, as scientists from Tianjin and Shanghai have devoted years to designing high-tech equipment to make life in space easier.

Cui Guoqi, a professor at Tianjin University, is the director of one of China’s first research centres in rapid prototyping, more commonly known as 3-D printing. Cui’s team has spent 15 years developing tailor-made cushioned seats for Chinese astronauts. The seat, made of 70-millimeter-thick composite materials, looks like a bathtub in shape.

“The seats are used during launch and landing to protect the astronauts, especially their backbones, from being hurt by the jolt during acceleration,” he said.

“We collect physical data from astronaut candidates, like the measurements of their spacesuits, but the seats require much more data than the suits. And with more precise data, the seat will be more precise in terms of comfort and impact.” Cui said the number of data that is collected has increased from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands as they’ve improved the precision of the seats.

“Every seat should be tested by the astronaut in person and undergo adjustments to make it more precise. My colleagues and I are more familiar with their physical data than their family members,” he said.

Cui said Liu Yang, China’s first female astronaut, told him the seat was “safe and well-suited” after she finished her space mission in June 2012. Donghua University in Shanghai, formerly China Textile University, also helped astronauts on Shenzhou X by inventing a special diaper that is not only super-absorbent but able to dissolve ammonia and other chemicals from human waste.—Xinhua

HP unveils ‘affordable’ storage solutions for SMBs

WASHINGTON, 15 June— Computer maker Hewlett-Packard on Friday unveiled storage solutions for small and medium businesses, saying that they will maximise SMBs’ investments and make data management more efficient.

“Limited IT resources and a lack of storage expertise can make it difficult for SMBs to deploy the storage systems needed to support applications that require high availability and performance,” HP India Director (Storage) Barun Lala said at a Press conference. The new offerings include the next generation of its MSA entry disk array, enhancements to the HP StoreEasy Storage portfolio and a new programme for HP channel partners.

The new HP MSA 2040 Storage system simplifies management and improves performance up to four times faster. The enhanced HP StoreEasy Storage portfolio enables SMBs to efficiently manage and protect increasing amounts of file data without the need for special skills, he added.

“Virtualisation and other emerging workloads threaten to drown SMBs in a sea of complexities that hinder, rather than support, growth,” Lala said.

Simply StoreIT allows our partners to serve their small and medium-sized customers who are stressed for time, budget and resources to support a growing business, with a stress-free storage solution, he added.

Dual-controller MSA 2040 configurations begin at $11,470, with worldwide availability through HP and its channel partners expected to begin in July 2013. HP StoreEasy Storage enhancements are available in all new configurations starting in June. The HP Simply Store IT Program is available worldwide.

Wipro gets fresh tax demand of Rs 816 crore

NEW DELHI, 15 June— India’s third largest software firm Wipro has been slapped with an over Rs 816 crore claim by tax department, becoming the latest IT company to have got such a notice after Infosys, WNS and iGate.

The Bangalore-headquartered company said the “draft assessment order” from tax authorities for 2008-09 fiscal has aroused primarily due to denial of deduction under section 10A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, in respect of profit earned by its undertaking in the Software Technology Park (STP) at Bangalore. “In March 2013, the company received the draft assessment order, on similar grounds as that of earlier years, with a demand of Rs 816.4 crore (including interest of Rs. 84.8 crore) for the financial year ended on 31 March, 2009. “The company will file its objections against the said demand before the Dispute Resolution Panel, within the time limit prescribed under the statute,” Wipro said in a filing on the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

When contacted, Wipro in a statement said: “No demand has been received and the assessment process is in progress.”

The Azim Premji-led company, whose American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) are listed on NYSE, expressed hope that the final outcome of the dispute will be in its favour.

Besides the fresh assessment order, Wipro said it is also facing tax demands of around Rs. 3,936 crore (including interest) for the period of 31 March, 2001 to 31 March, 2008 due to denial of deduction under section 10A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, on profits it earned in STP in Bangalore.

“Considering the facts and nature of disallowance and the overwhelming authority upholding the claims of the company for earlier years, the company believes that the final outcome of the above disputes should be in favour of the company and there should not be any material impact on the consolidated financial statements,” the Wipro filing added.
South Koreans, Argentines most satisfied with healthcare, poll finds

NEW YORK, 15 June—
Healthcare has improved in many countries in the last five years, but patients in South Korea, Argentina and Japan are the most satisfied with their medical care, according to an Ipsos poll released on Tuesday.

In a survey of 15 countries, people in those countries gave top grades for improvements in their national healthcare system since 2008, along with residents of Belgium and Australia, which rounded out the top five nations.

At the other end of the spectrum, patients in Sweden, France, Italy, Hungary and Spain were the least satisfied with their health services and experiences among the 15 countries studied.

“You average things are moving forward in terms of healthcare access and experience around the world based on what we saw. This is very clear,” said John Wright, senior vice president and managing director of Global Advisor Ipsos.Public Affairs, which conducted the survey.

“But the elements within the healthcare system in certain countries are very specific in terms of what they are doing about,” he added in an interview.

The United States, which came in sixth overall, was followed by Poland, Germany, Canada and Britain.

It’s worth noting the survey only included the 15 countries and was based on perceptions of users. So one country’s system could be superior to another’s, but if its users didn’t rate it as highly, it would rank lower on the list.

“Everybody ... card by their individual patient populations,” Wright explained, likening it to “a customer satisfaction survey.” Ipsos polled a total of 12,001 adults online in 15 countries in Europe, Asia and North America about whether healthcare in their countries was better now than in recent years.

It also asked residents to rate access to specialists, a hospital, diagnostic tests, drugs and their experiences in treatment options, quality, coordination, speed and level of care. —Reuters

New study explores motivations behind suicide attempts

VANCOUVER, 15 June—
Suicide attempts motivated by internal factors, such as hopelessness and unbearable pain, were performed with the greatest desire to die, according to a new Canadian study that digs deep into suicide motivations.

The study, published recently in the official journal of the American Association of Suicidology and conducted by researchers from the University of British Columbia (UBC), is believed to be the first of its kind to explore suicide motivations in a comprehensive and systematic way.

Despite massive prevention efforts, suicide rates have increased globally over the last 50 years, with almost 1 million people taking their own lives annually, according to the researchers.

The study, based on 120 participants who attempted suicide within the past three years, suggests many motivations believed to play important roles in suicide are relatively uncommon.

For example, suicide attempts were rarely the result of impulsivity, a cry for help, or an effort to solve a financial or practical problem.

Of all motivations for suicide, the two found to be universal in all participants were hopelessness and overwhelming emotional pain.

It also finds that suicide attempts influenced by social factors — such as efforts to elicit help or influence others — generally exhibited a less pronounced intent to die, and were carried out with a greater chance of rescue.

“Knowing why someone attempted suicide is crucial — it tells us how to best help them recover,” said Prof David Klonsky, UBC Department of Psychology. “This new tool will help us to move beyond the current ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to suicide prevention, which is essential. Different motivations require different treatments and interventions.”

Vegetable fats tied to less prostate cancer spread

NEW YORK, 15 June—
After being diagnosed with prostate cancer, men who eat a diet high in vegetable fats, such as those in nuts and olive oil, may be less likely to have their disease spread, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that replacing some unhealthy fats with those healthy fats was also tied to a lower risk of dying from any cause during the study. But the opposite was true for saturated and trans fats often found in meat and processed foods. “A lot of doctors will simply say, ‘Cut out fat,’ after a prostate cancer diagnosis,” said Dr Stephen Freedland, a urologist at Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina.

But this study challenges that advice, said Freedland, who wrote a commentary on the findings.

“It actually says, if you eat more fat, albeit the right kind of fat... you’re less likely to die of not only prostate cancer, but really of any cause, which really flies in the face of this ‘low-fat, low-fat’ mantra that we’ve been told for decades now,” he told Reuters Health.

Researchers tracked 4,577 men who were diagnosed with localized prostate cancer during a large study of health workers beginning in 1986. —Reuters

Wholesale prices up on food, gasoline; manufacturing weak

WASHINGTON, 15 June—Producer prices rose more than expected in May as gasoline and food prices rebounded, but underlying inflation pressures remained muted, which could argue against an early scaling back of monetary stimulus by the Federal Reserve.

A second report on Friday showed factory output edged up just 0.1 percent last month, a sign of lingering softness after two back-to-back declines that offers another cautionary note for the US central bank.

The Labour Department said its seasonally adjusted producer price index increased 0.5 percent in May after declining 0.7 percent in April. A Reuters survey of economists had forecast a rise of just 0.1 percent.

“Not a game changer. I expect that next week the Fed will reaffirm its current policies,” said Sam Bullard, a senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Officials at the Fed will debate how soon to ratchet back on its $85 billion a month bond-buying pace at a meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday.

While US consumers have shown resilience in the face of higher taxes and the economy continues to create jobs at a steady if unspectacular pace, the factory sector has suffered from a recession in Europe that has weighed on global growth.

The Fed said manufacturing output rose 0.1 percent last month. Overall industrial production was unchanged, held back by a big drop in utilities output.

Despite the pick-up in prices received at the nation’s farms, factories and refineries last month, underlying price pressures remain muted and modest domestic demand makes it difficult for producers to pass on their increased costs.

Customers fill their tanks with gasoline at an automobile service station as prices are displayed on a signboard in San Bruno, California.—Reuters

Walnuts sit in a trailer after being harvested in Lompoc, California.—Reuters

Singapore reprimands 20 banks after benchmark rate review

SINGAPORE, 15 June—
Singapore’s central bank has censured 20 banks on Friday after it found traders in the city state tried to manipulate benchmark borrowing and currency rates, and has ordered them to set aside additional reserves for a year.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said that it had found 133 traders had tried to inappropriately influence the rates. Some of their cases have now been referred to the city-state’s white collar crime unit and the Attorney General’s Chambers, though MAS said no offence under Singapore law appeared to have been committed.

The city-state’s banking and market associations also unveiled a series of reforms of how banks will set the benchmarks, including plans to start basing several of them on actual trades rather than estimates submitted by banks. The announcements come as financial market reference rates are under intense scrutiny worldwide following the discovery that some of them had been rigged, most notably the London Interbank Offered Rate — benchmark for interest rates.

“...difficult for producers to pass on higher taxes and the economy continues to create jobs at a steady if unspectacular pace, the factory sector has suffered from a recession in Europe that has weighed on global growth. ... manufacturing output rose 0.1 percent last month. Overall industrial production was unchanged, held back by a big drop in utilities output. ... Despite the pick-up in prices received at the nation’s farms, factories and refineries last month, underlying price pressures remain muted and modest domestic demand makes it difficult for producers to pass on their increased costs. ...”

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**Myanmar Chess Game**

Myanmar media today carries news of chess game, as this board game is included in the upcoming 27th ASEAN Games which Myanmar is hosting in 2013 December.

The writer has been phoned and interviewed by some media-men regarding the origin and history of Myanmar chess game. The following is a brief of facts and data he has so far collected.

Myanmar chess game is today commonly called and known as *Sit tuyin* [Sit Bayin]. But its original and genuine name is *Sit tuyin* [Sit tuyin]. A Pali derivative word “Satuyinga”[Four features of Traditional Armed Forces namely (1) Infantry (2) Cavalry (3) Chariotry and (4) Elephantry. Infantry was composed of (a) foot soldiers (b) swords men (c) spear men (d) lancers, (e) archers (f) shields (g) later gunners and artillery men.

Myanmar traditional board game can be traced back far to Pinya period [1298-1364 A.D] or even to Bagan Period of Myanmar history. There are abundant evidences of this game in stone inscriptions, palm leaf inscriptions, ink writings on walls of temples, folding papers, in Myanmar literature and all visual art medias. In all these evidences the game was called *Sit tuyin* [Sit tuyin]. In Hindi there is a word “Saturanga [Saturanga]. In Malay there is a word “Satur” [Satur].

It is generally opened that this board game originated in India about 5000 years ago. In one of the two Hindu epic dramas Mahabharata, this game was often mentioned. The Arabs, the Persians, the Mongolians and the central Asians also claim their origins. In Buddha’s jataka stories, chess game and dice game were mentioned as pastimes of the ruling class. In the 18 princes arts and sciences which students had to learn at the university of Taxila of Buddha’s time, chess and dice games were included in the art of diplomacy, statecraft and military strategy.

In Pinya Period [1298-1364 A.D] there was one learned knight named Satuyingabala who could converse and discuss with the most learned monk of that time “Hsu Twin Pyit Sayadaw [Ashin Nagita]. In this writings he used the name of this game as “Sit tuyin” game. Like a clever player of this game this knight was called Satu-yinga-bala as he was learned and skillful in diplomacy and literary dialogue.

Basically, Myanmar chess game and international chess games have similarities though they differ in some minor details, due to their national and local characters. This game on board is “fighting a battle with four features of Armed Forces.” It requires knowledge, experiences and especially intelligence and knack.

Two players play on a board containing 64 squares with a black and red sides. Each side has (1) commander (2) a second in-command (3) two chariots (4) two war elephants (5) two horsemen (6) two knights and (6) eight pawns.

Winning technique is to immediately stop the movement of the opponent. It is called “checkmate”. Words and terms used in chess game are used in politics in which the opponent’s move is to be blocked quickly or “checkmated”. If a country is using to serve the interest of other country that country is called “pawin”. In the balancing power among big powers, pawns are sought after to counter weight the balance.

There is no standard size for chess boards, but most chess boards fit easily on a table. The board is divided into 64 squares, arranged in eight rows of squares each. The squares are alternately light and dark in colour [black and white or red and white]. The rows of squares across the board are called “ranks.” The rows of squares running up and down are called “files”, and the slanting rows are called “diagonals”. Two players sit at opposite end of the chess board.

There are several methods, rules, techniques, knacks of playing chess games. Most chess games are played in three stages namely (1) the opening (2) the middle game and (3) the end game. The middle game is most exciting. A chess game may end in tie called a draw when both sides have no chance to a victory.

Chess game was aristocratic, only royalty aristocracy, and upper classes play it for pleasure, betting or prestige. But merchants, scholars, artists, sea voyagers do make this game as their hobby. In medieval Europe upper clergy, churchnen and even Pope played this game. In the old days of Pwe Kyauing monasteries in Myanmar, some monks gave coaching to young male pupils in chess game in addition to martial arts. It is said that just like “An chin” songs of dice game there were folk songs to cheer up the competitors of chess game. But so far no such song has been found.

The belief that chess game is exclusively the game of upper class and educated middle-agener prove wrong, because young people from all walks of life can prove good chess game players.

Myanmar chess board pieces are made of ivory, wood, precious and semi precious metals, jade and marble and also of lacquer.

In pre-war days, chess games were popular. Even after independence, the game was played by students and teachers of universities and colleges. Hostels had social and reading clubs where on every Saturday were held board games, brain trust, debate and impromptu speaking (ဘီစာအသိပါခန်း). Tournaments were held hostel-wise. In the college days students of universities and colleges. Hostels had social and reading clubs where on every Saturday were held board games, brain trust, debate and impromptu speaking (ဘီစာအသိပါခန်း).

Tatin Shwe Hti, Bayint Naung, Alaungpaya, Hsibyushi, Bodawpaya, Maha Bandoosa were said to be good chess game players.

Norway becomes first NATO country to draft women into military

**Oslo, 15 June—Norway’s parliament voted overwhelmingly on Friday to conscript women into its armed forces, becoming the first European and first NATO country to make military compulsory for both genders.**

“Rights and duties should be the same for all,” said lawmaker Laila Gustavsen, a supporter of the bill. “The armed forces need access to the best resources, regardless of gender, and right now mostly men are recruited.”

Norway has been at the forefront in the fight for gender equality, introducing measures such as requiring all public limited companies to fill at least 40 percent of their board seats with women. On Wednesday the country celebrated a century since Norwegian women won the right to vote.

Women make up half of the current government, and opposition leader Erna Solberg is expected to become Norway’s second female prime minister in elections later this year, according to opinion polls which indicate her Conservative Party and its allies will win a parliamentary majority.

The change is not expected to force women to serve against their will but should help improve the gender balance.

All young people can be conscripted in theory, but since the end of the Cold War the Norwegian armed forces have become more selective in choosing conscripts as their needs have changed.

Those who do not want to serve can often find a reason, such as university studies, to avoid the draft.

“In theory, it is possible (women would have to serve against their will), just as it can happen to men,” Gustavsen said.

**Crown Prince Naruhito meets with “Japons” in Spain**

**Seville, 15 June—Japan’s Crown Prince Naruhito attended a reception on Friday in Seville, southern Spain, to meet persons called “Japon” who are said to be descendants of members of a mission dispatched by Japanese feudal lord Date Masamune to the European country 400 years ago.**

Talking with some 30 persons bearing the surname, which is the Spanish word for Japan, the crown prince said, “I’m glad that I could meet so many ‘Japons’.”

The mission, led by Hasekura Tsunenaga, arrived in Seville in 1614, a year after leaving Japan, and it is said that some members stayed on and identified themselves as “Japon.” The crown prince, who is in Spain until Sunday, is attending a series of events to mark the 400th anniversary of bilateral exchanges.—Kyodo News
Namtlauk dam commissioned into service

TACHILEK, 15 June—A ceremony to commission the Namtlauk dam into service was held in Wumkaungmon village in Phanmin village-tract in Tachilek Township on 12 June.

It dams creek and canals and will irrigate summer and monsoon paddy fields. District Irrigation Department staff officer U Han Tun and village-tract administrator U Hla Thein briefed on construction of the dam. The district deputy commissioner launched the function of the dam. The dam with gravel retaining wall would irrigate 554 acres of monsoon paddy and 250 acres of summer paddy.

The dam construction funded by the villages cost K 17 million. MMAL-Maung Yin Kyaw

Traditional medicine practitioners provide free treatment in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 15 June—Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners provided free medical treatment to patients in Ahnikektaw ward in Aungmyeethazan Township in Mandalay on 11 June. The team of the practitioners formed with Mandalay District Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association District Head of Traditional Medicine Department Daw Thaw Tun, Township Head of Traditional Medicine Department Daw Than Aung, Township Health Department U Hla and wife U Aung Soe.

They observed health care services provided by the centre. Head of Lewe Township Health Department Tun and other members of the delegation also arrived back on the same flight.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security Affairs.

MMAL-026

Healthcare trainees visit Thawutti rural health centre

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—Principal of health staff training school in Lewe in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area under the Health Department of the Ministry of Health Deputy Director Dr Tun Aung Kyi and trainees from township health departments of respective regions and states on 8 June visited Thawutti rural health centre in Lewe Township.

They observed health care services provided by the centre. Head of Lewe Township Health Department Kyaw Moe elaborated on functions of Thawutti rural health centre.

They also answered queries raised by the trainees. They then visited Thawutti Maha orphanage on Sama hill and donated K 120,000 for the orphans.

MMAL-069

Anti-DHF campaign launched in Kyangin

KYANGIN, 15 June—A special delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Zaw arrived back Yangon yesterday after carrying out ground survey of current situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia. Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Daw Win Maw Tun and other members of the delegation also arrived back on the same flight.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security Affairs.

MMAL-001

Medical equipment donated

Township, whose son is receiving treatment at the hospital, donated two wheelchairs and three steel camel sticks to the hospital through medical superintendent Dr Daw Khin San Myint, Township health staff grade (I) U Myint Swe and head of the rural health centre U Kyaw Moe elaborated on healthcare services of the centres in the township and functions of Thawutti rural health centre.

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MMAL-069
New Light of Myanmar

**ARTICLE**

**Public Service Media under Democratic Reform**

By Banya Aung

Banya Aung

Make the world a greener place

It is not entirely exaggerated that the consequences will be very grave if nothing is done for deforestation that is threatening the existence of our Mother Earth. People should be aware of the vital importance of forests in their lives. Life would not be possible without trees as they are a source of medicines and they perform the major roles in protecting watersheds and the world’s precious freshwater resources and providing fuel, employment and income for millions of the world’s poorest people. Moreover, they act as a leading repository of terrestrial biodiversity.

Deforestation is one of the highly insidious threats that are emerging in the world as a consequence of globalization and climate change. Forest fires, storms, excessive production of firewood and high rates of illegal timber extraction, environmentally unfriendly agricultural methods and reclamation of new farmlands, establishment of salt fields, fish farms and pawn ponds and human settlement are also advancing menaces to devastate vast tracts of forest.

Forests and trees are par excellence a renewable resource that can be attended to and address ecological needs and challenges. They can thereby make the world a greener place, acting as engines of future sustainable development. Turning deforestation into reforestation is closely linked to achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as forest depletion is degrading ecosystems, diminishing water availability and reducing food security, especially for the poor.

That’s why, forest restoration could bring an end to hunger of forest-dependent people in many parts of the world.

From now on let’s make a start in our neighborhood by planting trees in order to give back to forests just a little of what we have taken. Trees are not only good for local climate change but they do wonders for our well-being, improving the quality of our people’s lives and making the people even calmer and happier. So we would like to urge our well-being to plant our future by planting a tree because giving to forests is giving to ourselves and to our children.

Shan State Govt to assume duties of mobile team for food safety, combating illegal trading

**Nay Pyi Taw, 15 June**—Shan State government has assumed duties for taking food safety measures and combating illegal trading on the Muse-Mandalay Road.

The Mobile Team-1 of the Central Committee for fighting and controlling illegal trading has been established with the duties to the Shan State Government at Nawngkio, Shan State, today, by Chairman of the central Committee Union Minister for Commerce U Wunna Maung Lwin.

Ministry of Commerce set up two mobile teams comprising police, custom officials, local authorities, merchants and media and launched the campaign to crackdown on the illegal trading from November 1 to June 13 along Mandalay-Muse Road and Myawaddy-Yangon Road.

During the campaign, the teams have exposed 477 illegal trading cases with legal worth USD 386 million in the border trade volume of the 2012-2013 FY than in the trade volume of the previous FY—MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister back home

**Nay Pyi Taw, 15 June**—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back in Yangon after attending the sixth Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Minister’s Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia on 13-14 June.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met Mr. Dato Hamzah Zainudin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; Mr. Surapong Tovichakchai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba and Mr. Murray McCully, Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Zealand separately on 13 June.

The Uluwatu Declaration was adopted at the two-day event by 36 members of the forum who called for further cooperation between the two regions.

**Trs:** AMS+YM+MT

**New Light of Myanmar**

Sunday, 16 June, 2013

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker opens two upgraded schools in Pyawbwe Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint unveiled stone plaques of two upgrade schools in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region today.

At the Basic Education High School (Branch) in East Shwaphyagon Village, the Speaker expressed his delight for the increase in passing rate of the school, highlighting the coordination of the teachers of the school and parents of the students.

He also called on the teachers and parents of students to cooperate in the school enrolment for all school aged children and success of the new education system.

At a ceremony to mark the upgrading the Basic Education Middle School to the high school and handing over a new building to the school in Twin Village, the speaker called on teachers, parents of the students and the school board of trustees to work together to be able to nurture educated students from the school.

The trip gave us the opportunity to keep unity among them—NN

Legislation for standardization of laws coordination meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June—"The products manufactured by Myanmar are needed high technology laws and formation of technical subcommittees for drawing standards at the auditorium of the ministry, here, this morning. The meeting was attended by the directors-general, departmental heads, professors and officials from NGOs.

The Union minister continued to say that legislation for standardization of laws and precise measurement technology laws and foreign countries are harmful to consumers. So, legislation for standardization of law is underway", says Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo at the coordination meeting for legislation of standardization of law and precise measurement technology laws and majority don’t want to go back home.

Q: Did you have any further information on Myanmar workers being attacked when you were there?
A: There are about 160 under detention — six women and 154 men. The majority are Myanmar people which include Bamar, Kachin, Chin and Kayin nationals. There are also other followers living in Myanmar. Out of 154, only about 25 expressed their wish to go back home even though they are being detained. Six women also don’t want to go back home. So, it can be said that the majority are Myanmar workers who have their families here. The situation is rife in the area only.

Q: Could you tell me about meeting with workers under detention?
A: There are about 160 under detention — six women and 154 men. The majority are Myanmar people which include Bamar, Kachin, Chin and Kayin nationals. There are also other followers living in Myanmar. Out of 154, only about 25 expressed their wish to go back home even though they are being detained. Six women also don’t want to go back home. So, it can be said that the majority don’t want to go back home.

Q: Did you have any further information on Myanmar workers being attacked when you were there?
A: There were no recurrences of attacks when we were there. Malaysian government also assured that the incident was a gang attack which has nothing to do with racial conflict in Myanmar. The incident was rife in the area only. Peace and security prevail in other areas. There were no widespread unrest as the majority of people had assumed. The incident occurred for various reasons which include instigation by a gang. Thus, we would like to inform the people that they need not to worry. Q: Would you like to leave any message over the trip?
A: The trip gave us good deeds.

Moreover, Ayeyawady foundation and labour agencies contributed their philanthropic efforts.

The President worried about the situation and sent us there. We made those who have been experiencing worries calmer and the people known that all workers were not in difficulty. Besides, we gave a helping hand to those with anxiety and made necessary arrangements for their return home.

We made a field trip and made coordination for all walks of life.

News crew: Thank you Sir.
Q: I would like to know about the situation from Deputy Minister Daw Min Tun.
A: I urged Myanmar workers to do themselves safety first. I urged them to keep unity among themselves. Most of the workers are not willing to return home as they are paid well in Malaysia. But some are very anxious after reading news in websites like Facebook and they want to return home.

One important thing I found was some Myanmar workers have their families. For example, I saw women with five- or eight-month pregnancy. I urged them to return home.

Q: Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw acknowledged cooperation of Malaysia. May I know your view?
A: Really good. Now Selayang market is under full security. The market looks like Thiri Mingala market in Yangon. It is a vegetable market that is open 24 hours. One worker can be paid between 1000 and 1500 ringits. Some got paid over 1500 ringits. The situation emerged when the rule of law had been weakened in the area.

Q: I felt happy when I heard workers are okay. May I know the brief situation about the places you visited?
A: We went to Selayang market, hospital and Kapon monastery. We saw funeral services and we met those who took refuge at the monastery. We visited glass factory where there are 150 Myanmar workers. We observed whether or not full security is given by the owner. We discovered that workers are being accommodated by the factory owner, a Chinese, who guarantees their security.

A small mistake has become enlarged when they enjoyed happy hours as they are paid well there. It was the basic point. Our trip could be a successful one. Myanmar workers felt parental love when we met them. We comforted and taught them how to live there. Moreover, we comforted the victims and provided them with necessary assistance. We made donations to the monastery and funeral services.

Q: May I know your concluding remarks? Ground situation revealed that it was not very bad. Malaysian businessmen called on us at the hotel yesterday night at about 8 pm. Each businessman has 200 or 300 or 500 Myanmar workers. They have voiced concerns over possible impacts of Myanmar workers’ return to Malaysia.

A: We observed that it is not very bad. Malaysian businessmen called on us at the hotel yesterday night. Each businessman has 200 or 300 or 500 Myanmar workers. They have voiced concerns over possible impacts of Myanmar workers’ return to Malaysia.

Q: I would like to know about the situation from Deputy Minister Daw Min Tun
A: If you had to go back to Malaysia, you should go back to work and do not worry. You should make sure that you will not be detained by the gang. So, you will be able to make your life safe. So, you can make your work there safe. We will make sure that you will be able to make your work safe.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Books, stationery, school uniforms donated to Magway nunneries**

**Magway, 15 June**—A ceremony to donate books, stationery and school uniforms to the students and school uniforms worth K210,000 to the students. Then, Magway Townships Development Affairs Committee fumigated the halls of nunneries as part of preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever.

The Magway Region WAO and MCWSC also donated books, stationery and school uniforms worth K220,000 to Thaidayan nunnery and viewed round the classrooms.

**Shan State Development Affairs Committee members inspect Namhsam Town Hall**

**Namhsam, 15 June**—A group led by Deputy Director-General U Maung Kyaw extended greetings to the Shan State Development Affairs Committee, Assistant Director U Zaw Win (Lashio Branch), and Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Kyaw Swe viewed completion of rehabilitation tasks in Namhsam for fire victims on 10 June.

Executive Officer U Sai Win Myint of Township Development Affairs Committee touched upon completion of rehabilitation tasks for fire victims to the group.

**National plan for township people-centered development workshop held**

**Namhsam, 15 June**—A workshop to implement township level people-centered national plan took place at the meeting hall of Palaung Self-administrative Leading Committee, here, on 11 June morning. It was attended by Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Chairman of Palaung Self-administrative Leading Body and township administrators and town members.

The State Minister for Security and Border Affairs and Chairman of Palaung Self-administrative Leading Body and township administration gave talks on disaster prevention, preparedness and work coordination.

This work started on 18-5-2013. Up to 9 June, the construction work has been completed by 81 per cent. In 2011-2012, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems built a 220-foot gravel-filled retaining wall spending K20 million on keeping the port clean and pleasant.

**Health Care Services given at Dagon (East) Industrial Zone**

**Yangon, 15 June**—Social Security Board is providing health care services to workers at the factories together with the medicals from Worker’s Hospital and Social Security Clinics in order to perform their duties without leaving-off.

Dr. Kyaw Lin Aung, Nurse Daw L Ni and members of township USDP and township secretaries of district Social Security Board and township USDP and township secretaries of district Social Security Board discussed matter of local development.

**Health**

Kamkhonam and staff factories gave medical treatment to 88 workers at M Buwon Electronic Factory in Dagon (East) Industrial Zone and gave talks on medical knowledge on 11 June.

**Hlutaw experience recounted**

**Kalay, 15 June**—A ceremony to recount Hlutaw experience was held at the monastery of Setaw Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region on 6 June. It was attended by Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Tin Hlaing, Amyotha Hlutaw representative U Thein Hlaing, district and township secretaries of Union Solidarity and Development Party and members of township USDP and local people totaling about 500.

Hlutaw representatives recounted their experience about Pyidaungsu Hlutaw, Pyithu Hlutaw and Amyotha Hlutaw and tasks carried out in Hlutaws to local people. They discussed matter of local development.

Hlutaw representatives, secretaries of district and township USDP and members of township USDP visited Kalana Mta social organization, Genius library and private camp supported by villagers to ensure high pass rate of Basic Education Middle School, and coordinated the requirements.
China hopes to enhance trust with Vietnam

BEIJING, 15 June— China hopes to enhance political mutual trust with Vietnam when its President Truong Tan Sang visits the country, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Friday.

Sang will pay a state visit to China on 19-21 June, as a guest of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During the visit, leaders of the two countries will hold talks on bilateral relations, regional affairs as well as issues of common concern, said Hua. She said relevant departments of the two countries are negotiating on cooperative documents on politics, the economy, trade and culture. China and Vietnam are important neighbours and partners, said Hua, adding that the two countries are both at a crucial period of reform and development.

“The sound and stable development of bilateral relations conforms to the common interests of both countries,” she said.

She said China expects to enhance political mutual trust through Sang’s visit, promote pragmatic cooperation, as well as strengthen communication and coordination in a bid to push forward the development of the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.

SINGAPORE, 15 June— The Monetary Authority of Singapore censured 20 banks for attempting to rig benchmark interest rates in the Singapore market, it said on Friday.

It is also proposing a new regulatory framework to subject the setting of key benchmark rates to regulatory oversight and introduce specific criminal and civil sanctions for manipulation of any financial benchmarks.

The authority said its year-long review revealed 133 traders in the currency market have each engaged in “several attempts to inappropriately influence the benchmarks.”

The 20 banks were found to have deficiencies in the governance, risk management, internal controls, and surveillance systems for their involvement in submissions for benchmarks.

They include the three home-grown banks, DBS, UOB and OCBC, as well as some of the world’s leading banks including ING Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland and UBS.

They are each required to set aside additional statutory reserves of up to 1.2 billion Singapore dollars ($960 million US dollars) with the central bank at zero interest for a duration of around a year or even longer, depending on how long it will take the banks to put in place sufficient measures.

This would mean an opportunity cost of millions of dollars for the banks.

The Monetary Authority said it went through some 100 million documents in the review that covered key benchmark rates in the Singapore market between 2007 and 2011.

The review came after the LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) rate rigging scandal involving some of the world’s largest banks rocked the financial world.

“There is no conclusive finding that SIBOR, SOR and FX Benchmarks were successfully manipulated,” the Monetary Authority said, adding that the conduct of the traders nevertheless reflected “a lack of professional ethics.”

Eight Afghan civilians killed in bombing in E province

KABUL, 15 June— Eight Afghan civilians were killed Friday in a bomb attack in the eastern Afghan province of Khost, a provincial police source said.

“A funeral service was held in Cholan village in vicinity of provincial capital Khost city at around 2 pm local time. As the people were leaving the area one vehicle touched off a roadside bombing,” the blast killed eight civilians, including the Imam or worship leader of the local mosque, deputy provincial police chief colonel Mohammad Yaqoub told Xinhua.

He said no person was injured in the incident in the province 150 km southeast of national capital Kabul.

The provincial governor Abdul Jabar Nahimi strongly condemned the incident in a statement issued following the explosion.

The officials blamed Taliban insurgents for the incident. Taliban uses improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to launch roadside bomb attack on security forces but the lethal weapon also inflicted casualties on civilians. The insurgent group has yet to make comments.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual rebel offensive in late April against Afghan government forces and about 100,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country.—Xinhua

Philippines welcomes Japan’s easing of visa rules

MANILA, 15 June — The Philippines welcomed Japan’s move to relax visa rules for tourists from Southeast Asia, specifically its decision to allow multiple-entry visas for Filipino tourists.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said the decision “will encourage more Filipinos to travel to Japan and recreate more opportunities for people-to-people exchange between our two countries.”

The Japanese government decided on Tuesday to waive visa requirements for tourists from Thailand and Malaysia and allow the issuance of multiple-entry visas for visitors from both the Philippines and Vietnam, starting this summer.

The move is aimed at increasing visitors from Southeast Asia by 2.5 times the current level to 2 million in 2016, which would help boost Japan’s economy. Of about 8.37 million foreign visitors to Japan in 2012, 780,000 were from Southeast Asia.—Kyodo News

S Korean FM in Singapore for 2-day visit

SINGAPORE, 15 June— South Korea’s Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se is in Singapore for a two-day official visit. Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Friday.

Yun, who is on his first visit to Singapore as foreign minister, met his Singaporean counterpart K Shanmugam on Friday evening.

The Singaporean foreign minister welcomed the active participation of South Korea as foreign minister, his Singaporean counterpart K Shanmugan on Friday evening.

The Singaporean foreign minister also discussed regional developments, the ministry said.

South Korea is one of the dialogue partners of ASEAN and Singapore’s 7th largest trading partner, with bilateral trade up 12.6 percent to 52.7 billion Singapore dollars (42.2 billion US dollars) in 2012.

The Japanese government did not have clear regulations for the vehicles.—Kyodo News

File photo shows an ultracompact car produced by Nissan Motor Co Japan’s transport ministry gave the green light on 14 June, 2013, for the two-seat ultracompact electric vehicle to run on public roads on a trial basis in parts of Kanagawa Prefecture from July.

Kyodo News

Gov’t OKs 2-seat ultracompact car to run on public roads from July

TOKYO, 15 June— The transport ministry gave the green light on Friday for a two-seat ultracompact electric vehicle model to run on public roads on a trial basis in parts of Kanagawa Prefecture from next month.

Under the test run starting 1 July, Urban Renaissancc Agency, a state-run housing development entity, will be working together with Kanagawa Prefecture, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

The agency will use the New Mobility Concept car made by Nissan Motor Co to patrol roads near certain housing complexes as well as other locations in the Kanagawa cities of Yokohama and Yokosuka, ministry officials said.

The ministry decided in March to subsidize the cost of purchasing such cars for local governments and companies wishing to test drive them.

Ultracompacts, which are smaller than the currently classified “minicar,” are hoped to offer a new method of transportation in crowded residential districts or areas where mass transit is scarce.

Until now, two-seat ultracompacts have not been allowed on public roads because the Road Trucking Vehicle Law did not have clear regulations for the vehicles.—Kyodo News

Examinees view the college entrance exam paper marking work at a paper marking room in Guizhou Normal University in Guiyang, capital of southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 14 June, 2013. The paper marking work in Guizhou opens to several examinees and their parents on Friday.—Xinhua

Thai police officers display confiscated drugs during a Press conference at the police headquarters in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 14 June, 2013. Thai police seized 2,500 kilograms of marijuana worth about 28 million Thai baht (about 915,768 US dollars) in Ubon Ratchathani in northeastern Thailand.—Kyodo News

Vehicles move on a road during a dust storm in Bikaner of Rajasthan, India, on 13 June, 2013.—Xinhua

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Sunday, 16 June, 2013

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**M.V KOTA TABAH VOY NO (557)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA TABAH VOY NO (557) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.P.W.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm on claims day. Claims day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the claims day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**ENTERIC VIRUS SICKNESS OVER 100 C CHINA STUDENTS**

CHANGSHA, 15 June—More than 100 students at a school in central China's Hunan Province have shown signs of illness and been hospitalized since 9 June, local authorities said on Friday.

The provincial disease control and prevention center said Friday that 104 students at a school in Xingshi Village, Shimen Township, have experienced continuous fever, coughing and headaches since 9 June.

Liu Fuqiang, a professor with the center, said 42 students in stable condition are still under observation at local hospitals.

Liu said an enteric virus caused the illnesses, and virus samples have been sent to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention for further analysis.

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**JAMAICA CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR CALLS DEVALUATION BENEFICIAL**

KINGSTON, 15 June—The governor of Jamaica’s central bank says depreciation of the country’s currency was expected and beneficial for export-driven economic growth.

“The BOJ’s commitment to a flexible exchange rate and low inflation provides us with the combination that is most conducive to maintaining a competitive export-driven growth in Jamaica and that’s what we need to achieve,” Brian Wynter, governor of the Bank of Jamaica, told reporter.

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**CHILDREN TAKE PART IN EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL IN KINDERGARTEN IN HUAIYIN DISTRICT**

CHANGSHA, 15 June—Children take part in an emergency evacuation drill in a kindergarten in Huaiyin District of Changsha, capital of east China's Hunan Province, on 14 June, 2013. Kindergartens in Huaiyin District held emergency fire fighting drills on Friday in an aim to improve children and staff’s ability to prevent fires, save themselves and cooperate with others.

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**CHINA-RUSSIA TRADE VOLUME TO HIT 100 BLN USD IN 2014**

HARBIN, 15 June—The trade volume between China and Russia is expected to hit 100 billion US dollars in 2014, a year ahead of the target set by leaders from the two countries, a Russian trade representative forecast on Friday.

“The goal of reaching 100 billion US dollars in bilateral trade volume by 2015 is completely within reach and is expected to be realized in 2014 despite the downturn in the first quarter,” said Sergey Tytaylov, trade representative of the Russian Federation in China.

The trade volume between the two countries dropped by 3.9 percent to 20.675 billion US dollars in the first quarter, according to customs data.

“The decrease was due to the price decline of international commodities,” Tytaylov said at the 24th China Harbin International Economic and Trade Fair, which opened on Friday night.

China’s imports from Russia mainly include oil and raw materials, the price of which has fallen remarkably in past months.

In addition to energy cooperation, the two countries can strengthen cooperation on technology, agriculture and tourism, said Lu Nanquan, deputy director of the Research Center under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Aerospace, nanotechnology, high-end machinery, energy conservation and environmental protection, biochemistry and information technology are the key areas China and Russia can support each other, said Lu.

China is currently Russia’s largest trading partner, with the trade volume between the two countries reaching 88.16 billion US dollars in 2012.
Freida Pinto now on The Social Network

Mumbai, 15 June—After becoming part of international cinema with plum projects such as Slumdog Millionaire, Miral and Immortals, actress Freida Pinto has earned an impressive fan following and now she has decided to take to the world of social networking to connect with them.

Freida was initially apprehensive about being active on the online medium, but she has now created a Facebook page and has even got hooked on to online photo-sharing and social networking service, Instagram.

"Known to be quite reticent, especially with the media, seeing her actively engage with her fans is nice. She’s been lucky to have such diverse experiences, which people would love to know about," said a source close to the 28-year-old.

The fact that she is “more expressive and likes having pictures to support her point of view” makes it even better, said the source, adding: “That’s why she’s chosen a more photo-led interactive medium like Instagram and an intensive interaction-based forum like Facebook.”

“Her experiences range from attending awards shows to being on film sets to attending high-end fashion events, charity-based events and concerts,” the source further said.

Freida’s spokesperson confirmed this development, and added that the actress plans on starting her online engagement in the coming week, while balancing her life as an actor and her charity work.

The young and raring-to-go actress was recently in Ethiopia to bat for girl empowerment.

Kristen Stewart misses her pets

Los Angeles, 15 June—Former Twilight Actress Kristen Stewart, who used to enjoy the company of two dogs when she was staying with her former beau Robert Pattinson, says she now misses them immensely.

Ever since she went splitsville with her Twilight co-star, the 23-year-old has been missing her pet poodles, Bear and Bernie. She wants to keep at least one of them, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“Kristen thinks they should have one each. She’s missing the dogs like mad, but doesn’t want the situation to turn nasty,” said a source.

Pattinson, 27, who reportedly went on a date with singer Katy Perry recently, was spotted with both the dogs in his pick-up truck when he was moving his things from Stewart’s house.

The couple had moved in with each other in March this year when Pattinson returned from Australia, and he was said to be looking forward to spending some quality time with Stewart and their pets.

But Pattinson dumped Stewart for the second time after she got back in touch with Snow White and the Huntsman director Rupert Sanders, with whom she had an affair last year.—PTI

Ethan Hawke to take ‘Macbeth’ on Broadway

New York, 15 June—Actor Ethan Hawke is returning to Broadway in a production of ‘Macbeth’, with performances set to begin in October at Lincoln Centre, the performing arts centre said.

‘Macbeth’ will be directed by Jack O’Brien, who helmed the acclaimed 2006-2007 production of Tom Stoppard’s ‘The Coast of Utopia’ trilogy winning a Tony award, and for which Hawke received a best actor nomination.

Opening night is set for 21 November at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre. The bloody Shakespeare play, among his best-known and most-performed works, was one of four productions the non-profit theatre announced on Thursday for the upcoming season.

Hawke, 42, is currently starring in the horror film ‘The Purge’, as well as the acclaimed third part of the ‘Midnight’ series of films, ‘Before Midnight’ opposite Julie Delpy.

The actor rose to fame as a movie star more than two decades ago starting with such films as ‘Dead Poets Society’ and ‘Reality Bites’, and starring roles in ‘Gattaca’ and ‘Training Day’, which won him an Oscar nomination.

But in the past decade he has increasingly turned toward stage acting, calling it his “first love,” as well as independent films such as ‘Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead’.


Adele honoured in Queen Elizabeth’s birthday list

London, 15 June—Grammy Award-winning singer Adele and Mr Bean actor Rowan Atkinson were among more than 1,000 people recognized by Britain’s Queen Elizabeth in her Birthday Honours List on Friday.

Marking the monarch’s official 87th birthday, the honours went to 1,180 recipients from all walks of life, from a beekeeper and a whisky maker to diplomats, artists and business leaders.

London-born Adele, 25, was awarded an OBE—member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire—for services to music.

One of Britain’s best-selling artists, Adele has won a string of international awards for songs such as “Rolling in the Deep”, “Someone Like You” and “Skyfall”, a James Bond theme.

Comedian Atkinson, known to millions of fans around the world for his bungling creation Mr Bean, was given a CBE, Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

A knighthood went to actor Tony Robinson, who played Atkinson’s long-suffering servant Baldrick in ‘Blackadder’, a popular BBC comedy series set in different periods of British history.—Reuters
Malaga's coach Manuel Pellegrini

Southampton swoop for Lyon's Croatia defender Lovren

Man City eye trophies with Pellegrini appointment

Hill-Wood era ends as Arsenal chairman steps down

Federer sets up 30-something semi-final with Haas
BRAZIL, 15 June—Brazil’s government has taken emergency measures to ease a worst drought in the last 50 years that is plaguing its northeastern region, where the country’s poorest population lives.

The drought is affecting more than 1,400 municipalities with about 22 million people, or 10 percent of the country’s population, in an area that accounts for 16 percent of the Brazilian territory, according to official figures.

The semi-arid region covers the Brazilian states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceara, Paraiba, Pernambuco, Piaui, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe, as well as the northern part of Minas Gerais.

Commonly, the annual cycle in the region includes seven to eight months of drought and three to five months of rain, but the lack of rains in the last two years has led to an alerted situation.

Land Development Minister Pepe Vargas told Xinhua in a recent interview that several policies were implemented to ease the serious situation and protect farmers from extreme conditions.

“Compared to what happened in the past, during the current drought we have not seen immigrants, something new in Brazil. Also, infant mortality has not increased. The problem now is the agriculture losses,” with measures, such as Bolsa Familia (a family allowance plan), public works for water security and installing cisterns for rainfall accumulation, taken by the government, Vargas said.

Another factor that eases the situation is the transposition project of San Francisco river to carry water to Sertao, the semiarid region is known, and this work is not finished yet but has favored farmers in several towns, the minister said.

In the past, drought had caused massive farmers’ immigration and serious livestock losses to the families, leaving also to plunder and land occupation.

Xinhua

Brazil takes urgent steps to ease worst drought in 50 years

Mickelson, Horschel tied for US Open lead

ARIZONA, 15 June—Pennsylvania-Phil Mickelson rolled in an 18-foot birdie putt in fading light at the 18th hole to grab a share of the lead in Friday’s second round of the US Open when play was suspended due to approaching darkness. The putt gave Mickelson a 13-under 285 for a total of one-under 139 and tied him with fellow-American Billy Horschel, who fired a dazzling three-under 67 on a brutally difficult day at the weather-delayed championship.

The pair were perched atop a jam-packed leaderboard that had five players one shot back and another five golfers one more stroke adrift, with tournament favorites Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy well within striking distance at three-over par 143.

Mickelson, the club-house leader after shooting an opening round 67 before lengthy weather delays suspended Thursday’s first-round play, held the lead for much of Friday before back-to-back bogeys from the 12th.

“I wasn’t expecting birdie there. It’s a very difficult hole,” said the left-hander, who had three-putted the 12th and failed to get up-and-down after half-flipping his ball in the greenside bunker at the short par-three 13th. His 18th hole birdie was his first of the day.

“I got shut out today,” he said, exasperated at not taking advantage of other birdie chances. “I played really well. I didn’t feel the score was what I thought it should be.”

The 26-year-old Horschel, who followed up three successive top 10s on the PGA Tour with a victory in April at the Zurich Classic had four birdies and a lone three-putt bogey.

“It was a great day. Four birdies at a US Open, I’ll take it. I wish I had a couple more, though,” he said.

Bunched at level par, were former world number one Luke Donald (72), his fellow Englishmen Justin Rose (69) and Ian Poulter (68), American Steve Stricker (69) and amateur Pan Cheng-tsung of Taiwan (69 holes).

Tied at one over par were Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium, who shot 72, Australian John Senden (71), Jerry Kelly (through 12), Charley Hoffman (13), and 19-year-old amateur Michael Kim (11).

Sunshine on Friday replaced the rain that had plagued the tournament, the wind kicked up and players struggled to make par as Merion Golf Club showed it was still a master test for the world’s best golfers.

Merion’s tilted fairways fed balls into the rough and tricky pin positions coaxed players into a slew of three-putt bogeys. Woods battled through the course challenges and an injured left arm to finish a 73 in the morning, then shoot an admirable 70 in the afternoon to reach the halfway stage at three-over.

“It’s hard with the wind and the pin locations. They’re really tough,” said Woods, who was tight-lipped about his injury.

“A lot of guys are missing putts and blowing them by the holes.”

Sixty-eight golfers hadn’t yet finished their rounds and were returning Saturday morning at 7:15 am EDT to the classic layout in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Donald began the day leading clubhouse leader Mickelson by a stroke, standing four under par with five holes still to finish.

But the world number six bogeyed two of the last three holes in tough scoring conditions to give the American a one-shot lead when the weather-delayed first round was completed. Donald briefly claimed the lead with a pair of early back-to-back birdies in his second round but tumbled back down with a late stretch of five bogeys in six holes including four in a row.

“US Opens get harder as the week goes on,” said Donald, who is looking to break through for his first major title.

Reuters
We could address issues of protection of Myanmar workers, actions to be taken against attackers and security of those who want to continue to work there: U Zin Yaw

A Myanmar special delegation led by Deputy Ministers U Zin Yaw and Daw Win Maw Tun arrived back here yesterday. Our news team interviewed the delegation at the Yangon International Airport about Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia.

Q: Deputy Minister, is your trip successful? Let me know the undertakings of the delegation?
A: Here I would like to say our trip to Malaysia is a success one. We met the Myanmar workers who are in distress there. I could help them to get rid of their sufferings and worries. And we could make cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia. We called for worksite safety and giving adequate protection to Myanmar workers and new workers who will come to Malaysia. A total of 307 Myanmar workers remain in custody. They will be sent to the court within two weeks. Malaysian government would allow them to continue to work there if they wish.

Q: How would the Malaysian authorities deal with the attackers?
A: The Deputy Home Affairs Minister of Malaysia, the Deputy Labour Minister and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pledged that legal actions will be taken against those attackers. We could address issues of protection of Myanmar workers, actions to be taken against the attackers and security of those who want to continue to work there.

Q: Is there any request by families and relatives of those victims to bring back the remains to Myanmar?
A: There is no such request at present. Most of the remains were buried there. According to Malaysian police’s report, four were killed in the incidents. But one died at Hospital. So, the number of those killed has reached five. Names of those victims will be leased soon.

Q: Let me know arrangements for those who want to go back home?
A: Malaysian authorities will issue CI if they want to go back. Then, they will have to go to Malaysia Immigration Department when they get CI. And they have to fill Check Out Memo there and pay 400 Malaysian Ringgits for it. Immigration Department would allow them to go back home unless they broke laws in Malaysia and work contracts. It needs to show their air tickets at the Immigration Department within one week. At present, 16 Myanmar workers have been allowed to go back to Myanmar on 15 June. Wellwishers who donate air fares and 400 Ringgits and social organizations in Malaysia have made arrangements for their return. Some who want to go back to Myanmar also make contacts with us. Plans are under way to help those who overstayed to get CI.

Q: May I know Malaysian government’s cooperation?
A: Malaysian government’s cooperation is very good. They have arranged to meet respective Ministries during one-day trip. They pledged that they would swiftly deal with the points we asked for. We could make coordination with them on works for those who are in custody.

We were immediately allowed to meet with those we want to meet. We had the right to meet with those from the labor agencies and asked them about their attitudes towards the incident. They had pledged for taking necessary steps. The current measures taken including security measures reflect the effective cooperation of the Malaysian government.

Q: Which kind of persons is the majority out of those who are to go back home?
A: They are those who were injured, hospitalized in Salarang area and those who are working in the surrounding areas. Necessary measures such as issuing of CI certificates and other related documents have been taken promptly with the help of Malaysian authorities for the workers to go back home.

Q: Are there any other workers who want to go back home in addition to the aforesaid workers?
A: CI certificates have been issued to 70 workers who want to go back home.