

The New Light of Myanmar

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Myanmar still facing challenges in spite of international recognition Everyone obliged to strive for achievement of national vision and national goal



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein making a speech in meeting with responsible persons of political parties.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met responsible persons of political parties at the meeting hall of 500-acre farmer educative model mechanized farmland this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Union ministers,

Chairman of Kayin Peoples Party U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Chairman of Phalon-Sawaw Party U Saw Thein Aung, Chairman of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy U Khun Tun Oo, Chairman of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party U Sai Aik Paung, Chairman of Rakhine Nationalities Development Party Dr Aye Maung,

Vice-Chairman of Rakhine Democracy League U Kyaw Myint, General Secretary of Chin National Party (CNP) U Nge Pee Hti Yan Oak Htan, Chairman of Chin Progressive Party (CPP) U No Htan Kat, Chairman of National Democratic Force U Khin Maung Swe, Secretary-General of Democratic Party (Myanmar) Daw

Than Than Nu, CEC U Han Shwe of National Unity Party, Chairman of Myanmar National Congress Party U Kaung Myint Htut, Chairman of Modern People's Party U Tun Aung Kyaw, General Secretary of Democracy and Peace Party U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of New National Democracy Party U Thein Nyunt, General Secretary

of Unity and Peace Party U Tun Shwe, Chairman of Peace and Diversity Party U Nay Myo Wai, Chairman of Myanmar New Society Democratic Party U Zin Aung and officials.

The President said that democratization of the nation was only two years old and reform processes were undertaken in the country through trial and error methods as the whole society was not familiar with democratic practices. The government was trying hard to translate the future of the nation into a success in peace process and political and economic sectors. Reform processes were being implemented by the Hluttaws, political parties, community-based organizations, the people, Tatmadaw and national races armed groups that are willing to build peace, not the government alone.

He continued that the country not only had won international recognition but also was still facing

challenges. When reform process is in progress, Nation Building, State Building and Peace Building were being implemented simultaneously. He added that the national vision of the government was to build New Myanmar that ensures independent and transparent all-inclusive political process and economic competitive on an equal terms. National goal of the government was to get everyone involved in the process and establish an independent and open society. So the onus was on everyone to strive for the success of national vision and national goal.

Next, personnel from political parties expressed their opinions on building lasting peace, amendment to the constitution, administrative reforms, agricultural reforms, ensuring people see the tangible results of reforms in shortest time, and resolution of sectarian tensions in Rakhine State and Meiktila.

(See page 8)



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein having a cordial conversation with those from political parties.—MNA

Significant day temperature
(5-5-2013)

Gyobingauk

42°C

Illegal oil pumping sparks fire in Minhla Township



MINHLA, 5 May— A fire broke out at the residence of Aung Lwin Oo, 24, in Thabye Myaung Village of Yaynanma village-tract, 30-mile south-west of Minhla Township Fire Services Department in Thayet

Heavy rains, savage wind gusts kills 11, hurt seven in Kalaw, Hsihseng, Kyaukme

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May— Due to heavy downpours and high winds at about 1.30 pm on 2 May in Shwetaw region of Shwe Min Phone village-tract in Kalaw Township, roofs were blown out of the police outpost in the region, a tree had fallen on a building of Asia Gabarmay Industry and Mining, leaving eight people inside dead and seven injured and destroying four vehicles.

While savage wind gusts and massive rains bashed the region where it killed three people and left four missing at 200-foot gold mine of Gold Star Inn gold mining block, the death toll had reached 11, seven were wounded and four others are missing in the disaster.

Moreover, the disaster wreaked havoc in Phyi Han Khar Village of Pinson village-tract in Hsihseng Township, destroying nine CI sheets-roofed houses and one six-roomed primary school building.

Likewise, squalls of rain battered Mawmar village-tract, 25-mile south-west of Kyaukme, damaging 45 houses in Htantabin Village, 15 in Kheton, 35 in Mawmar, 60 in Manlwe, eight in Parkan and six and one school building in Hehwe.

Kyemon

District at about 4.25 am on 3 May.

The fire was due to sparks from an engine used for pumping oil out of an illegal oil well that had set fire to the wooden house. The fire swept through the whole village and spread to South Yaynanma Village, reducing 35 houses in Yaynanma Village and 74 in Thabye Myaung Village to ashes, damaging nearly

K 7.8 million worth of property and forcing 255 from Thabye Myaung Village and 124 from South Yaynanma Village totaling 379 people homeless.

Fire crews accompanied by seven fire trucks of Minhla, Minbu and Magway Fire Services Departments, seven private-owned water bowzers in Minhla and Padan village rushed there and put out the fire.— *Kyemon*

Torrential rains with a burst of high speed wind lash Monywa



MONYWA, 5 May— Torrential rains and a vicious gust of wind that the town had never seen within past 40 years touched down on Monywa and its environs for 15 minutes on 2 May. Heavy rains and strong wind brought down trees, blew roofs off and brought down signboards across the town. Due to the impact of the sudden squall of rain, trees on Bogyoke road and Kyaukka road in downtown Monywa fell down and roofs of the grandstand of Monywa sports ground were blown off. Moreover, the wind gusts caused a tree fallen on a stationary jeep in front of Aung Hsu Htoo Paing lottery shop and toppled down

concrete lamp posts.

Staff of Monywa Township Development Affairs Department, police members and fire crews joining hands with local people and monks performed clearing debris and fallen

branches in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. Electrical staff carried out repair works for power lines and landlines which were cut down by the strong wind and fallen electric posts.

Kyemon



Heroin seized at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 5 May— A man who is going to take a flight to Thailand was arrested together with 8.2 grams of heroine at Yangon International Airport at about 9.25 am on 3 May.

A combined force discovered 8.2 grams of heroin—1.4 gram of heroine from his left trouser pocket, 4 grams from his hand baggage, 1.2 grams from his eyeglasses box and 1 gram

from his wallet— from Nyi Nyi Myint Thein (a) Nyi Nyi Lwin who is about to take a Bangkok-bound flight of TG 304 at the main X Ray checkpoint.

Kyemon

Youth associations take part in greening Shwebo

SHWEBO, 5 MAY— As a gesture of honouring the International Workers' Day, preliminary works for rainy season tree growing were carried out by Shwebo District Arid Zone Greening Department in cooperation with youth associations on both sides of the road to Shwebo Industrial Zone at 6 am on 1 May.

Participants performed choosing sites for tree growing, digging holes and putting fertilizers into the holes ahead of growing trees. It is planned to grow 150 shady plants there.

Nearly 100 members



of social organizations took part in the activity led by Assistant Director U Ba Lwin Oo of Shwebo District Arid

Zone Greening Department, Staff Officer U Soe Han and U Wunna Tun of W.Com Centre.— *Kyemon*

Unknown rider snatches gold chain in Pyay

PYAY, 5 May— A 26-year-old doctor had fallen victim to an unknown snatcher in Pyay of Bago Region at about 9.45 pm on 26 April.

While Dr Cho Yee Yee Nyunt, 26, of Parami Shin clinic in Pyay together with Phyo Yadana, 23, a pharmaceutical company staff, were travelling on a motorbike from Khattaya Myothit to Ywabe Taungpawkyang, an

unidentified rider who drove behind them snatched the gold chain of her as she reduced the speed to give a look back near Lapyawun hostel and drove away.

As she informed the police that her gold chain with a locket worth K 1 million was snatched by an unknown motorcyclist, Pyay police station opened a case and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

Sandbank forming in Ngawun River attracts merry-makers

YEKYI, 5 May— A sandbank formed in Ngawun River on the side of Daunkgyi Village in Yekyi Township, serving as a beach for holiday-makers. People the far and wide of the region have

come in flocks to visit the four furlongs long and 200 yards wide sandbank for recreation and local people from nearby villages are doing brisk trade, opening food stalls for visitors.

A man who is keeping a watchful eye on possible occurrence of unwanted problems said that he did not want to see a beach like Nyaung Chaungtha as alcoholic beverages are available there for merry-makers. He had concerns there would be problems for running of vessels and ships as waterway is narrow. He was also worried about possible danger of riverbank erosion on the east side of Ngawun River. — *Kyemon*

WORLD

UN hiring of armed contractors raises concern about rights abuses

NEW YORK, 5 May — The United Nations has hired more than 30 armed private security contractors for its operations in volatile security regions but the arrangement has irked some member countries who voiced concern about possible human rights abuses and illegal actions in a recent General Assembly meeting.

The assembly consequently passed a resolution at its 12 April plenary session stressing that private armed security services be used only as an “exceptional measure.”

In a report provided to the General Assembly by the United Nations’ Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the private contractors were listed as working as part of UN political missions in countries such as Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Afghanistan and on peace-keeping missions in locations from Haiti to the Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond.— *Kyodo News*

ADB, IMF encourage Myanmar to carry on economic reforms

NEW DELHI, 5 May — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Saturday encouraged Myanmar to carry on its economic reforms aimed at achieving the goal of reducing poverty and development.

ADB and IMF officials said at a seminar on Myanmar held on the sidelines of an ADB annual meeting here that the country is on the right track to build its own economic and financial institutions for future development.

Stephen Groff, vice president of ADB, also cautioned that the country must have an “expectation management” for its people, as things will not change overnight but take time to move forward. But he said the government of Myanmar should let the people know the country’s reforms will bring returns in future.

He called for efforts to encourage private sector to join Myanmar’s construction process, while stressing the importance of inclusive economic growth for solving the prominent issues faced by the coun-



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) talks with representatives of model youth before joining a discussion to mark the country’s Youth Day on Saturday at China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing, capital of China, on 4 May, 2013. Xi on Saturday called on Chinese young people to contribute to the revitalization of the nation and “hone themselves at grassroots.”

XINHUA

try, such as poverty and underdevelopment. Anoop Singh, IMF director for Asia and Pacific Department, said the government of Myanmar should be encouraged to work on macro-economic stability growth by putting inflation under control.

He said it is good to see the country has started building institutions for macro-economic stability

with participation of state and private players like central bank and private funding.

This would generate investment for economic development, health and education from private sectors rather than solely the state budget, as well as bring revenues and build foreign currency reserves, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

US names new AfPak special envoy

WASHINGTON, 5 May — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday named James Dobbins, a career diplomat, as the new special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. “This is a pivotal moment for both Afghanistan and Pakistan, with interconnected political, security and economic transitions already underway in Afghanistan, and Pakistani elections just days away, marking an important and historic democratic transition,” the top American envoy said in a statement.

He said he has called leaders of the two countries to inform them of his decision. As the first special envoy for Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban in December 2001, Dobbins will take up a post left vacant in December when Marc Grossman stepped down. American and NATO troops have planned their exit from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 following a bloody and costly war that has entered its 12th year. Washington has been seeking a positive Pakistani role in this process and beyond.

“Given my own history with both countries, and players throughout the region, identifying the right person for this position was a key priority,” Kerry said, noting Dobbins will “continue building on diplomatic efforts to bring the conflict to a peaceful conclusion, actively engaging with states in the region and the international community.” As the first special envoy, Dobbins represented Washington at the Bonn Conference that helped establish a new Afghan government.

A career foreign service officer, who turned 71 by the end of this month, Dobbins was special envoy for Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia under the administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He also served as assistant secretary of state for European affairs as well as special assistant to the president for the Western Hemisphere. He is director of the International Security and Defence Policy Centre at the Rand Corporation, a think tank in Washington DC.— *Xinhua*

Japan, India confirm to proceed with nuclear pact talks

GREATER NOIDA, (India), 5 May — Japan and India have confirmed they will continue talks for a bilateral pact for civilian nuclear energy cooperation, Japanese finance ministry officials said on Saturday.

Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh shared a view in their meeting that the issue

is critical for both countries even though the nuclear energy talks between the two countries have stalled following Japan’s nuclear crisis triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, the officials said.

Aso, who doubles as finance minister, is visiting India to attend the Asian Development Bank’s annual meeting. — *Kyodo News*



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (L) and Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso shake hands in Greater Noida, India, on 4 May, 2013.— KYODO NEWS

Malaysia goes to polls in crucial general election

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 May — Malaysians went to polls on Sunday in maybe the closest general election ever-held in the country. Some 13.3 million registered voters are set to choose between another five years under the Barisan Nasional, which has been in power since the country’s independence in 1957, and a historical regime change by bringing the opposition People’s Alliance in power.

In Kuala Lumpur, more than one hundred voters were already queuing outside a polling centre before ballot opened at eight. The Barisan Nasional, led by Prime Minister Najib Razak, has vowed to retake the two-third parliamentary majority that it lost in the last general election in 2008. Barisan centres the campaign on its past record in building the nation and Malaysia’s decent economic performance in recent years despite global uncertainties, as well as the economic and transformation agenda by Najib.

But a failure in improving from the 2008 election result may cost Najib’s job as Prime Minister.

On the other hand, the People’s Alliance, led by



Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak casts his vote at a polling station in Pekan, Malaysia, on 5 May, 2013. Malaysians started going to polls on Sunday in the closest general election ever-held in the country.—XINHUA

former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, is eyeing a step forward after delivering a biggest setback in decades to the Barisan in 2008. Anwar and other opposition leaders have promised a fairer economic environment and an end to the race-based politics in a multi-racial country. They have also vowed to tackle corruption and cronyism that they said had flourished under Barisan’s rule.— *Xinhua*

Three killed in militant attacks on MQM office in Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 5 May — At least three people were killed and 40 injured on Saturday night in two bomb blasts targeting an election office of the ethnic Muttahida Qaumi Movement in the party’s Karachi stronghold, police and hospital officials said.

An MQM Press statement said its election office in Karachi’s neighbourhood Azizabad was hit by two successive blasts at an interval of 30 minutes. According to police, the first explosion was caused by a bomb placed on an auto rickshaw.

The second bomb was set off by a suicide bomber on a motorbike, Azizabad police chief Zafar Bukhari said.

Children were among those injured in the explosions, said the police. MQM has called for a day of mourning Sunday, the statement said. Meanwhile, Tehrik Taleban Pa-

kistan, an alliance of militant groups in Pakistan, has claimed responsibility for the attacks, Pakistan’s GEO TV reported.

TTP, based in Pakistan’s tribal area, has vowed to attack Pakistan People’s Party, Awami National Party and MQM which ruled Pakistan in a coalition for five years until March 2013.

Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan, governor of Sindh Province, condemned the attacks and said security forces will continue their crackdown on terrorists in the run-up to Pakistan’s general election, slated for next Saturday. He added that the political parties will continue campaigning, despite the ongoing threats by TTP.

Dozens of people have been killed in recent weeks in attacks targeting electoral campaigning of PPP, MQM and ANP.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Peter Arvai, CEO and co-founder of Prezi, delivers a speech at the Seoul Digital Forum 2013 in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 May, 2013.
XINHUA

IBM makes world's smallest movie by filming atoms

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Scientists from IBM on Wednesday unveiled the world's smallest movie, made with one of the tiniest elements in the universe: atoms.

Named "A Boy and His Atom," the movie used thousands of precisely placed atoms to create nearly 250 frames of stop-motion action. It depicts a character named Atom who befriends a single atom and goes on a playful journey

that includes dancing, playing catch and bouncing on a trampoline.

"Capturing, positioning and shaping atoms to create an original motion picture on the atomic-level is a precise science and entirely novel," said Andreas Heinrich, principle investigator for the research in a statement.

"This movie is a fun way to share the atomic-scale world while opening up a dialogue with students

and others on the new frontiers of math and science," Heinrich said.

IBM used a remotely operated scanning tunneling microscope to make the movie earlier this year. The microscope operates at a temperature of negative 268 degrees Celsius and magnifies the atomic surface over 100 million times.

Researchers used the microscope to control a super-sharp needle along

a copper surface to "feel" atoms. Only 1 nanometer away from the surface, which is a billionth of a meter in distance, the needle can physically attract atoms and molecules on the surface and thus pull them to a precisely specified location on the surface.

In the end, the scientists rendered still images of the individually arranged atoms, resulting in 242 single frames.

Xinhua

US researchers develop insect-like flying robot

WASHINGTON, 5 May — US researchers on Thursday unveiled a small, flying robot about the size of a house-fly that can execute the tricky maneuvers of the ubiquitous insect.

The first of its kind, the flying robot is providing researchers with new ways to study the flight of nature's smallest flying insects, according to a study published in the journal *Science*.

The tiny robot weighs only 80 milligrams and is about half the size of a paperclip. Its two wafer-thin wings flap almost invisibly, 120 times per second. In test flights, it can fly for over 20 seconds without ever approaching a crash.

The demonstration of the first controlled flight of an insect-sized robot is the culmination of more than a decade's work, led by

researchers at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at the Harvard University.

"This is what I have been trying to do for literally the last 12 years," said Robert J Wood, professor of engineering and applied sciences at the SEAS. "It's really only because of this lab's recent breakthroughs in manufacturing, materials and design that we have even been able to try this. And it just worked, spectacularly well."

To build such a tiny robot with little flapping wings, the researchers had to use some nontraditional approaches. The wings, for example, were made from special piezoelectric materials, which can con-

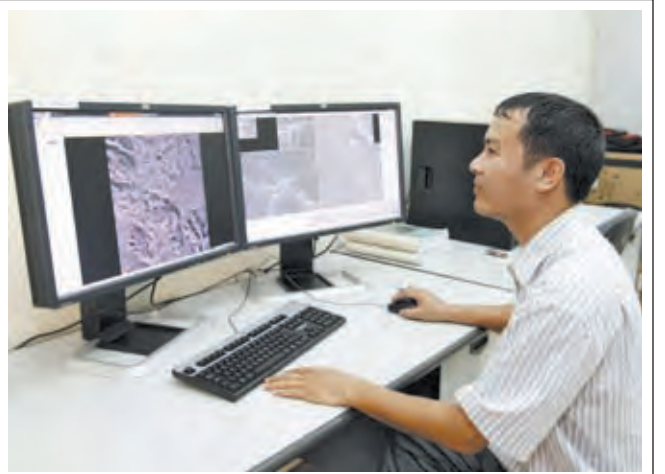
vert an electric charge to a mechanical stress. And the robot must remain connected to a small power source by a wire because there are no off-the-shelf solutions for energy storage that are small enough to be mounted on the robot's body.

Interestingly, the tiny flying robot eats up about 19 milliwatts of electricity during its flight, which is about as much as a real flying insect does.

"The successful flight of the robotic fly demonstrates the feasibility of artificially approximating the flight apparatus of flying insects — particularly Diptera — in form and function and motivates future studies in miniaturized power, sensing, and computation technologies," the researchers noted.

Xinhua

An expert works at the ground receiving station in Vietnam National Remote Sensing Centre in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 3 May, 2013. Bad weather at the Guiana Space Centre at the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana has prevented the launch of VNREDSAT-1 satellite. The launch will be delayed till 5 May.
XINHUA



WMO annual climate report confirms 2012 as among top 10 warmest

GENEVA, 5 May — The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Thursday that the year 2012 was the ninth warmest on record despite the cooling influence of a La Nina episode early in the year.

The WMO's Statement on the Status of the Global Climate said that the global land and ocean

surface temperature in 2012 was estimated to be 0.45 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average of 14.0 degrees.

This was the ninth warmest year since records began in 1850 and the 27th consecutive year that the global land and ocean temperatures were above the 1961-1990 average, according to the statement.

It said that during 2012, above-average temperatures were observed across most of the globe's land surface areas, most notably North America, southern Europe, western Russia, parts of northern Africa and southern South America.

Nonetheless, cooler-than-average conditions were observed across Alaska, parts of northern and eastern Australia, and central Asia.

WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said that although the rate of warming varies from year to year due to natural variability caused by the El Nino cycle, volcanic eruptions and other phenomena, the sustained warming of the lower atmosphere is a worrisome sign.

"The continued upward trend in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and the consequent increased radioactive forcing of the Earth's atmosphere confirm that the warming will continue," he said.

Jarraud said that the record loss of Arctic sea ice in August-September, 18 percent less than the previous record low of 2007 of 4.17 million square kilometers was also "a disturbing sign of climate change".

Xinhua

Power plant: bamboo

BEIJING, 5 May — Bamboo may technically be a member of the grass family, but its potential is not so lowly. Growers in China are using it to create building materials and fabrics, revitalize forests, and rejuvenate rural economies, Erik Nilsson reports in Anji county, Zhejiang.

Bamboo's alchemic ability to be manufactured into nearly anything — from car speakers to calculators, and buildings to beer — is conjuring a gold mine in China. The country produces about 80 percent of the world's fastest-growing plant, hailed by many as "the next super-material" and the "timber of the 21st century". There are more than 1,500 uses for the "great grass". The World Bamboo Organization estimates the industry generates about 10 billion US dollars a year, which could

double by 2018. Bamboo's magic is enhanced by its organic production, rapid harvest cycles and ability to grow on mountainsides.

"Chinese culture is bamboo culture," says Xuan Taotao, an expert with Tianhuangping town's agricultural department in Zhejiang Province's Anji county. "Bamboo can make farmers rich and our environment healthy, so we must preserve bamboo forests and industries." Anji creates 20 percent of China's bamboo products, generating about 12.5 billion yuan (2.03 billion US dollars) annually, though it contains fewer than 2 percent of the country's bamboo forests. The county is covered by about 66,667 hectares of bamboo, about 57,333 hectares of which is moso bamboo, Xuan says.

Anji has been producing the plant since its



founding 60 years ago. It traded bamboo for rice with Shanghai, where the timber was used to build homes. By the 1950s, the local trees had been logged off, so only bamboo was left. When people started using concrete to build houses in the 1980s, the government introduced processing plants to make low-end products, such as chopsticks and toothpicks, from bamboo. The industry evolved to include flooring and other higher-end goods and supported 90 percent of local GDP. It's current-

ly about 30 percent, since more locals migrate to other cities." The bamboo price is rising, because young people want to work in urban areas rather than cut bamboo," Xuan explains. "The industry could disappear here."

About 50 species produce more than 3,000 products in Anji. There are more than 3,000 bamboo-processing factories in the county of 250,000 residents. "Nearly everyone is involved in bamboo," Xuan says. —Xinhua



Photo taken on 4 May, 2013 shows altocumulus translucidus clouds in the sky above the West Lake in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.
XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Canada's Magna to cut jobs in Europe, US



Chief Executive Officer for Magna International Inc Donald Walker waits for the annual general meeting to start in Toronto on 10 May, 2012. —REUTERS

FRANKFURT, 5 May — Canadian auto parts maker Magna International plans to cut jobs in Europe and the United States as it seeks to reduce costs and offset weak demand in Europe, Chief Executive Donald Walker told German magazine *WirtschaftsWoche*.

Magna, which also manufactures complete vehicles on a contract basis,

has been pushing to turn around inefficient operations in Europe, where sales rose 2 percent in 2012, compared with a 10 percent increase in North America.

Magna needs new orders for its factory in the Austrian province of Styria and wants to facilitate getting those orders by cutting costs, Walker said.

Reuters

Auto industry love for Mexico grows with new Audi plant

SAN JOSE CHIAPA, 5 May — The automotive industry's growing love affair with Mexico was celebrated here on Saturday as Audi executives laid the foundation stone for its first assembly plant in the Americas.

Volkswagen AG's (VOWG_p.DE) premium brand is joining a parade of automakers who have announced plans to build cars in a country that is seen as a doorway not only to the rest of North and South America but to the world. Audi officials said the \$1.3 billion (834.72 million pounds) plant will open in three years and eventually be the German brand's only source globally for its Q5 SUVs after it opens in mid-2016.

"Mexico was chosen very deliberately," Audi Chairman Rupert Stadler told more than 500 industry and government officials outside the town of San Jose Chiapa in central Mexico.

"It is situated between North and South America, making it a linchpin between the two regions." He added that Mexico was an "ideal export base."

With numerous free trade agreements, a cheap, well-educated labour force, and proximity to the lucrative US auto market, combined with growing demand in South America, automakers have been lining up for two years to set up shop in a country that

could eventually overtake Brazil as Latin America's biggest economy.

Audi's ceremony came two days after Japanese automaker Honda Motor Co (7267.T) said it would build

a \$470 million transmission plant in the central state of Guanajuato, near an \$800 million assembly plant that is expected to begin operations in February 2014.

Reuters



A worker cleans an Audi A3 in the final check area at the production line of the German car manufacturer's plant in the Bavarian city of Ingolstadt on 11 March, 2013.—REUTERS

US-born kids have more allergies, asthma

NEW YORK, 5 May — Kids and teens who are born abroad and immigrate to the United States are about half as likely to have asthma and allergies as those who are born in the US, according to a new study. Researchers surveyed the parents of 80,000 children in one of six languages and found that association held even after they took into account where families lived and how often they moved, as well as their race and income.

"This is definitely something we see clinically and we're trying to better understand, what is it in our environment that's increasing the risk of allergic disease?" said Dr

Ruchi Gupta, who studies allergies at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago but wasn't involved in the new research. "Food allergies have increased tremendously," she told Reuters Health. "We do see people who come from other countries don't tend to have it, but immigrants who are maybe second generation, they're identical (to US-born people)." It's not obvious what explains that pattern, researchers said. According to Gupta, two possible culprits are the so-called hygiene hypothesis—which suggests kids in the US are too clean, and their immune systems never

Big drugmakers think small with nanomedicine deals

LONDON, 5 May — Is nanomedicine the next big thing? A growing number of top drug companies seem to think so.

The ability to encapsulate potent drugs in tiny particles measuring billionths of a meter in diameter is opening up new options for super-accurate drug delivery, increasing precision hits at the site of disease with, hopefully, fewer side effects.

Three deals struck this year by privately held Bind Therapeutics, together worth nearly \$1 billion if experiments are successful, highlight a new interest in using such tiny carriers to deliver drug payloads to specific locations in the body.

US-based Bind is one of several biotechnology firms that are luring large pharmaceutical makers with a range of smart drug

nanotechnologies, notably against cancer.

And nanomedicine is also being put to work in diagnosis, with tiny particles used to improve imaging in scanners, as well as rapidly detecting some serious infections.

In future, researchers hope to combine both treatment and diagnostics in a new approach dubbed "theranostics" that would allow doctors to monitor patients via their medicines.

After much hype but limited clinical success, scientists in the nanotechnology field finally see a turning point.

The Swiss group won US approval in February for Kadcyra, its first such antibody-drug conjugate, which treats breast cancer with fewer side effects like hair loss.

"All these developments have prompted

companies to look at new avenues because the older ways of using drugs haven't worked so well," said Robert Langer, a pioneer of nanomedicine who runs the world's largest biomedical engineering laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The work remains

early stage and Peer of Tel Aviv University says all the novel carriers will have to be studied closely for potential toxicity. However, experience with liposomes is good and versions of gold nanoparticles have also been used safely for many years to treat rheumatoid arthritis.—Reuters



Graduate student Giulia Agliardi, from Milan, Italy, studies cancer cells in the Nanomedicine Lab at UCL's School of Pharmacy in London on 2 May, 2013.

REUTERS

JPMorgan shareholders urged to reject three directors

NEW YORK, 5 May — JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) shareholders should vote against the re-election of three board members because they failed to properly oversee risk-taking that led to \$6.2 billion of losses on the so-called "London Whale" trades, an influential proxy advisory firm said.

ISS Proxy Advisory Services said in a report released late Friday that directors David Cote, James Crown and Ellen Flutter should not be re-elected at the company's annual meeting this month because of "material failures of stewardship and risk oversight."

The report by ISS ratchets up pressure on directors to reduce Dimon's power at JPMorgan, the biggest bank based in the United States, as some stockholders push for more supervision of the outspoken executive.

A statement from JPMorgan spokeswoman Kristin Lemkau on Saturday said: "The company strongly endorses the re-election of its current directors and disagrees with ISS's position."

ISS also renewed its recommendation from a year ago that CEO and Chairman of the Board Jamie Dimon give up one of those two titles. ISS said investigations of the derivatives loss, which surfaced right before last year's shareholder meeting, showed that JPMorgan executives need more independent oversight and that the company is too big and too complex for one person

to be able to do both jobs.

Shareholders will meet on 21 May in Tampa, Florida. They will vote on the re-election of the company's 11 directors and on a non-binding proposal from four institutional shareholders calling on the board to have a chairman who is independent from management. A similar advisory proposal failed to pass last year, receiving only 40 percent of the vote. That vote was five percentage points more than similar proposals at other companies that year.

The independent chair vote is developing into a major test for Dimon, 57. It comes as criticism, and sanctions from regulators, over poor risk management have piled up since the "London Whale" losses surfaced at the bank, which has \$2.39 trillion in assets, the most of any US bank.

Reuters



Two men walk past the front desk inside of the headquarters of JPMorgan Chase & Co bank in New York, on 15 March, 2013. —REUTERS

WORLD

Japanese man offers money to Russian students



Koichi Muto (far R) observes a first-year class in the Japanese-language department at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok on 27 Feb, 2013. Muto, a former restaurant owner in Japan's Akita Prefecture, has continued to offer grants of his own money to students learning Japanese at the Russian university for more than 10 years.—KYODO NEWS

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia), 5 May—Koichi Muto, a 68-year-old former restaurant owner from Japan's Akita Prefecture, has been offering grants of his own money to students learning Japanese at a Russian university for more than 10 years.

Muto launched the programme in October 2001 for students and instructors in the Japanese language

Department at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok after learning that many of them were struggling with financial hardship. At the end of February, Muto granted 55,000 yen each to six students and three instructors. He has helped more than 200 students and teachers since 2001, handing out more than 7 million yen.

Kyodo News

NPO member creates cookbook with refugees' recipes



Shiho Tanaka, a Japan Association for Refugees member, has produced a home cooking book listing 45 recipes contributed by refugees from 15 countries and regions in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, hoping to raise awareness of their lives. Photo taken at the office of the nonprofit organization supporting refugees in Japan on 28 Feb, 2013 in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 5 May—A member of an organization supporting refugees in Japan has produced a home cooking book listing 45 recipes contributed by refugees from 15 countries and regions in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, hoping to raise awareness of their lives. "I think we can make

people more interested in the issue of refugees if we feature food, which is a subject familiar to everyone," said Shiho Tanaka, 36, of the Japan Association for Refugees.

The recipes in the book titled "Flavours Without Borders" include spicy fried saury from Bangladesh, a shepherd's salad long passed down among Kurds in the Middle East, and other dishes from such countries as Myanmar, Iran and Uganda. The book is written with both Japanese and English text.

Kyodo News



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a 100-metre-long carp streamer flying from a giant crane over the bed of the Tone River in Kazo, Saitama Prefecture, on 3 May, 2013, as many people view it from the ground. Putting up carp streamers outside homes is a tradition around Children's Day on 5 May in Japan to wish for children's healthy growth.—KYODO NEWS

Israel bombs Hezbollah-bound missiles in Syria

WASHINGTON, 5 May—Israel has carried out an air strike targeting a shipment of missiles in Syria bound for Hezbollah guerrillas in neighbouring Lebanon, an Israeli official said on Saturday. Israel had long made clear it is prepared to resort to force to prevent advanced Syrian weapons, including President Bashar al-Assad's reputed chemical arsenal, reaching his Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah allies or Islamist insurgents taking part in a more than two-year-old uprising against his government.

Hezbollah, allied with Israel's arch-enemy Iran, waged an inconclusive war with the Jewish state in 2006 and remains a potent threat in Israeli eyes. Israelis also worry that if Assad is toppled, Islamist rebels could turn his guns on them after four decades

of relative calm in the Golan Heights border area. The target of Friday's raid was not a Syrian chemical weapons facility, a regional security source earlier said. A US official, who also declined to be identified, had told *Reuters* on Friday the target was apparently a building.

The Israeli official who acknowledged the raid and described its target spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel's government has not formally taken responsibility for the action or confirmed it happened. The attack took place after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet approved it in a secret meeting on Thursday night, the regional security source said. CNN quoted unnamed US officials as saying Israel most likely conducted the strike "in the Thursday-

Friday time frame" and its jets did not enter Syrian air space.

The Israeli air force has so-called "standoff" bombs that coast dozens of kilometres (miles) across ground to their targets once fired. That could, in theory, allow Israel to attack Syria from its own turf or from adjacent Lebanon. Lebanese authorities reported unusual intensive Israeli air force activity over their territory on Thursday and Friday.

A Lebanese security source said his initial impression was that Israeli overflights were monitor-

ing potential arms shipments between Syria and Lebanon, potentially to Hezbollah. "We believe that it is linked to Israel's concerns over the transfer of weapons, particularly chemical weapons, from Syria to its allies Lebanon," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Syrian government sources denied having information of a strike. Bashar Ja'afari, the Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations, told *Reuters*: "I'm not aware of any attack right now."

Reuters



An Israeli air force F15-E fighter jet takes off for a mission over the Gaza Strip, from the Tel Nof air base in central Israel on 19 Nov, 2012. —REUTERS

Slovenia, Russia agree to promote co-op on all levels

LJUBLJANA, 5 May — Slovenian President Borut Pahor met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov here on Friday, both pledging to promote comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. Pahor and Lavrov agreed to further promote bilateral friendly relations on all levels, including economy, culture, science and sports, as well as bilateral and multilateral political ties, according to a Press release from the president's office.

Both expressed hope to continue the support for strategic partnerships between the European Union and Russia.

They also called for political solutions to issues in the Western Balkans. On bilateral economic cooperation, Lavrov said that the planned South Stream gas pipeline, which will supply 63 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas to Europe via the Black Sea, is one of key joint projects between Russia and Slovenia in energy and infrastructure.

The long-distance pipeline is planned to run

under the Black Sea and through Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Austria, with branches through Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece and Italy.

The total length of the offshore section will be around 900 kilometres. Slovenia and Russia signed an agreement on the South Stream project in November 2012, and a joint venture between Gazprom and Slovenian pipeline operator Plinovodi has been set up.

The construction of the Slovenian section of the South Stream gas pipeline is due to begin in 2015, and the pipeline is scheduled for launch in 2017.

It was noticed that Lavrov's visit to Slovenia occurred one week after a visit by Alexei Miller, the boss of Russian energy giant Gazprom. Following his talks with Pahor, Lavrov is due to meet Slovenian Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek in Ljubljana, and to sign agreements with his Slovenian counterpart Karl Erjavec on culture, science, education and sport for the period 2013-2015.

Xinhua

Novelist Haruki Murakami posts message of grief over Boston bombings

NEW YORK, 5 May—Acclaimed Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami expressed his grief over last month's Boston bombings in a message carried by the *New Yorker* magazine in its online edition Friday.

In an article entitled "Boston, from One Citizen of the World Who Calls Himself a Runner," Murakami called the Boston Marathon "a source of pride" to the city and its citizens.

"Even from far away, I can imagine how devastated and discouraged the people of Boston feel about the tragedy of this year's race," he said.

As a jogger who has run 33 full marathons worldwide in the past three

decades, Murakami said, "Whenever someone asks me which is my favourite, I never hesitate to answer: the Boston Marathon," which he said he has run six times.

Kyodo News

Afghan police kill six Taleban fighters in southern town

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 5 May—Units of Afghan police ambushed and killed six armed Taleban militants in the southern Helmand Province 555 km south of Kabul on Saturday, a local official confirmed.

"Personnel of police laid ambush against a group of armed Taleban fighters in Sistani area of Marja district at noon time today killing six rebels on the spot," provincial administration spokesman Omar Zawak told *Xinhua*.

There were no casualties on police, he contended. Taleban outfit has yet to make comment.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Japanese law firm makes Myanmar entry

YANGON, 5 May—Japanese law firm Nishimura and Asahi is poised to open Myanmar branch office in Yangon this month.

According to a Japanese legal practitioner who will take charge of Yangon office, the firm will focus on corporate legal services for foreign investors. The firm aimed at providing legal services to both fellow Japanese firms and other foreign companies entering Myanmar.

It will also act as a

negotiator between local businesses and international trade partners.

Nishimura and Asahi has branch offices in China, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

Clerical works are underway as the legal outlet plans to make the office fully operational in May.

A host of foreign entities are planning their entry to Myanmar which hold “a lot of potential to grow”, said the Japanese legal specialist.—*Myanma Alinn*

Sand paintings business grows in Bagan



NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Business of commercial sand paintings grows in Myanmar’s ancient city Bagan as the souvenirs sold at famous temples of Myanmar tourism hot spot attract foreign visitors’ attention.

“Mostly foreigners like and buy these sand paintings we’re drawing. We use sand from Ayeyawady River (as a medium),” a sand painting artist Ma Awin said.

Sand from the legendary river is sprayed over the painting, according to the painter, is “fine as well as durable”.

Truck carrying communications materials burnt in accident



BAGO, 5 May—A 22-wheeled truck loaded with communications materials bound for Bago

from Yangon was reduced to ashes due to wire shock as it plunged near Letpanwin village of Bago Township at

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—A total of 47 houses and trees by Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Singaing Township in Mandalay Region were flattened by squalls on 1 May night.

Seven houses of Zawgyi village and 37 of Kyauktan village in the township were destroyed the strong winds. Firefighters and local authorities are clearing debris and fallen trees.

Trees fell over shops and houses by squalls in Kanhla and Kyeegon villages in Kalay Township in Sagaing Region on 2 May. No casualties were reported.

Roof of Basic Education Primary School (branch) in Kanhla were ripped off.

The school might face difficulties to start of next academic year if the roof could not repair in time, according to a villager. The academic year starts on 1 June.

A man in Lebyin village of Indaw Township in the same region was struck and

Squalls destroy houses in upper Myanmar, Shan State



Strong winds destroy houses in Kyaukme.

killed by thunder on 1 May.

A total of 170 houses in Mawma village in Kyaukme Township, which almost represent the whole village, was destroyed by the squalls on 2 May, leaving some 500 villagers homeless.

A total of 43 houses

of Htantabin in the same township were also devastated by the stormy winds, displacing 130. A total of 60 villagers of Nawngpain village were also made homeless as the strong winds destroyed 21 houses.

Nawngpain village’s

philanthropic group donated 100 CI sheets, food and clothes to Mawma village’s storm victims.

Township electricians are working on resumption of electricity supply while other departmental staff joined firefighters to clear debris.

On 3 May, heavy rain accompanied squalls in Kyaukme in northern Shan State, rooting out some trees, tearing off roofs and bringing down lamp posts. Consequently, the town witnessed electricity outage.

One woman sustained a minor injury at arm while evacuating herself from her house besides a near-fallen tree. Some houses of the town were flattened by the strong winds.

Myanma Alinn



Firefighters and authorities in Singaing Township clearing debris.

Yangon-Myawady passenger bus plunges, two injured

HPA-AN, 5 May—Two passengers were injured in an accident in Gyaing village in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State in which Yazarmin Express bound for Hpa-an plunged off the road on 2 May.

The bus driven by U Hsan Tun Oo, 39, of Kyaikto pulled out at 5 pm 300 yards from toll gate of Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge.

The bus was plying

about 9 pm on 3 May.

The amount of loss was more than K 10 million.

The fire was put out by firefighters of Township Fire Services Department at 9.40 pm.

Indakaw police station charged driver U Myo Thein with reckless driving.

Myanma Alinn

between Yangon and Myawady.

The white air conditioned bus was carrying 47 passengers when it plunged into the left side of

Gyaing-Hpa-an road.

Daw Dawei, aged 45, of Myawady and Daw Kyi Kyi Shwe, 51, of Pathein sustained injuries.

The bus pulled out of

the road while it overtook other cars.

Gyaing police station filed a lawsuit against the driver for reckless driving.

Myanma Alinn



Yazarmin Express bus plunges off the road, injuring two passengers.

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 6 May, 2013

Transition in progress

There is no doubt that we will face a lot of challenges and tensions during this transition period: some of them may even seem insurmountable at first. But we are confident that we will be able to face these challenges with synergy and cooperation of the government, the parliament, judiciary, armed forces, ethnic forces, political parties, civil society organizations, and most importantly the Myanmar people.

Step by step our government is taking measures to build investor confidence and promote responsible investment in Myanmar. Myanmar is ready to work with the international investors as an equal partner. The government was working hand in hand with the legislative branch to promulgate the Foreign Direct Investment Law in the later part of last year.

Currently we are in the good process of implementing procedures and processes that are more transparent, accountable, legitimate and predictable. The FDI law is just one dimension in an integrated framework for political, economic, social and legal priorities that will shape the environment of Myanmar's investment regime.

While encouraging investment, it is important to promote the welfare of the Myanmar people and protect the environment upon which their livelihoods depend. We have already formed the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Leading Authority in Myanmar to take the necessary actions to deliver on our commitment to implement EITI. In line with peoples' wishes for responsible investment, the Government is serious about establishing a framework for dialogue about the governance of Myanmar's natural resources.

We have already embarked on a transition that has never been attempted before. From authoritarian rule to democracy, from a state-centered economy to a free market, and from a war involving more than a dozen different non-state armed groups, to a just and permanent peace in the whole country, we have been implementing this transition and it is in progress at present.

National Hockey League kicks off

YANGON, 5 May—Jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, the Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman's Cup National Hockey League kicked off at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch yesterday afternoon,



opened by Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik.

In the debut, Defence Ministry Youth team trounced Triangle Region Command 6-1. The ceremony was attended by President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Htin Zaw Win, diplomats and spectators.

Defence Ministry Youth, Tatmadaw (Navy), Tatmadaw (Air), Northern Command, Triangle Region Command, Yangon Command, MPF, Nanmyo and Mon State are taking part in the league.

NLM

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with those from political parties.—MNA

Myanmar still facing challenges in spite of international...

(from page 1)

The UEC chairman gave suggestions for political parties to take part in State-Building process with political, administrative, economic, security outlooks and from the point of view of global issues.

Next, the President expressed his thanks for open discussions before

briefing the political and economic reforms being undertaken for stability and economic development of the country, which are the two same aspirations of the people.

The President said the government placed an emphasis on capacity building and institutional structures required for

reforms, in first two years. He believes citizens can experience the results of reforms in 2013. Though he does not believe the government in office can solve all the long-running problems, the President promised the incumbent government would spare no efforts to solve those problems, and build foundation for the next government to be able to solve those problems. The government is taking steps to bring

about political devolution, shifting to people-centered administration and thus it is undertaking administrative reforms as the third phase of reform process, mentioned the President.

Parties and lawmakers can complain the weakness and faults of the executive branch with firm evidences, said the President who pledged to take care of defective administration, calling for participation of all.

MNA

Union Defence Minister leaves for Brunei

YANGON, 5 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin left Yangon International Airport here by air this morning to attend 7th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting to be held in Brunei Darussalam.

MNA



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin being seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Union Minister calls for CSR of hoteliers

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung on 3 May met the chairperson of Ngapali Hotel Zone and hoteliers at Amazing Hotel & Resort and gave instructions on systematic development of Ngapali Beach tour.

The Union minister stressed the need for annual assessment of current plan

in practice for sustainable development of Ngapali Beach. The Union minister inspected hotels under construction the following day. Ngapali saw a significant increase in number of foreign tourists this year, up 40 per cent in comparison with last year's travel season.

The Union minister met executives of Myanmar

Tourism Federation, new executives of Myanmar Tour Operators Association and chairpersons of hotel zones at the hall of MTF in Yangon this morning. He called for joint efforts for development of smokeless industry, speaking of the need of corporate social responsibility for benefits of local people of tourist sites.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Ayeyawady Region government honours excellence award winners



PATHEIN, 5 May—Those from Pathein who won excellence award presented by President U Thein Sein and regional level excellence award were honoured at Pathein Hotel in Pathein on 3

May evening, attended by Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and officials.

The region chief minister urged the awardees to take greater part in development of the region and presented certificates of honour to them. Owner of Golden Delta Co Ltd U Chit Khaing won best exporter award, Max Myanmar Co Ltd Chairman U Zaw Zaw of Yekyi Township, U Shwe Kyaing from Thaungza Village-tract of Maubin Township and JAT U Hsaung Min Ko from Dekchaung Village of Ngaputaw Township certificates of honour presented by the President.

Those who won regional level excellence awards were also presented

Personnel leave for Mawtaung Border Trade Camp

MYEIK, 5 May—Mawtaung Border Trade Camp will be opened in Taninthayi Township of Myeik District in Taninthayi

Region on 8 May.

The trade camp is 72 miles from Taninthayi and 122 miles and five furlongs from Myeik.

A total of 35 departmental personnel led by in-charge of the border trade camp Assistant Director U Min Zaw of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Department left Myeik by car at 11 am yesterday to discharge duties at the trade camp.

Kyemon



Construction of 11/0.4KV (315KVA) sub-power station in progress at the corner of Ingon and Thudanu Roads in Ward 4 of Hpa-an.—KYEMON

Development undertakings in three Tsps

YANGON, 5 May—Yekyaw Bridge was commissioned into service on 5 February, benefitting the locals from 44 surrounding villages of Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships.

The inter-township road linking Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships in Yangon South District, Yangon Region is also being upgraded into a 3100-ft long, 3-ft wide and six-inch thick concrete facility with withstanding capacity of 20 tons of loads. The construction arranged by the region government is



scheduled to be complete ahead of monsoon.

A local says,

67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day observed in Yamethin



YAMETHIN, 5 May—The 67th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day was celebrated at the office of Fire Services Department in Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region today. It was attended by the township administrator, departmental officials, invited guests, townselders and auxiliary fire brigade

members.

The township administrator explained the historical background of fire brigade day. The firefighters and auxiliary members demonstrated the fire fighting. The village auxiliary fire brigade members also participated in the fire fighting with the use of water pump.—Kyemon

67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day observed in Myeik

MYEIK, 5 May—The 67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was observed at Myoma Stadium in Myeik this morning, with the attendees saluting the State flag, fallen martyrs and firefighters.

Myeik District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo spoke words of appraisal

on the occasion. Three core and nine auxiliary freighters were awarded with medals and certificates of honor for their brilliant performance.

Next, the firefighters of Myeik District and auxiliary fire service stations demonstrated their firefighting drill.—Kyemon

Kyemon

67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day held in Sagaing

SAGAING, 5 May—67th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was observed at People's Ground in Sagaing this morning, attended by District Management Committee Chairman U Myint Wai and departmental officials, Head of District Fire Services Department U Saw Lwin Myint and fire brigade members.

The district management committee chairman made

a speech and officials accepted the cash donations of wellwishers.

Wellwisher U Kyaw Thura + Daw Theingi Tun and family donated a fire tanker worth K 2.2 million and a firefighting equipment worth K 120,900 through officials.

A total of cash donation at today's ceremony was K 2,774,800.

Kyemon

Hsipaw faces drinking water difficulties



HSIPAW, 5 May—Phaphaik Dam, the lifeblood of Hsipaw Township in Shan State (North) saw low water level due to excessive heat in this summer. Wells and lakes dried up in Sanphaik and Shwepyitha new wards. So, local people in the township face shortage of drinking water. The staff from township development

affairs committee under the supervision of Executive Officer Assistant Director U Thein Htaik Oo distributes safe water to needy people by using 1500 gallons water tanker.

Local people are appreciated the staff's efforts for door-to-door distribution of drinking water free of charge.—Kyemon

Traffic lights installed on Anawrahta Road

YANGON, 5 May—Traffic lights are installed at the junctions of Anawrahta Road and 38th Street and of Anawrahta Road and Bo Son Pak Street where

road users mostly pass. The drivers need to follow the speed designated by Road Transport Administration Department.

Kyemon



WORLD



Dancers perform in the rehearsal of the musical *Hundred-bird Dress* in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 27 April, 2013. The musical tells a legend of the Zhuang ethnic group about a young hero's sacrifice in protecting the homeland against an evil polluting power.

XINHUA

Wildfire on Southern California coast threatens 4,000 homes

CAMARILLO, (California), 5 May — A fierce, wind-driven wildfire spread on Friday along the California coast northwest of Los Angeles, threatening 4,000 homes and a military base as residents were evacuated ahead of the flames and a university campus was closed.

By nightfall more than 950 firefighters had built

a pall of thick smoke drifting over the beach community of Malibu and farther inland across Los Angeles County. Several farm buildings and recreational vehicles were engulfed and fire officials said 15 homes were damaged, along with five commercial properties. While 25 outbuildings were destroyed, no residential structures were lost and no



Resident Bryan Bonsant battles flames as the Springs Fire nears a neighbour's barn in Malibu California on 3 May, 2013.— REUTERS

containment around about 20 percent of the inferno, which has blackened more than 43 square miles (111 square kilometres) of dry brush and chaparral since erupting on Thursday morning. More firefighters were said to be on the way and fire officials said they hoped that diminishing winds and higher humidity would help them make headway overnight and on Saturday.

Fire managers said they expected it would take until next Monday to fully contain the blaze, which sent

injuries had been reported.

Some 4,000 homes were considered threatened, with evacuations ordered for about a quarter of those residences, the Ventura County fire and sheriff's Departments said. The so-called Springs Fire and a flurry of smaller blazes around the state this week marked a sudden start to a California fire season that some weather forecasters predict will be worsened by a summer of high temperatures and drought throughout much of the US West.— *Reuters*

US X-51A aircraft sets record in final test

WASHINGTON, 5 May — The US Air Force announced on Friday its X-51A *Waverider* aircraft has achieved the longest hypersonic flight in history, flying for three and a half minutes on scramjet power at more than five times the speed of sound. The final flight of the unmanned aircraft built by Boeing reached Mach 5.1 over the Pacific Ocean on 1 May. It traveled over 230 nautical miles in just over six minutes.

"It was a full mission success," said Charlie Brink, X-51A programme manager for the Air Force Research Laboratory Aerospace Systems Directorate. "I believe all we have learned from the X-51A *Waverider* will serve as the bedrock for future

hypersonics research and ultimately the practical application of hypersonic flight." With the test, the US Air Force has successfully completed a 300-million-dollar, nearly decade-long hypersonic test programme that reportedly can be used to deliver strikes around the globe within minutes.

The X-51A took off from the Air Force Test Centre at Edwards Air Force Base in California, under the wing of a B-52H Stratofortress. It was released at approximately 15,000 metres and accelerated to Mach 4.8 in about 26 seconds powered by a solid rocket booster. After separating from the booster, the cruiser's scramjet engine then lit and accelerated to Mach 5.1 at 18,000



metres. After exhausting its 240-second fuel supply, the vehicle continued to send back telemetry data until it splashed down into the ocean and was destroyed as designed.

"This demonstration of a practical hypersonic scramjet engine is a historic achievement that has been years in the making," said Darryl Davis, president of Boeing Phantom Works, in a statement. "This test proves the technology has

ing," the bearded, bespectacled guerrilla told reporters outside the Havana convention centre where the talks are being held.

The government and rebels are trying to end a war that dates to 1964 when the FARC was formed as a communist agrarian reform movement to fight Colombia's long history of social inequality and concentrated land ownership. The rebels have proposed giving 20 million hectares (49.4 million acres) of land to the poor and limiting how much property big landowners can have. The government has insisted no land will be taken from private landowners, but acknowledged that rural development and distribution of land are key to achieving peace. — *Reuters*

Bangladesh urges no harsh EU measures over factory deaths

DHAKA, 5 May — Bangladesh on Saturday urged the European Union not to take tough measures against its economically crucial textile industry in response to the collapse of a garment factory that killed 550 people. Bodies were still being pulled from the ruins on Saturday as tearful families stood by waiting for news of victims of the country's worst ever industrial accident.

The European Union, which gives preferential access to Bangladeshi garments, had threatened punitive measures in order to press Dhaka to improve worker safety standards after the collapse of the il-

legally built factory on 24 April. The disaster, believed to have been triggered when the building's electricity generators were started up during a black-

out, put the spotlight on Western retailers who use the impoverished South Asian nation as a source of cheap goods.

About 4 million peo-

ple work in Bangladesh's garment industry, making it the world's second-largest apparel exporter after China. Some earn as little as \$38 a month, conditions Pope Francis has compared to "slave labour".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed the factory owners for the disaster, saying they ignored warnings about cracks in the walls of the building. Duty-free access offered by Western countries and low wages have helped turn Bangladesh's garment exports into a \$19 billion-a-year industry, with 60 percent of clothes going to Europe.

Reuters



Rescue workers attempt to find survivors from the rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza building in Savar, around 30 km (19 miles) outside Dhaka on 4 May, 2013. — REUTERS

REGIONAL

Two civilians killed in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 5 May — Two people were killed in separate drive-by shootings in restive southern province of Pattani and Narathiwat on Saturday. Police said a man was shot dead on a local road in Pattani's Mayo district on Saturday morning. He was identified as Wayeh Dorloh, 50, a resident of Mayo district. According to witnesses, Wayeh was traveling on his motorcycle on the rural road heading to a teashop in the village when a gunman riding pil-

lion on another motorcycle fired on him with handgun.

Wayeh was shot twice in the head and body and died on the spot. Police were investigating the incident. In Narathiwat, Abdulloh Pataebuenae, 59, a driver of rice truck, was killed in a shooting in Rue-so district. Police said the attack occurred about Saturday morning. Witnesses told police that Abdulloh was driving his truck on the road when a gunman riding pillion of a motorcycle

opened fired on him with M16 assault rifle.

Abdulloh was shot and lost control of his truck, which crashed a roadside tree. He got off the vehicle and ran for his life into the roadside forest, where the gunman followed and shot him again at close range to make sure he was dead. The assailants then fled. Police found nine spent M16 rifle cartridges scattered on the road. Police blamed separatist militants for the incident.—Xinhua



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) holds talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore on 3 May, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Maoists kill village panchayat member

MALKANGIRI (Odisha), 5 May — Maoists killed a village panchayat member, but released two others after abducting them from Mathili area of Odisha's Malkangiri during the state police chief visit to the district.

The body of Budha Dharua, naib Sarpanch of

Mahupadar village, was found on a forest road this morning with his throat slit, Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Akhileswar Singh said.

Armed ultras had abducted Dharua and two others from Mahupadar village on Wednesday night.

PTI

Over 100 families affected by tornado in Tarlac

MANILA, 5 May — Over a hundred families were affected by a tornado that struck four villages in Tarlac yesterday afternoon, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Saturday.

The tornado hit the villages of Ventinilla, Cabayaasan, Tablang and Salumangue, all in Paniqui town at around 3:00 pm lo-

cal time.

Aside from the 101 families or 403 individuals who were affected by the weather disturbance, 101 houses were either totally or partially damaged.

The NDRRMC said that the local authorities were closely monitoring the situation and continued to conduct damage and needs assessment in the affected areas.

Xinhua

China returns 10 children abducted from Vietnam

BEIJING, 5 May — Chinese authorities have returned 10 children who were abducted and taken from Vietnam.

The Ministry of Public Security said yesterday that Chinese law officials held a ceremony with their

Vietnamese counterparts to officially send the children home. It says China rescued the children in 2011 after learning about the cross-border abduction cases. The children ranged in age from 10 days to 7 months at the time of their rescue.—PTI



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (R) and Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao attend a seminar in Greater Noida, northern India, on 3 May, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

ADB annual meeting in India to discuss sustainable development

GREATER, (India), 5 May — The annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank will start on Saturday in India, where member countries are set to discuss the region's sustainable development amid expectations that growth will accelerate further.

Finance leaders and delegates from the 67 ADB member countries will gath-

er in Greater Noida on the outskirts of New Delhi to explore ways to deal with energy, disaster management and other key issues in the region.

At the two-day meeting, Takehiko Nakao, who took the helm of the ADB on 28 April, is expected to deliver an opening speech and explain the body's agenda items.—Kyodo News

Japan's child population falls for 32nd year in row

TOKYO, 5 May—The number of children aged 14 and under in Japan fell for the 32nd straight year, standing at a record-low 16.49 million as of 1 April, the government said Saturday, reflecting the continued drop in the country's birthrate.

The report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications showed that the number was down 150,000 from a year earlier and the ratio of children in the age group relative to the overall population hit a fresh record-low of 12.9 percent.

The figures were contained in a ministry report released ahead of the Children's Day national holiday on Sunday.

Kyodo News

China makes proposals to ADB for promoting Asia development

NEW DELHI, 5 May — China made on Saturday proposals to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for promoting Asia development, at a time when Asian countries are face with internal structural problems and weakening external demand. Chinese Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao said at the 45th Annual Meeting of ADB Board Governors that China believes ADB's main task now is to contribute to intensifying economic integration, expanding intra-regional demand and pro-

moting investment in real economy.

He made the three proposals to ADB to help fulfill such a task: First, adjusting strategic priorities and promoting regional interconnectivity; second, strengthening financial capacity and improving governance structure; third, deepening structural reform and promoting economic development.

"ADB should expand its lending scale for the member countries' infrastructure projects, streamline the procedure and

enhance its efficiency," he said, adding that infrastructure will help sustain economic development, contribute to intra-regional investment demand and fuel growth.

Zhu said ADB, considering its problem of weakening lending capacity, should consult with all its members and put forward a package of solutions.

"Such a package should take a long term vision, including reforming ADB's governance structure that currently dampens its financial capacity and

its long-term development, and increasing voice and representation of developing countries," he said.

Zhu added that to maintain the momentum of Asia's growth, countries in the region should strengthen policy coordination and create synergy effect.

He also said although China understands Japan's economic reform to get rid of deflation, the right policy choice for it should be economic restructuring. "The monetary policy cannot substitute structural reform," he noted.—Xinhua

Frigate commissioned for S China Sea fleet

BEIJING, 5 May —A frigate was commissioned for the South China Sea fleet of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy on Friday, the China News Service has reported.

The frigate Yueyang is capable of long-range surveillance, as well as air defense and anti-submarine operations, according to the report.

At a ceremony held in Sanya, a port city in south China's Hainan Province, Jiang Weilie, commander of the South China Sea fleet, endorsed a PLA flag and naming certificate for the naval unit that received the frigate.

Xinhua



Frigate Yueyang was commissioned for the South China Sea fleet of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 3 May, 2013.—XINHUA

Photos of 19th century Beijing to be auctioned in London

LONDON, 5 May—Auction house Sotheby's is to put on sale on 14 May a collection of photos on Beijing taken by Italian-British photographer Felice Beato in 1860. Beato (1832-1909) came to China in 1860 as a war photographer along with invading Anglo-French forces during the Second Opium War.

"These photos were the first views of China most people in Europe had ever seen," Richard Fattorini, director of the printed books, manuscripts and topographical photographs section of Sotheby's, told *Xinhua*.

"Today, many of the images gave us a rare view of the lost imperial gardens

in Beijing." It is known to all that the Anglo-French forces pillaged the Old Summer Palace, or Yuanmingyuan, in 1860 and destroyed many of its buildings as the plunderers set the garden on fire after lootings.

Four of the 18 photos disclosed some buildings in the Summer Palace, or Yiheyuan (called Qingyiyuan then), were also flattened during the invasion. One photo, taken in October 1860 and used on cover page of the auction catalogue, recorded the belvedere of Wenchangge, or the Studio of Literary Prosperity.

It was recognized

as the only photographic record of that building, torched by the invaders in 1860. Another highlight of the collection is a six-plate panorama of Beijing under the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

"It is the first ever panorama of Beijing in 180 degrees, showing the interior of the city with the Forbidden City as the background," Fattorini said.

The pictures taken by Beato from the South Gate of Beijing showed that houses and buildings were low and stood largely in orderly rows and the hill in the Summer Palace was clearly visible.

"It took him almost a

whole day to get this," Fattorini said. "And you need to move very quickly so as not to get strange shadows."

This is very hard. Six individual photographs, and you need to apply the negatives to glass exposers under the same lighting conditions as you move the camera.

He is really a master of panorama." Other photos featured a tomb in southeast Beijing's Tongzhou, the Dagou forts, the Beihai Park, and the gateway of the Lama Temple. These 18 photos were later sold to Lieutenant Edward Courtney and kept by his descendants, Fattorini said.

Xinhua

Seven US troops killed in Afghan bomb, insider attack

KABUL, 5 May—Seven US soldiers were killed in two separate attacks in Afghanistan on Saturday, NATO and Western officials in Kabul said, capping off one of the bloodiest weeks for international forces this year. The attacks underscored the dangers faced by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), even as they hand over much of the fighting to Afghans ahead of a planned withdrawal next year.

Five US soldiers were killed in the southern battleground province of Kandahar when they were struck by an improvised bomb on Saturday, a spokesman for the US forces and provincial authorities said, adding that it took place in Maiwand District. Including Saturday's attacks and three air crashes, 21 US military personnel have been killed

in the last week.

Three British soldiers were also killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb in the southern Province of Helmand. Maiwand borders Helmand Province to the west and is considered one of the most volatile of Kandahar's Districts. Two more US soldiers were killed when an Afghan soldier turned his gun on them in the western Province of Farah.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for the shooting attack in an email from spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

Ahmadi said the soldier he described as an "infiltrated mujahid" turned his weapon on the US troops at a base in the Bala Boluk District of Farah killing four before he was killed. The Taleban routinely overstate casualty numbers.

MNA/Reuters



A ceremony is held to mark the restoration of Sungnyemun, popularly known as "Namdaemun" or South Gate and National Treasure No 1 in Seoul on 4 May, 2013. The landmark gate burned down due to arson more than five years ago.—KYODO NEWS

Philippine island resort Boracay aims 1.5 mln tourists target

BORACAY ISLAND, (Philippines), 5 May—The government of Central Philippine Province of Aklan, to which the world-renowned resort Boracay Island belongs, expresses its confidence of reaching the target of attracting 1.5 million tourists in 2013.

Gabrielle Calizo-Quimpo, Vice Governor of Aklan, said that based on the latest data of the Aklan Provincial Tourism Office, as of 8 April, foreign and local tourists coming to Boracay had reached 357,000. Tourists analysts earlier perceived that to reach the target, Boracay must receive at least 350,000 tourists every quarter.

"In 2012 where the province anticipates 1 million tourists, we have registered 1.2 million tourists instead," Quimpo said, showing that he was confident of fulfill the 1.5 million tourists target this year. Be-

cause of this unprecedented development, the Aklan provincial government is rushing to build the needed tourism infrastructure for Boracay, he added.

Xinhua



Visitors watch the "big ben" and "tower bridge" made by colourful tulips in the famous Keukenhof park in Lisse, the Netherlands, on 3 May, 2013.—XINHUA



Photo taken on 4 May, 2013 shows a set of classic tableware displayed in an exhibition of "Splendour of the French Table" in Hong Kong, south China. As one of the activities of "French May", the exhibition which will last till 9 June presents tableware from leading French historical manufactures and luxury maisons since the 18th century.—XINHUA

Researchers find active seabed faults near central Japan coast

TOKYO, 5 May—Researchers have found active faults stretching over 100 kilometres in total near the coast of a central Japan peninsula which could cause a powerful quake affecting Tokyo and a major industrial region centering on Nagoya.

The faults mostly lie in the Pacific seabed southeast of the Izu Peninsula in Shizuoka Prefecture and the nearest one is only about 2 km from the coast, according to their recent study.

The faults could cause a quake with a magnitude of 8 or stronger if they all move at once, the researchers said.

A research team concluded after studying the government's ocean floor topography and other data that bulges in the seabed

around the peninsula resulted from fault movements. The faults can roughly be grouped in five blocks and a movement in a single block can cause a powerful temblor with a magnitude of around 7, they said.

Areas around the peninsula are prone to quakes, with those with a magnitude of 5 or larger occurring repeatedly. Researchers have long suspected an active fault lies off the eastern coast of the Izu Peninsula.

The researchers taking part in the study included those from the Hot Springs Research Institute of Kanagawa Prefecture, an organization conducting geological surveys and monitoring seismic activities.

Kyodo News

NASA to study storms that disrupt satellites

WASHINGTON, 5 May—A NASA-funded sounding rocket mission will help better understand and predict the electrical storms in Earth's upper atmosphere, which can interfere with satellite communication and global positioning sig-

nals.

The mission, called Equatorial Vortex Experiment (EVEX) will launch two rockets for a twelve-minute journey through the equatorial ionosphere from an atoll in the Pacific in the next few weeks.—PTI

ENTERTAINMENT

Demi Moore reconciles with daughters

LONDON, 5 May—The 50-year-old actress was reportedly frozen out by Rumer, 24, Scout, 21, and Tallulah, 18, after they became tired of her constant partying but Rumer and Demi were spotted together in Los Angeles over the weekend, indicating they have buried the hatchet.

The duo were in good spirits as they left a yoga class in West Hollywood and friends are hopeful their relationship is back on track.

It was previously claimed Rumer and her sisters — whose father is Bruce Willis — were upset with their mother's partying and wished she would maintain a lower profile following her split from Ashton Kutcher and subsequent rehab stint.

A source said: "Rumer is really the one making the decision to do this as the oldest. Around the time Bruce's wife Emma (Heming) had the baby (Mabel Ray), it was this scary sense of, 'Demi went off her rocker again.'

"Bruce is now very much out of the spotlight and the kids were very happy about that. They started feeling that Demi needs to stay home and be more of a mother. She checked into rehab and they'd always been pushing for her to do that. (But) she came out partying and dancing on tables again.

"The kids are old enough to band together, Rumer being the ringleader."—PTI

Lindsay Lohan enters rehab centre after false start

LOS ANGELES, 5 May—Actress Lindsay Lohan has checked herself into a rehabilitation facility, following a day of confusion on Thursday over whether she was complying with court-ordered treatment for a reckless driving charge.

"She did check into the rehab (centre) and I will still be going through a vetting process," Santa Monica City Deputy Attorney Terry White, the prosecutor in the June 2012 car crash case, told Reuters in an email on Friday.

White did not name the rehab centre, but celebrity news website site TMZ.com said Lohan, 26, had entered the Betty Ford Centre in Rancho Mirage, 120 miles east of Los Angeles, early Friday morning.

Lohan must complete 90 days

in a locked rehab centre by 31 July to comply with a March plea bargain. Under the deal, she avoided jail by pleading no contest to reckless driving and lying to police in the seaside town of Santa Monica when she said she was not driving a car that smashed into a truck.

The "Mean Girls" star, who has spent at least five stints in rehab in the past six years, threw prosecutors into confusion earlier this week when she switched her choice of rehab from the New York area to a centre in Newport Beach in Southern California.

She spent only minutes at the Newport Beach facility, White said on Thursday, before disappearing from public view.

Reuters

Demi Moore

'Iron Man 3' kicks off US, Canada run with \$15.6 million ticket sales

LOS ANGELES, 5 May — International hit "Iron Man 3" flew into US and Canadian theatres, kicking off Hollywood's summer blockbuster season with \$15.6 million in ticket sales late Thursday and early Friday.

The superhero sequel from Walt Disney Co's Marvel studio is expected to fin-

ish the weekend with one of the biggest debuts in film history. Box office analysts predict the movie will bring in \$150 million or more from Friday through Sunday, likely ranking in the top five all-time openings.

The opening night sales fell short of the \$18.7 million earned a year ago by Disney's "The Avengers,"

which brought together Iron Man, The Hulk and other Marvel superheroes. "Avengers" went on to earn \$207 million in its first three days, a record for the North American (US and Canadian) market.

"Iron Man 3," starring Robert Downey Jr as billionaire businessman Tony Stark, has pulled in \$345.4

million in overseas markets since it debuted April 24, Disney said on Friday. The film set opening day records in several countries including China and Russia.

In "Iron Man 3," Stark fights to save the world from an extremist known as The Mandarin, played by Ben Kingsley.

Reuters

Rolling Stones release low-priced seats ahead of LA show

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Wild horses couldn't drag many of the most die-hard of Rolling Stones fans to the kick-off of the band's North American tour - at least not at prices of up to a whopping \$600 a ticket.

Three weeks after tickets went on sale, and a day before the British band take the stage on Friday, the Los Angeles Staples Centre was far from sold out for the "50 and Counting" gig.

Secondary ticket sellers StubHub had more than 500 tickets available

24 hours before the 3 May show, Good Seat tickets said they were slashing resale prices by 40 percent, and Epic Nation rolled out a 10 percent discount code.

The veteran rock band announced on their official website this week that they were releasing an additional number of tickets at a modest \$85, the only price point that quickly sold out for the 3 May concert.

According to the website, some of the \$85 seats will be among the best seats in house in the "Tongue Pit," with others spread around the arena. Buyers will be notified of their seat location on the day of the show.

Concert promoters AEG denied they were cutting prices, saying tickets once thought to have an obstructed view had come to light after the tongue and lip shaped stage was set up.

Reuters

Actress Lindsay Lohan arrives at the premiere of the film "Scary Movie 5" in Hollywood on 11 April 2013. REUTERS

Mick Jagger performs onstage during the Rolling Stones final concert of their "50 and Counting Tour" in Newark, New Jersey, on 15 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

Cast member Gwyneth Paltrow poses at the premiere of "Iron Man 3" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 24 April, 2013.—REUTERS

SPORTS

Real victory delays Barca title another week

MADRID, 5 May—Leaders Barcelona will have to wait at least another week to wrap up the La Liga title after Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice to lead second-placed Real Madrid to a 4-3 comeback success at home to Real Valladolid on Saturday.

If Real had failed to win, victory for Barca against Real Betis at the Nou Camp on Sunday would have secured a fourth title in five years as they would have been at least 13 points clear with only four games left and 12 points available.

Jose Mourinho's Real side are refusing to relinquish their league crown without making it as difficult as possible for their bitter rivals in the final weeks of the campaign even if they gave up on the title several months ago after a poor start.

"We will keep working," Real's Portugal defender Pepe told Spanish television. "We know that it's a tough ask but we represent a very important club and we will honour the shirt to the

end."

Valladolid, who have not won a point at the Bernabeu in more than a decade, took a surprise eighth-minute lead when Oscar Gonzalez stole in on the right and beat Real goalkeeper Diego Lopez with a low shot.

Real were level in the 26th minute when Marc Valiente deflected an Angel Di Maria shot into his own net before Ronaldo nodded the first of his two headers six minutes later.

Valladolid struck back almost immediately when Javi Guerra finished off a swift breakaway in the 35th minute and Kaka restored Real's lead four minutes after the break. Ronaldo looked to have killed off the game 20 minutes from time when he headed home from a corner, the Portugal forward's 33rd league goal of the campaign.

But there was still time for substitute Lluís Sastre to smash home a third for the visitors to set up a nervy finish. Real's victory lifted them to 77 points from 34



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Real Valladolid during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 4 May, 2013.—REUTERS

matches, eight behind Barca and eight ahead of third-placed Atletico Madrid, who

were held to a 0-0 draw at Deportivo La Coruna in the late kickoff.—Reuters

Nadal will not get higher seeding, says French Open chief

PARIS, 5 May—Rafael Nadal will not be protected with a higher seeding at the French Open, tournament director Gilbert Ysern said on Saturday.

Roland Garros committee member Guy Forget suggested last month that the Spaniard, who has slipped to fifth in the world rankings, should be protected to avoid a potential quarter-final clash with world number one Novak Djokovic.

"Considering what Nadal represents in Paris, the best player in the tournament's history, it seemed incongruous that he arrives in Paris

with the number 4 or 5 bib," Ysern told French sports daily L'Equipe, adding that he backed off because the move would not have been welcomed.

"But it was said to be fiddling," he said.

"What was supposed to be a strong symbol, a tribute, was seen as messy business."

Nadal, who missed seven months of tennis because of a knee injury, trails world number four David Ferrer in the ATP rankings and has little chance of closing the points gap before the French Open begins on 26 May.

Reuters

Tournament Director Gilbert Ysern attends a news conference after the men's singles final match between Rafael Nadal of Spain and Novak Djokovic of Serbia was suspended for the day after rain stopped play during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 10 June, 2012.—REUTERS



Walcott's 20-second goal keeps Gunners step ahead

LONDON, 5 May—Theo Walcott scored the quickest Premier League goal of the season after 20 seconds on

Aston Villa also celebrated late victories to improve their chances of avoiding relegation to the Champi-



Arsenal's Theo Walcott (R) shoots and scores his goal against Queens Park Rangers during their English Premier League soccer match at Loftus Road in London, on 4 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Saturday to give Arsenal a 1-0 win at Queens Park Rangers and keep them a step ahead of rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the race for the Champions League.

Walcott pounced in the late kickoff at Loftus Road in west London just moments after Gareth Bale, newly crowned English player of the year, had celebrated a spectacular winner as Spurs beat Southampton 1-0 in north London.

Bale cut inside from the right and held off a defender before firing home from 25 metres in the 86th minute against his former club. At the bottom of the table, Wigan Athletic and

onship.

Callum McManaman scored in the 80th minute at the Hawthorns to give Wigan a 3-2 win over West Bromwich Albion after Roberto Martinez's team had twice fallen behind.

Villa left Carrow Road with a 2-1 triumph over Norwich City courtesy of Gabriel Agbonlahor's double, including the 89th-minute winner. Arsenal reclaimed third place on 67 points, two ahead of fourth-placed Chelsea, who visit champions Manchester United on Sunday. Spurs are fifth, also on 65 points, but have a game in hand on Arsene Wenger's side.

Second-placed Manchester City drew 0-0 at Swansea City on Saturday.

With Newcastle United drawing 0-0 at West Ham United, and Sunderland not playing—against Stoke City—until Monday, the relegation picture is also tight and unpredictable.

Just five points separate eight clubs between Wigan, in 18th place and the third relegation spot, and the Potters, who are 11th.

QPR and Reading, who beat Fulham 4-2 at Craven Cottage on Saturday, are already down.—Reuters

Man City's Sinclair in hospital with blood clot



Britain's Scott Sinclair celebrates after scoring a goal against UAE during their men's preliminary first round Group A soccer match at the London 2012 Olympic Games in the Wembley Stadium in London on 29 July, 2012.—REUTERS

MANCHESTER, (England), 5 May—Manchester City midfielder Scott Sinclair was being treated for a blood clot on his shoulder on Saturday.

Sinclair did not travel with the squad for their 0-0 draw against his former club Swansea City earlier in the day and the Premier League club confirmed he was in hospital and in a comfortable condition. The 24-year-old Englishman has started only three games since joining the 2012 Premier League champions in August, and manager Roberto Mancini suggested on Friday he might need to leave the club to play regular football.—Reuters

Lorenzo celebrates birthday with home pole in Spain



Yamaha MotoGP rider Jorge Lorenzo (C) of Spain celebrates after taking the pole position during the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez de la Frontera, southern Spain on 4 May, 2013.—REUTERS

JEREZ, (Spain), 5 May—World champion and birthday boy Jorge Lorenzo will start from pole for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix and will be joined on the front row by compatriots Dani Pedrosa and Marc Marquez as the home nation dominated qualifying on Saturday.

Celebrating his 26th birthday, Yamaha rider Lorenzo, who was also fastest in Friday practice, set a best time of one minute 38.67 seconds at the sun-drenched Jerez circuit, with Pedrosa clocking 1:38.92 and Honda team mate Marquez 1:38.971.

Cal Crutchlow of Britain was fourth fastest on his Yamaha ahead of the third race of the season and the first in Europe with a time of 1:39.26 followed by Italian former world champion Valentino Rossi, also on a Yamaha, in 1:39.30.

Lorenzo's job was made easier after Pedrosa, Marquez, Crutchlow and Rossi all suffered crashes during an incident-packed afternoon.

Lorenzo and rookie Marquez top the championship standings on 41 points after two races, with Pedrosa on 33, Rossi on 30 and Crutchlow on 24.—Reuters

GENERAL

Mickelson, Watney stumble but share Quail Hollow lead



Phil Mickelson of the US watches his second shot on the 12th hole during the third round of the Wells Fargo Championship PGA golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina on 4 May, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 5 May—Phil Mickelson and Nick Watney survived some late-round misadventures to emerge from Saturday's third round tied for the lead in the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mickelson topped the leaderboard for most of the day and Watney took his turn alone in first place during the final stretch before both players fell back with double-bogeys to head into Sunday's final round knotted at eight-under-par 208.

Watney shot a one-under 71 and Mickelson a 73.

Fellow-American George McNeil bogeyed the 18th to fall out of a three-way tie for the lead and was alone in third place on seven-under 209.

The stumbles by the leaders brought a slew of other contenders into the frame. Two strokes off the pace at six-under-par 210 were Britons Lee Westwood (72) and David Lynn (71), Australian John Senden (67), Robert Karlsson of Sweden (69) and Americans Ryan Moore (68) and Derek Ernst (72).

Reuters

Australian athletes compulsory to co-operate with doping authority

CANBERRA, 5 May — The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) has introduced new rules forcing athletes and officials to "truthfully answer" questions from the country's doping authority.

Under the new policy announced on Saturday and

approved on Friday by the AOC executive, athletes and officials must fully co-operate with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority even if doing so might incriminate or expose them to a penalty.

Also on Saturday, the Australian government was

to announce 3.5 million dollar in increased funding to ASADA and other agencies to assist them with current doping investigations, including illegal supplement use in the Australian Football League and National Rugby League.

Xinhua

Three dead in knife attack in downtown Beijing

BEIJING, 5 May — A knife-wielding man stabbed two people to death and injured another in downtown Beijing on Saturday, local police said.

The assailant also died from injuries suffered while resisting police arrest.

The man attacked vehicle drivers and passengers with a knife on a ramp of a road near Guangqumen Bridge at about 2 pm, the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau said in a statement. Of the three he injured, two died at hospital after emergency medi-

cal treatment failed and the other one was still under treatment, the statement said.

The attacker was besieged inside a private car by police officers and citizens at the scene before suffering injuries while wielding the knife to resist police arrest.

He was brought under control finally, but later died at hospital from injuries. The assailant is yet to be identified and police are investigating the killing spree.

Xinhua

Man poisoned to death by wife, paramour

MEERUT, 5 May — A man was allegedly poisoned to death by his wife and her paramour, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place yesterday when Abrar(30) was given milk laced with poison by his wife Noorja-

han (27) and her paramour Mauju (27), they said.

Noorjahan had an illicit relationship with Mauju. Abrar tried to convince his wife several times but she was adamant on marrying her lover, police said.

PTI

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-5-13 09:30 am ~ 7-5-13 09:30 am) MST

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Myanmar TV

((6-5-2013, Monday))

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:50 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 16. Musical Programme |
| 6:30 am | 3:00 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 17. News |
| 6:40 am | 3:15 pm |
| 3. Dance & Song of Natinal Races | 18. TV Drama Series |
| 7:00 am | 4:30 pm |
| 4. News | 19. Dance & Song of National Races |
| 7:20 am | 4:40 pm |
| 5. People Talk | 20. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) |
| 8:00 am | -Second Year (Economic) |
| 6. News / International News | 5:00 pm |
| 8:25 am | 21. News |
| 7. Road to SEA Games | 5:15 pm |
| 9:00 am | 22. Song Programme |
| 8. News / International News | 6:00 pm |
| 9:45 am | 23. News |
| 9. TV Drama Series | 6:20 pm |
| 10:00 am | 24. SEA Games (Teleplay) |
| 10. News | 6:50 pm |
| 11:00 am | 25. TV Drama Series |
| 11. Beautiful ASEAN | 7:00 pm |
| 11:10 am | 26. News |
| 12. Teleplay (Froest) | 7:15 pm |
| 12:00 pm | 27. TV Drama Series |
| 13. News / International News /Weather Report | 8:00 pm |
| 12:25 pm | 28. News / International News /Weather Report |
| 14. Myanmar Movie | 8:35 pm |
| 2:15 pm | 29. People Talk |
| 15. Documentary | 8:45 pm |
| | 30. Musical Programme |



Former professional baseball player Hideki Matsui (2nd from R) is greeted by fans at Narita airport, near Tokyo, on 3 May, 2013, after his arrival from the United States. Matsui returned to Japan to attend a retirement ceremony to be given by his first pro club, the Yomiuri Giants, at Tokyo Dome on 5 May, when he will also receive the People's Honour Award along with his first pro manager and Japan Hall of Famer Shigeo Nagashima.

KYODO NEWS

Yemen seizes 20,000 illegal Turkey-made guns

SANAA, 5 May — Yemen's Defence Ministry said on Saturday that it has seized a boat carrying 20,000 Turkey-made guns in Yemen's coastal regions. In a statement posted on its website, the ministry said the boat was seized on Thursday after soldiers of the Yemeni 17th Infantry Brigade stationing in Bab el-Mandeb strait clashed with the armed crew members on the boat in the Red

Sea coastal area that belongs to the southwestern Taiz Province.

"The soldiers managed to capture the boat's captain after gunfight, while other crew members fled," the 17th Infantry Brigade commander, Saleh Mised Subary, was quoted by the ministry as saying. One soldier was injured in his right leg during shooting, he said. It was the fourth cargo loaded with Turkey-made arms

that was seized by Yemen in half a year.

In February this year and November of last year, two cargos carrying illegal Turkey-made weapons were seized respectively in the southern port city of Aden; and in December 2012, a cargo of 7,000 Turkey-made guns was captured in the Red Sea port of al-Hodayda.

The Yemeni government did not mention who

are responsible for smuggling arms into the country, but said investigations are underway. The improvised Arab country, already awash of roughly 60 million pieces of weapons, is struggling to resolve a Shiite rebellion in the north and a growing secessionist movement in the south, and to combat an active regional network of al-Qaida wing based in its southeastern regions.—Xinhua

Myanmar exports over 1.4 million tons of rice in 2012-13 fiscal year



Union Minister U Win Myint addresses ceremony to mark the winning of tender for export of 5000 tons of high-grade rice.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Jointly organized by MITSUI Co Ltd of Japan and Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd (MAPCO), a ceremony to mark the winning of tender for export of 5000 tons of high-grade rice 5 was held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

At the ceremony, the Union minister said that as Myanmar is an agro-based country, agricultural production accounts for 18 percent of GDP and 47

percent of GNP. In 2012-13 fiscal year, Myanmar had exported over 1.4 million tons of rice and in 2001-02 FY it exported about 1 million tons of rice, he added. It is needed not only to grow quality paddy for exporting quality rice but also establish modern rice mills, the Union minister said. The Union minister invited investors in agriculture sector as there has been only 0.5 percent investment in agribusiness sector of Myanmar.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that Myanmar is gaining momentum for development of agricultural sector under

the supervision of line ministries and the region chief ministers. He urged those present to try their best in exporting quality rice to foreign countries including Japan.

Then, Myanmar Rice Federation President U Chit Khaing and Director-General Mr. Takeharu Imashiro of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan extended greetings.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman visits China

YANGON, 5 May—Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo and party at the invitation of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) left here to pay a goodwill visit to China.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee on

ASEAN Politics and Security Community U Nyunt Tin, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee on Local and Foreign Labour Affairs and ASEAN Economic Community Dr Myint Kyi, Counselor of Chinese Embassy Mr Lu Zhi and officials from the Hluttaw Office saw off them at Yangon International

Temporary schools to be built for Rakhine victims

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Socio-economic Development Subcommittee, one of the seven subordinates of Rakhine State Stability and Development Committee met at Rakhine State Hluttaw on 3 May, with secretary of the work committee, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung calling for urgent measures to help victims resume their livelihoods.

He called for provision of seeds, power tillers and fertilizers ahead of monsoon season as well as fishing boats and nets. Those required items will be distributed to affected townships upon their arrival, according to the state electric power and industry minister.

According to work

committee member Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe, UNICEF is taking measures to build temporary schools near refugee camps in Sittway, Pauktaw and Minbya townships and the government is coordinating with UNICEF for construction of schools in Kyauktaw, Kyaukpyu and Yanbye townships. The teachers-to-be-appointed will be provided with K 30000 by UNICEF and K 20000 by the Education Ministry a month. The Education Ministry will arrange for fulfilling the requirement of teachers, providing certain allowances to them.

Personnel from departments concerned coordinated related matters.—MNA

Weather Bay Inference

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Continuation of rain of thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar areas.

NLM

Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) to be put into service soon *By Kayan Soe Myint*

Roads and bridges are fundamental infrastructures of national economy. They are also serving as social and economic infrastructures that provide Union brethren with smooth and speedy transport services to be able to travel from one place to another. So many bridges across the major rivers of the country—Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin—are under construction, including Ayeyawady River (Malun).

As construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) built by Special Project Group-4 of the Public Works had reached cent per cent completion, the bridge is going to be commissioned in the second week of May.

Construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) at the place between mile post Nos

(11/4) and (11/5) on Migyaungye-Pahtanago motorway near Sitkoebin of Ywathit Village in Magway of Magway Region started after the stake-driving ceremony on 22 November 2009 in accord with the resolution of the coordination meeting of the committee for implementation of special projects.

The main structure of the bridge is 2315 feet long. The rail-cum-road bridge has a two-way motor lanes and a railroad. Each approach road on Migyaungye bank and Malun bank is 1312 feet long. The approach railroads on Migyaungye bank and Malun bank are 1927 feet and 2012 feet long respectively. A total of K 39693 million have been spent on construction of the bridge.

In an interview with Superintending Engineer U Soe Min (Civil) of the group, he said that it was

safe for running of vessels under the bridge as the rail-cum-road bridge was built across the 2900 feet wide defile of the River Ayeyawady. Thanks to emergence of the bridge, people will be able to travel from the bank of Malun to Malun Township after taking a five and half miles journey via the bridge. Then they will

be able to reach Patheingyi or Monywa on Patheingyi-Monywa road.

Moreover, they also can reach Pyaw as Thityakauk-Pahtanago road on Migyaungye bank links Pyaw-Aungmye Magway road and Magway, Chauk, Yenangyoung, Kyaukpadaung, Bagan-Nyaung U and Tamu via Pakokku bridge. Besides,

they can travel to Nay Pyi Taw through Magway-Kanpyar road, Bago through Yangon-Mandalay expressway and then Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, Kawkaik and Myawady via Bago.

It is learnt that Mya Tha Beik Pagoda and other religious edifices, Shwegyin Cave monastery of First Shwegyin Sayadaw and historic places like

Minhla and Gwaychaung Fortes are situated in the neighborhood of Malun. Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) which is going to be put into service soon stands firmly there, serving the interest of local people on the west and east banks of Ayeyawady river.

Myanma Alinn:
(5-5-2013)

Trs: YM

