

LET'S BUILD THE NATION THROUGH PEOPLE'S STRENGTH

IFAD to offer USD 36 million of loans for Myanmar's farm sector development

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—President U Thein Sein looked into thriving Palethwe hybrid summer paddy at mechanized farming (3000 acres) plantation irrigated by Ngalike dam near Hotel Zone in Deikkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 6:30 am today.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing reported to the President on per cent reclamation of 3000 acres of mechanized farmlands, completion of inlet and outlet canals and production roads and harrowing of Palethwe hybrid summer paddy.

The President urged officials to help the farmers through the farm-to-market system for getting the benefits from practising multiple-cropping patterns and growing summer paddy by transforming into mechanized farming



President U Thein Sein and delegates in conversation at Mango Processing Plant in Alyinlo village.—MNA

system.

It also needs to show how their individual efforts in the drive will bring the

benefits to them. Efforts are to be made to encourage the farmers for emergence of mechanized farming

system across the country. He urged officials to grow main staple food, paddy in the irrigated farms and

disseminate knowledge on crop pattern and markets through media, he said.

(See page 8)

NPED Ministry, WB Group jointly organize Introduction to the World Bank Group

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Introduction to the World Bank group was held at

Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here this morning, attended by

Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Win Shein, Country Director Ms Annette Dixon

from the World Bank and members, departmental heads and officials.



Workshop
on
introduction
to the World
Bank
group in
progress.
MNA

The workshop is aimed at ensuring the emergence of fruitful results of World Bank's projects in Myanmar.

It focused on undertakings of International Development Association, monetary process, measures for fruitful results and World Bank's projects.

After the meeting, our news crew interviewed Union Minister U Soe Thane, Country Director Ms Annette Dixon and Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung of Foreign Economic Relations Department of the National Planning and Economic Development Ministry.

Q: Sir, May I know the purpose of holding the workshop and cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank?

(See page 8)

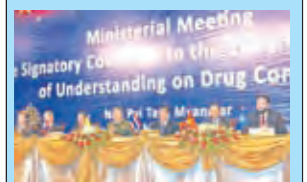
INSIDE

11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship kicks off



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Minister-level meeting on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries



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Chinese Premier meets Israel PM, urging cooperation



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Sultan of Brunei to visit Japan on 12-17 May, meet with PM Abe



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Man United fans digest shock, ponder Fergie-less future



PAGE 14

MAI to start thrice-a-week Yangon-Mandalay flight



YANGON, 9 May— Myanmar Airways International will operate Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon flight service as its first domestic route, it is learnt.

As, three weekly return flights between Yangon and

Mandalay will be run on every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, leaving here for Mandalay at 6.30 am and arriving in Mandalay at 7.40 am and leaving for Yangon at 2 pm and arriving in Yangon at 3.10 pm.

Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon flight will run on 26 May using Airbus A-319 with the seating capacity of 120. MAI currently operates international flights with the use of nine Airbuses.

Kyemon

Compensation for confiscated farmlands awarded in Kantbalu Township

KANTBALU, 9 May— A ceremony to pay compensation to farmers who gave up their farmlands for construction of canal of

Min Myin Dam in Kanbalu Township of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region took place at the office of the township administrator on 1

May. At the ceremony, 104 farmers from Pintha Village and one from Innma Village were presented K 40 million each as compensation for

Motorcyclist killed in speed- related fatal accident

PAKOKKU, 9 May— A motorbike crash occurred near Shwe creek bridge in ward-1 of Pakokku Township, Magway Region at about 2.30 pm on 27 April.

MONYWA, 9 May—A trawlergy loaded with Thanaka woods overturned in Zayitkyae Village in Ayadaw Township in Monywa District and Sagaing Region at 11 pm on 5 May.

The vehicle driven by Soe Nwe of Bantbwagon in Ayadaw Township was bound for Shwebo from Ayadaw.

The high speed is to blame for the accident.

Myanma Alinn

Chit Maung Maung Myint, 35, of ward-3 in Yesagyo Township who on the motorbike died on the spot at the incident after his motorbike skidded out of control and slammed

into a tree near the bridge. The fatal road accident was due to excessive speed. Pakokku police station filed a case and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

Trawlergy plunges in Ayadaw



their farmlands they gave up.

Kyemon

**Take fire preventive
measures**

Illegal gold miners taken into custody in Mogok Township

MANDALAY, 9 May— According to Mandalay Region Police Commander's Office, illegal gold miners who were carrying out gold mining near Namt Pein creek in Mogok of Mandalay Region were charged over gold

mining without an official gold mining licence granted by the Ministry of Mines.

A combined force including police members arrested Aung San, Thant Zin, Lwin Aung, Kyaw Aung, Aung Kyaw Soe, Tun Kyaw, Than Maung and

Myint Zaw together with engine, diesel containers, and materials used for gold mining while mining gold near Nampein creek on Mogok-Kyaukme road in Mogok Township at about 11.40 am on 2 May.

Kyemon

Barber shot dead at his shop in Tachilek



TACHILEK, 9 May— A barber was shot dead by an unknown gunman in his shop which has been kept open since one month ago at a quarter on 12th street in Hsansaing ward (Ka) in

Tachilek of Shan State (East) at about 7 pm on 6 May.

U Sai Kyauk, father of the victim, of ward-2 of Sanpya Village in Kengtung informed the police that his son, Sai Lon Shan, was found

dead with gunshot wounds lying on the floor beside a barber chair when he arrived there as he was informed of his son's death by one of the friends of his son while he was at the house of Nann Si Kham, his daughter. According to witnesses, a gunman was a tall man with a brown complexion dressed in the blue pants and wore a black crash helmet and he fired three shots from his 9 mm pistol.

Tachilek police station filed a case and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

Slash-and-burn farming torches Sein-ta-lone mango plantation in Pinlong Township

PINLONG, 9 May— A plantation in which 500 Sein-ta-lone mango plants are grown got caught in a fire caused by illegal slash-and-burn farming in Pinlong Township of Shan State.

As the owner of

the plantation lodged a complaint at Pinlong Township Court and police station to sue a group of twelve people, who set fire to the plantation for the slash-and-burn farming after illegally entering the plantation, for K 72

million, actions are being taken over damages of five-year-old 500 Sein-ta-lone mango plants. Now six suspects were taken into police custody and investigation is ongoing to expose remaining suspects.

Kyemon

Owner charged over plywood factory food poisoning

HOMALIN, 9 May— With regard to two cases of food poisoning occurred at Lapyae Naga plywood factory at Yaypha village in Homalin Township of Khamti District in Sagaing Region, U Law Lu (a) U Shi Htan Yu, factory owner, was charged over the food poisoning.

Food poisonings broke out at the factory

two times on 11 and 26 February, claiming eight lives. Htamathi police station opened a case and carried out necessary investigations.

Further investigations revealed that unsystematic food storage system and use of unsafe water from the creek in cooking and substandard new mess hall led to the second food poisoning, but food

poisoning-hit mess hall and kitchen were relocated to another place after the first incident.

Regarding the incidents, the factory owner was found guilty that he badly mismanaged the matters. So U Law Lu (a) U Shi Htan Yu, factory owner, was charged over two cases of food poisonings.

Kyemon

Mobile team seizes illegal good-loaded light trucks

WAW, 9 May — According to a tip-off given by a duty-conscious person, Mobile Team seized various kinds of car spare parts and clothing from two light trucks while conducting a search of them at the strategic junction of old and new Sittoung bridges

in Waw Township of Bago Region on 5 May, but the third light truck fled the search.

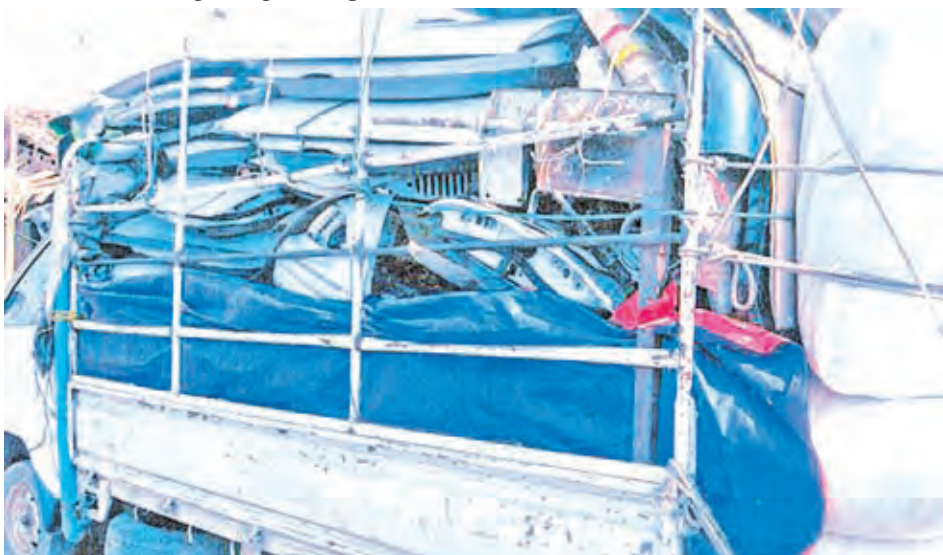
Drivers of the seized light truck with illegal goods also fled the scene.

According to information that the third light truck was found at a

hut in the field, the mobile team rushed there and they discovered it hidden under straw.

They seized 31 kinds of car spare parts, two sewing machines and one electrical appliance worth K 46,486,800.

NLM



WORLD

Finland ranked the best place for being mothers

HELSINKI, 9 May—Finland was considered to be the country where mothers enjoy the best conditions in the world, according to a worldwide report released on Tuesday. The annual report — State of World's Mothers 2013 — was issued by an international NGO "Save the Children" before the Mother's Day in mid-May.

The report was featured by a ranking list of Mothers' index, showing the conditions of mothers in 176 countries—where mothers fare better and where they face more hardships. Among the reviewed countries, Finland was ranked the best country for being mothers followed by Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Holland, and Democratic Republic of Congo was considered to be the toughest place. The mothers' well-being was assessed under five indexes, including maternal health, child mortality, education, working income and political status.

According to the

annual report, one in thirty pregnant women in DR Congo died from maternal causes, while in Finland the ratio was only one in 12,200. As for education, women in DR Congo were likely to be educated for 8.5 years, compared with 17 years in Finland. Nearly 43 percent of Finnish parliamentary seats were held by women, whereas the ratio in DR Congo was only 8 percent.

Although Finland did not perform the absolute "best" in each index, it became the only country with all five indexes ranking among the top 12. China ranked the 68th place, the best ranking among the major emerging developing countries. The international NGO "Save the Children", established in Britain in 1919, is devoted to promote rights, provide relief and give support for children in developing countries. It has published the annual report of State of the World's Mothers since 2000.

Xinhua

Putin says satisfied with Russia-US cooperation

MOSCOW, 9 May—Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday he was satisfied with the level of cooperation between Russia and the United States. "It is good that our contacts with colleagues from the United States are maintained at all level regularly," Putin said during his meeting with visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Recalling two recent telephone talks with his US counterpart, Putin expressed his hope that

the contacts with President Barack Obama could be even closer. "I hope to meet him personally in the near future," Putin said, adding he and Obama "have several possibilities for a meeting this year." According to Putin's Press secretary Dmitry Peskov, a meeting between Putin and Obama is planned during a Group of Eight (G8) summit in Northern Ireland scheduled this June.

Kerry confirmed that Obama is looking forward to meeting with Putin on the sidelines of the G8 summit



Russian President Vladimir Putin

over major international issues including the Syrian crisis, the Iranian nuclear programme and the situation around the Korean Peninsula. As for the reply of a message from Obama to Putin delivered

by US National Security Adviser Tom Donilon who visited Moscow last month, Peskov said the letter was still under preparation and would not be given to Kerry during his visit here.

Xinhua

Chinese Premier meets Israel PM, urging cooperation

BEIJING, 9 May—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday underscored the country's commitment to seek stronger cooperation with Israel and boost the Middle East peace process. Li made the comments in an hour-long talk with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Great Hall of the People.

He reviewed the robust

growth of China-Israel relations since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in 1992, citing rapid development of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The premier said the new Chinese government has placed great importance on developing ties with Israel, calling on the two countries to step up exchanges between governments, parliaments, parties and non-governmental organizations, and work more closely in education, tourism and other people-to-people fields.

I said the Palestinian issue is at the core of factors influencing peace and stability in the Middle East, stressing dialogue is the only effective way to finding peaceful solutions.

He told his guest that China expects Israel and Palestine to work together, take substantive measures to remove obstacles and

create conditions for the restoration and progress of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, which is in the interests of Israel and Palestine and works for regional and world peace and stability. s friends of Israel and Palestine, China has always taken an objective and fair stance and would like to make joint efforts with all parties to promote the Middle East peace process, Li said.

On the economic front, he called on the two countries to expand two-way trade, and add value to it. o deepen science and technology cooperation, Li proposed the two countries jointly build industrial zones and technology-transfer centres to make the best of their advantages. The premier welcomed more Israeli investment in China's cutting-edge technology fields.

Xinhua

China opposes US report on Chinese military

BEIJING, 9 May—Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman on Tuesday expressed "firm opposition" to a Pentagon report that misrepresents China's military development. "We firmly oppose the report and have made representations to the United States," Hua Chunying said at a daily Press briefing.

Her comments came after the US Department of Defence on Monday released its annual report on China's military, expanding its coverage to include more aspects, while still overlooking the country's peaceful defence policy.

The 83-page report, titled Military and Security Development involving the People's Republic of China 2013, includes more information on China's cyber capabilities and activities. While recognizing that China has increased diplomatic engagement and advocacy for the issue of cyber security, the report claimed some of the cyber attacks against US government computer networks in 2012 "appear to be attributable directly to the Chinese government and military."

Hua said the Pentagon report unjustly criticizes China's justified and normal military development, plays up China's military threat and damages trust and cooperation between the two countries. The spokeswoman stressed China has always adhered to the path of peaceful development, pursued a military strategy which is defensive in nature and become a staunch force in safeguarding peace and stability in Asia, the Pacific region and the world.—Xinhua



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (3rd L) holds talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (4th R) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 May, 2013.—XINHUA

UN Security Council condemns detention of peacekeepers in Golan

NEW YORK, 9 May—The UN Security Council on Wednesday issued a statement strongly condemning "armed elements" of the Syrian opposition for holding four peacekeepers in the Golan Heights.

"The members of the Security Council strongly condemned the detention of four United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) peacekeepers from the Philippine Battalion within the Area of Limitation in the vicinity of Al Jamla," the Press statement said, referring to the area where the peacekeepers were monitoring a 1974 cease-fire agreement between Syria and Israel. The 15 member council also demanded

their "unconditional and immediate release" and called on the parties "to cooperate with UNDOF in good faith."

The four were detained on Tuesday while out on patrol. They are still being detained, but there are indications that "the four peacekeepers have not been harmed and efforts are still underway to secure their release," UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon's spokesman, Martin Nesirky, told reporters at a briefing on Wednesday.

The latest incident follows the abduction of 21 UNDOF peacekeepers, also from the Philippines, on 6 March, who were later released.

Kyodo News

Bangladesh factory fire kills eight; collapse toll tops 900

DHAKA, 9 May—Eight people were killed when a fire swept through a clothing factory in Bangladesh, police and an industry association official said on Thursday, as the death toll from the collapse of another factory building two weeks ago climbed above 900.

The fire, in an industrial district of Dhaka, comes amid global attention on safety standards in Bangladesh's booming garment industry following the catastrophic collapse of Rana Plaza, on the outskirts of the city, in the world's deadliest industrial accident since the Bhopal disaster in India in 1984.

"It is not clear to us how the accident happened, but we are trying to find

out the cause," Mohammad Atiqul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), told Reuters.

On Wednesday the Bangladesh government

said it had shut down 18 garment factories for safety reasons following the 24 April collapse of Rana Plaza, which housed five garment factories making clothes for Western brands.

Reuters



A fire fighter works to control a fire at a factory belonging to Tung Hai Group, a large garment exporter, in Dhaka on 9 May, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US court scrutinizes class suit against Google e-book project



A neon Google logo is seen as employees work at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 9 May — A US federal appeals court on Wednesday questioned the reasoning behind a class-action lawsuit against Google Inc over its effort to digitize millions of books, suggesting that many authors could benefit from the project.

Billions of dollars are at stake in the long-running dispute, in which The Authors Guild as well as groups representing photographers and graphic artists argue that the Google Books project amounts to massive copyright infringement.

US returning looted Tyrannosaurus skeleton to Mongolia

WASHINGTON, 9 May — A 70-million-year-old dinosaur skeleton from the Gobi Desert that was smuggled to the United States in pieces and auctioned for more than \$1 million was returned on Monday by the US government to Mongolia.

The huge Tyrannosaurus bataar's skull was on display at a repatriation ceremony near the United Nations in New York, where officials of the US Attorney's Office in Manhattan and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) formally turned over the nearly complete skeleton to Mongolian officials.

Mongolia demanded the return of the 8-foot-tall (2.4 metre), 24-foot-long (7.3 metre), mostly reconstructed cousin of the Tyrannosaurus rex last year after commercial paleontol-

ment.

Google is appealing a lower court's ruling allowing the plaintiffs to pursue a class-action lawsuit rather than file claims individually.

If the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals bars the plaintiffs from suing collectively, it likely would be much harder for them to win a large damages award against Google.

Circuit Judge Pierre Leval, one of three judges hearing Google's appeal, said the company's project could benefit many authors.

ologist Eric Prokopi sold it at a Manhattan auction last spring for \$1.05 million. Prokopi, based in Gainesville, Florida, bought and sold whole and partial fossilized dinosaur skeletons.

US authorities filed charges against Prokopi in October and seized the skeleton, which is comprised of fossilized bones welded to a metal frame.

"This is one of the most important repatriations of fossils in recent years," ICE Director John Morton said in a statement. "We cannot allow the greed of a few looters and schemers to trump the cultural interests of an entire nation."

Morton said the repatriation would "undo a great wrong by returning this priceless dinosaur skeleton to the people of Mongolia."

Reuters



A dinosaur fossil is seen during a ceremony in New York on 6 May, 2013.—REUTERS

It could particularly help writers whose works are more obscure, by telling readers where they could buy their books, he said.

"A lot of authors would say, 'Hey, that's great for me,'" Leval said.

Robert LaRocca, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, argued that a survey of class members that Google conducted was flawed. That survey, plaintiffs said in court papers, showed that 500 authors, or 58 percent of those surveyed, approved of Google's project.

"We think the vast majority of the class support us," he said. The case derives from the Mountain View, California-based company's 2004 agreement with several research libraries to digitize books with a goal of helping researchers and the general public find material.

Google has since scanned more than 20 million books and posted snippets of more than 4 million online. The project could have "enormous value for our culture," said Circuit Judge Barrington Parker.

Reuters

Target tests if Facebook-driven deals bring shoppers into stores

NEW YORK, 9 May — Target Corp is rolling out Cartwheel, a service that combines social networking and discounts, the latest attempt by a US retailer to lure shoppers into its physical stores rather than seeing them buy from online rivals. Target said its new programme relies on shoppers using their Facebook accounts. However, shoppers can only redeem the offers they choose in Target's US stores, not online.

With Cartwheel, shoppers select the deals they want online and then bring a barcode — either on paper or on a mobile phone — to a Target store to get the discounts. Shoppers can see what offers their Facebook friends have chosen, and earn more offers by having their Facebook friends sign up.

This service comes as traditional retailers try to keep shoppers buying from them rather than from Amazon.com Inc and other online-only retailers, especially as shoppers use their smartphones to compare prices.

Twenty percent of

cellphone owners research products using their phones before they buy, and 18 percent of them compare prices on their phones before making a purchase, according to Bill Tancer, general manager of global research for Experian Marketing Services.

Cartwheel follows efforts such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc letting shoppers in some of its US stores scan their goods with their iPhones while they shop and then more quickly proceed through a self-checkout lane. Sears Holdings Corp's "Member Assist"

programme gives its loyal shoppers the ability to get personalized shopping advice from in-store personnel without even stepping foot in a Sears or Kmart store. "It is very fascinating to see the very different approaches that retailers are taking to achieve the same goals," said Carol Spieckerman, president of newmarketbuilders, a retail strategy firm.

Retailers are using digital tools to better cater to shoppers who love to comparison shop while in their stores.—Reuters



A Target employee returns carts to the store in Falls Church, Virginia on 14 May, 2012. Target Corp. (TGT) will report its first quarter results on 16th May.

REUTERS

Looking for a comeback, Zynga embraces austerity and FarmVille



The corporate logo of Zynga Inc, the social network game development company, is shown at its headquarters in San Francisco, California on 26 April, 2012.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 May — In the past twelve months, Zynga Inc has struggled with a contracting player base, a deflated stock price and waves of layoffs. Now it is coming to terms with downsized ambitions.

As Chief Executive Mark Pincus, 47, leads the online games developer he founded in 2007 through perhaps the most crucial year of his tenure, he is pushing to restore revenues by doubling down on

"FarmVille," the franchise that took Facebook users by storm four years ago and launched Zynga to stardom.

Though some industry observers had declared farm simulation games a fad and predicted FarmVille 2's early demise, the sequel to Zynga's best-known title has defied expectations at its San Francisco headquarters, Pincus said in an interview. FarmVille 2 has clung to its perch near the top of Facebook charts and the number of people who play the game each day still hovers near all-time highs of 8 million, even six months after launch.

Given a glaring weakness in mobile games, however, one of Zynga's current priorities is porting FarmVille 2 to mobile devices so players can move from PCs to smartphones and back without losing their data. That presented technical challenges that the company is ironing out, Pincus said.

"The ideal is to make that one seamless experience between Web and mobile so you can take your farming experience from work to home," Pincus said. "We're having to retool and reinvent around our process and technology."

Pincus badly needs a reliable hit franchise. In the past nine months, Zynga has shuttered 20 titles and closed offices in Baltimore, Boston and Tokyo. It has trimmed 5 percent of its workforce, though its headcount of nearly 3,000 still dwarfs that of fierce rivals like Supercell, a Finnish company with 100 people that claims an equivalent amount of revenue, or the 600-strong Rovio, the publisher behind the "Angry Birds" games.

Gone is the swagger

that defined the early years, when Zynga's army of developers flooded the market with dozens of new titles from cooking games to bingo variations, its dealmakers splashed money to snap up smaller rivals, and its managers opened studios in cities around the world.

Wall Street is viewing Pincus' shift with cautious approval, having been singed by Zynga's abysmal stock performance — an 80 percent decline over the past year that began around the time it invested \$180 million in then-promising game studio OMGPOP.

Almost 18 months after going public, Zynga is staving off fierce competition from newer or nimbler rivals that mimic its games.

Supercell, founded in 2010, has scored with "Hay Day," an iPad game that contains elements resembling FarmVille. With just one other game under its belt, Supercell says it is on track to make more than \$800 million in revenue this year, roughly equal to the \$860 million that Wall Street expects from Zynga in 2013.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Tim Hortons names new CEO; profit and stock drop



Tim Hortons Inc interim Chief Executive Paul House poses for a portrait at a Tim Hortons coffee shop in Toronto on 12 July, 2012. REUTERS

TORONTO, 9 May — Tim Hortons Inc (THI.TO) named a long-time Nestle executive as its new chief on Wednesday, a job that will be no easy task given drooping demand at the Canadian coffee and doughnut chain and a push by a US hedge fund for better returns.

Shares of Tim Hortons, which boasts that it sells eight of every 10 cups of coffee sold in Canada, fell more than 2.5 percent after the company posted its first decline in established store sales since its 2006 initial public offering.

The company, under pressure from hedge fund

Highfields Capital to boost shareholder returns, said it is considering the Boston-based fund's key demands. But any change will await its new CEO, Nestle (NESN.VX) veteran Marc Cairn, a 59-year-old Canadian. Highfields wants the chain to take on new debt to buy back shares and believes that Tim Hortons' US returns do not justify further investment there.

It also wants the company to enter into less capital-intensive franchise deals in the United States or scrap its US expansion plans, according to documents seen by Reuters. Interim CEO Paul House said Tims won't pull back from

the US market, but is studying a plan to work with well-funded franchisees who could operate multiple locations there.

Tim Hortons said it will also consider taking on additional debt and study what would be its "optimal" capital structure considering historically low interest rates. Increased debt could affect its tax rate and investment grade credit rating, it warned. But executives said they had already considered and rejected a Highfields proposal to create a real estate investment trust to house Tim Hortons property assets because it would not create significant value.—Reuters

Freddie Mac posts second-biggest profit in its history

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Freddie Mac (FMCC.OB), the No 2 provider of US mortgage money, on Wednesday said it reaped its second-largest profit ever in the first quarter, a reflection of housing market gains that have taken the steam out of efforts to revamp the nation's home loan system.

told reporters on a conference call.

Freddie Mac, which faced insolvency when it was seized by the US government in 2008 along with its larger rival Fannie Mae (FNMA.OB), paid \$5.8 billion to the US Treasury in the first quarter as a dividend payment under



The headquarters of mortgage lender Freddie Mac is seen in Mclean, Virginia, near Washington, in this on 8 Sept, 2008 file photo.—REUTERS

The government-controlled company reported net income of \$4.6 billion for the first three months of the year, up from \$577 million in the year-ago quarter. It cited rising home prices, falling mortgage delinquencies and increased refinance activity for the improved performance.

It was the company's sixth straight quarterly profit and the largest since a \$5.7 billion gain in the third quarter of 2002. "The strong rebound in the housing market ... continues to be reflected in our excellent financial performance," Freddie Mac Chief Executive Officer Donald Layton

the terms of its government bail-out.

It said it would make another \$7 billion payment in June, and suggested it could record gains on \$30.1 billion worth of assets it had written down as early as in the second quarter, leading to an even bigger payment.

Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, which together own or guarantee about half of US home loans, have tapped \$187.5 billion in taxpayer aid since being placed in conservatorship. But they have both returned to profitability, helped by the Federal Reserve's aggressive efforts to lower interest rates.—Reuters

Tesla first-quarter profit tops forecast, lifts sales outlook

DETROIT, 9 May — Tesla Motors Inc (TSLA.O) reported its first-ever quarterly profit on Wednesday, trouncing Wall Street estimates, as the 10-year-old automaker delivered nearly 5,000 Model S electric cars during the first three months of the year.

The company, led by billionaire Elon Musk, said it expects to deliver 21,000 Model S cars worldwide, up 5 percent from its earlier target of 20,000. Eventually, global demand for its Model S electric car may surpass 30,000 vehicles a year, it said.

The automaker reached its profit milestone at a time of increased difficulty for other "green" car startups, including Fisker Automotive. Tesla's recent fortunes and growth prospects have

surprised analysts, suppliers and even Tesla executives.

The automaker reported adjusted first-quarter earnings of 12 cents per share, triple the 4 cents per share expected by analysts, on average, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Tesla also reported higher-than-expected revenue of \$562 million. The company sold 4,900 cars in the first quarter, topping its initial forecast of 4,500.

The first-quarter results sent Tesla shares up 17 percent to \$65.50 in after-hours trading on the Nasdaq. Tesla shares have risen more than two-thirds this year.

The Model S, Tesla's second model after the more expensive Roadster, is Tesla's effort to reach a



A logo of Tesla Motors on an electric car model is seen outside a showroom in New York on 28 June, 2010. REUTERS

broader group of buyers. A Model S equipped with a 60 kilowatt battery starts at around \$70,000 before a \$7,500 tax credit.

Tesla said revenue from credit sales would tumble over the course of the year. Even so, the car maker reiterated that it expects to make gross mar-

gins of 25 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Tesla's profit stands in sharp contrast to other green car startups that have struggled over the last year, particularly its luxury rival Fisker, which makes the Karma plug-in hybrid.

Reuters

News Corp results beat estimates, spin-off on track

NEW YORK, 9 May — Rupert Murdoch's News Corp reported quarterly earnings that beat Wall Street expectations, aided by growth at its cable networks, and said it is on track to split off its slow-growing publishing business by the end of June. Its revenue rose 14 percent from a year earlier to \$9.5 billion in the quarter, ended 31 March, News Corp said on Wednesday. The company posted adjusted earnings of 36 cents per share, just beating the 35 cents expected on average by analysts, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

News Corp shares rose 3.6 percent to \$33.00 in after-hours trading, after closing at \$31.86 on the Nasdaq. One-time items, including the purchase of a controlling stake in German pay TV operator Sky



A passer-by stands in front of the News Corporation building in New York on 28 June, 2012. REUTERS

Deutschland and the sale of an ownership stake in New Zealand's Sky Network Television, helped lift net income to \$2.85 billion, a jump from \$937 million a year earlier.

The New York-based company said it is on track to separate its cable channels, movie studio and other fast growing entertainment assets from its newspapers, including *The Wall Street Journal*, near the end of its fiscal year in June.

Its entertainment assets helped boost revenue and earnings for the quarter, led by its cable networks business, which includes the Fox News Channel, FX and regional sports networks. Operating income at the cable network programming unit rose 17 percent from a year earlier to \$993 million, as channels in the United States and abroad commanded higher fees from cable operators and more advertising revenue.—Reuters

Could vaginal delivery be safer for preemies?

NEW YORK, 9 May — Very premature babies have fewer breathing problems when they're born through vaginal delivery compared to cesarean section, a new study of more than 20,000 newborns suggests.

Based on those cases, researchers found that regardless of why a C-section was performed — whether because of pregnancy-related complications or the mother's medical problems, for example — vaginal delivery tended to be safer.

"My suspicion is that the labour process, the contractions, that natural squeezing probably does something to clear out the lungs so that when babies are born they have a better breathing status," said Dr Erika Werner, who led the new study at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore.

"If a vaginal delivery is safe, it's something that should be attempted," she said. The rate of C-sections in the United States has been rising for all pregnancies, leading some to worry about possible complications for mothers and babies. According to the US Centres for Disease Control

and Prevention, C-sections accounted for almost 1 in 3 births in 2010 — up from 1 in 5 in 1996.

There are certain circumstances — such as when a woman is bleeding or a baby has a drop in heart rate — when a C-section is required, Werner said.

Reuters



Premature babies lie on their cribs at the Fabella government maternity hospital in Manila on 5 Aug, 2012. —REUTERS

NATIONAL

Public announcement on actions of ministries concerned on letters of suggestion sent to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

Undertakings over the question about customs and port clearances of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue

1. Starting from 4-3-2013, it takes 20 minutes to handle a container at the port through green channel, 30 minutes through yellow channel and 50 minutes through red channel under Risk Management system.
2. Port clearance procedures were eased from seven steps to six steps.
3. To avoid loss of files submitted by agents and companies to Customs Department, steps are taken systematically with the use of Acknowledgement Receipt from E-Customs, documents together with ID from Noting Section and Time Sheet.
4. Office works of the Customs Department are being carried out by fulfilling the needs of manpower and work procedures were eased from six steps to five steps. C.M.P and exports cases are completed in a single day.
5. Regarding overage vehicle substitution program and import of vehicles through individual special permit, fines exemption is awarded to the vehicles which are one model year old.
6. Regarding changes in orders and laws of Customs Department, adequate time for the change will be taken into consideration if an order or directive is issued.
7. While conducting checks on goods at Yangon International Airport by customs staff, directives have been always given to them to do their jobs humbly

through close supervision.

Undertakings over the question about banking service

1. Relaxation of restrictions at Myanmar Economic Bank started on 2-4-2013 and officials themselves are monitoring the banking service at the counters.
2. In accord with anti-money laundering law, all banks across the country have been informed by the Central Bank of Myanmar that recommendations of two people who have savings accounts at bank are need to open a new savings account. Now officers and other ranks of Myanmar Economic Bank are allowed to give recommendations to the customer who is willing to open a new savings account in order to facilitate the process of opening a savings account at bank.
3. No questions will be needed to open a new savings account if all necessary requirements are fulfilled while documents are under scrutiny for opening of a new savings account at Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank.
4. It is required to translate B.O.D Resolution (Board of Director Resolution), among documents submitted by companies, written in Russian, Japanese, Chinese and other languages into English to make Notary. Another recommendation of Myanmar embassies concerned in respective countries is needed. The document written in English is not required to make Notary and the account is opened quickly.
5. E-Pension system with fewer restrictions is a very quick system that saves a lot of time in drawing pensions through E-Pension cards. Only those who are unable to draw pension in person are to use certificate of general power.

Undertakings over the question about the Department of Road Transport Administration

1. Since March 2012, short-term driving courses (three-day course for motorbike driving and five-day course for vehicle driving) have been organized at region/state/district offices of the department, aiming at emergence of qualified drivers and developing awareness of traffic rules.
2. Only the driving licence is a valid document that allows driving vehicles and it is irreplaceable. Traffic rules enforcement agencies cannot accept temporary or permanent substitutions with other documents. Office Order was sent to all offices under the department that are allowed to conduct driving courses that only Myanmar Driving Licence officially issued by the Directorate of Road Transport Administration is a valid driving licence to show at the time when the vehicle

is checked.

Undertakings of Myanmar Petrol Chemical Enterprise on import of gas lighter

1. With respect to the suggestion letter on delay in importing gas lighters by Zulu Alpha Co., Ltd, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy has formed an inspection team comprising an officer from Mining Department on 24-1-2013 to inspect whether or not company's workplace is safety.
2. The Ministry of Energy has inspected it in line with the procedures. It is known that the Ministry could not take any actions against the company as the company informed that they has already got import license from Ministry of Commerce and refused to get inspected.

Undertakings for smooth running of local and foreign passengers at Yangon International Airport

1. The following works have been carried out
 - (a) **extension of Airport Inspection Counters**
 - (i) The number of Overseas Arrival counters has been extended to 21 from 18 on 17-9-2012
 - (ii) The number of Overseas Departure counters has been extended to 16 from 10 on 24-11-2011
 - (b) **Issue of Visa on Arrival**
Visa-on-Arrival at Yangon International Airport was issued to passengers from 27 countries on 1-6-2012 and extended to another 22 countries on 1-2-2013 and Nepal on 18-3-2013, totaling 50 countries.
 - (c) **General relaxations**
 - (i) relaxation on Form-D requirements on 15-3-2013
 - (ii) start using arrival/departure rubber stamps as automatic-dated ink system on 1-4-2013
 - (iii) giving training to inspection staff
 - (iv) Thanks to the above-mentioned points, inspections are being made as of 1 April, 2013 in line with the following standards.
 - (aa) **Arrival**
-30 seconds for a Myanmar passenger and 45 seconds for a foreigner
 - (bb) **Departure**
-45 seconds for a Myanmar passenger and a foreigner
2. If there are complaints about the undertakings of respective ministries and any enquiry, anyone may contact Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee

Public Services Capacity Assessment Committee

Myanmar secures two gold medals in 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Vietnam tops the chart of medals in 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship held as pre-meet for XXVII SEA Games at Wunnatheikdhi Sports Ground today.

Athletes from Myanmar, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Laos are participating in the championship. Vietnam leads the medal charts

with nine gold, three silver and one bronze medals followed by Myanmar with two gold, two silver and eight bronze; the Philippines with one gold, five silver and five bronze; Malaysia with one silver and five bronze; Thailand with one gold, two silver and three bronze; Singapore with one gold and one bronze; Indonesia with one silver and three bronze and Laos with one bronze.—MNA

WORLD

Assad's forces capture strategic town in southern Syria



A Free Syrian Army fighter is seen near a mortar in Khirbet Ghazaleh, Daraa, on 3 May, 2013.—REUTERS

AMMAN, 9 May—The Syrian army captured a strategic southern town from rebel fighters on Wednesday after a ferocious two-month bombardment, in an advance

likely to result in President Bashar al-Assad's forces regaining control of an international transit route, opposition sources said. The fall of Khirbet Ghazaleh, situated in

the Hauran Plain on the highway to Jordan, came after a Jordanian-backed Syrian opposition military council failed to supply weapons to the town's defenders.

This raised resentment among opposition fighters over what they saw as a lack of Jordanian support for their efforts to defeat Assad's forces in the region, according to rebel commanders and activists in the area. The Hauran Plain, which extends to the Israeli occupied Golan Heights, is the birthplace of the revolt against four decades of family rule by Assad and his late father, which erupted in the city of Daraa in March 2011.

Reuters

Azevedo looks to resurrect WTO with patient diplomacy

BRASILIA, 9 May—Roberto Azevedo, picked on Tuesday to head the World Trade Organization, is in every respect the quintessential Brazilian diplomat: a well-spoken, competent and smooth negotiator with a knack for wooing adversaries into his corner. A career diplomat with two decades of experience dealing with trade disputes, Azevedo will need those qualities more than ever to bridge the gap between developed and developing nations if he wants to reboot stalled global trade negotiations and breathe new life into the Geneva-based WTO.

It is a huge task. With the global economy still

struggling, protectionism is on the rise and faith in free trade — and the WTO itself — is running low in many countries. Azevedo has built his career advocating for a country with a less-than-stellar record when it comes to free trade. Brazil is the most closed major economy in the Americas, according to International Monetary Fund data, and it played a key role in derailing talks last decade to create a hemisphere-wide free trade area. But Azevedo insists that Brazil's oft-criticized trade policies won't influence his actions as director-general of the WTO when he succeeds France's Pascal Lamy on 1



Roberto Azevedo, Brazil's permanent representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), speaks during an interview with Reuters in London on 14 March, 2013.

REUTERS

September. "As Director of the WTO, I will not be representing Brazil," he told Reuters last week.

Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar delegation attends 46th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and related meetings



NAYPYITAW, 9 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein attended the 46th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and related meetings, paper-reading session and workshops held at India Expo Centre and Mart (IECM) in New Delhi of India from 2 to 5 May. The meeting was also attended by representatives of ADB member countries, officials of international financial institutions, development partnerships and civil societies, media men and diplomats.

The Union minister and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein took part in the 16th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting on 3 May. The meeting focused on economic prospects and policy matters, global and regional economy, ways and means to address challenges, establishment of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, multinational participation in Chaing Mai

programme, loan insurance and investment, integration of ASEAN+3 bond markets and work progress and future tasks. After the meeting, a joint-statement was issued at the press conference.

At the informal meeting between ASEAN-Japan Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the Union minister discussed matters related to financial and economic integration, calling for further strengthening of ASEAN-Japan cooperation.

On 4 May, Union Ministers U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw and Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyein attended a workshop on “Progress of Myanmar Reform Processes” held at IECM in New Delhi and acted as members of the board of chairmen together with the Vice-President of Asia and Pacific Regional Office of ADB and the Director of Asia and Pacific Regional Office of IMF.

On 5 May, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw acted as a member of the board of chairmen of

Connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia meeting, jointly-organized by Asian Development Bank Institute and Myanmar at IECM. The Union minister made

Mandalay Region Chief Minister visits construction sites

MANDALAY, 9 May—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Region Social Affairs Minister U Win Hlaing and officials, visited construction site of a nine-storey building in the compound of Mandalay General Hospital on 5 May.

He inspected installation of newly arrived equipment of cancer department there.

Medical superintendent Dr U Win, and officials of Aung Chan Aye Construction Company and UKT Construction Company conducted round and elaborated on progress in construction of nine-storey 400-bed building.

The Chief Minister called for completion of the project on schedule and systematic sewage management and drainage system. Head of cancer

clarifications on progress in ongoing reform processes of Myanmar, investment law and bylaws, liberalization in financial sector, establishment of economic zones, implementation of development plan and poverty alleviation scheme, and capital and technological needs for upgrading of Asia Highway in Myanmar.

Union Minister U Win Shein met the President, the Vice-President and the Director-General of ADB, the US Assistant Secretary of Treasury, the Australian MP and officials of OPEC Fund, JICA and Mizuho Corporate Bank separately and held talks on further economic and financial cooperation with Myanmar.—MNA

Free healthcare provided to elder persons



MONYWA, 9 May—Free healthcare services are provided weekly to the elder persons in Debayin Township in Shwabo District in Sagaing Region.

Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Health Department provided free health care to the elders and monks over 60 at Township MCWA office on 3 May.

Dr Aung Kyaw Win, head of Township Health Department, provided treatment and educative talks to patients every Wednesday.

It eases the elders' mind about their health, Daw Htay Htay Thauang, an older person receiving treatment, said. 90 elders are receiving treatments there.—Myanma Alinn



department of Mandalay General Hospital Dr Khin Cho Win briefed the Chief Minister on newly arrived Linear Accelerator.

The hospital would be able to provide more effective treatment to cancer

patients with three linear accelerators.

He also inspected progress in construction of Mandalay football stadium and sports ground.

At construction site of the stadium, the Chief

Minister heard report on progress in construction of the stadium presented by project engineer U Tun Tun Win of Max Myanmar Construction Co Ltd with slideshows.

Myanma Alinn

MCDC opens clerical works, computing, English courses



MANDALAY, 9 May—Mandalay City Development Committee is conducting clerical works and computing refresher course and English language proficiency course.

The courses opening ceremony was held at City Hall at 8 am on 6 May.

Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung

Moung delivered an address at the opening ceremony.

He said the course is aimed at boosting capacity of individual staff. He called on the staff to learn civil service law, rules and regulations and follow them and to serve the people, combining capacity, experience to secure confidence of members of the public.

The advanced clerical

works refresher course No. 1/2013 is being attended by 37 staff and will run through 14 June while the computing refresher course through 5 July is being attended by 20 staff. A total of 30 staff are attending English language proficiency course No. 2/2013 through 31 July. A total of 87 staff are taking the classes.

Myanma Alinn

Library opened in Sedoktara Township

SEDOKTARA, 9 May—Pwint Yadana Library was opened in Pwintdaik village in Sedoktara Township in Minbu District at 11 am on 5 May.

Head of District Information and Public Relations Department U

Khin Win delivered a speech at the ceremony, calling for efforts to help the library endure.

He also donated books and publications to the library through its officials.

The government funded K 1 million on the

construction of the library plus K 95,260 contribution by the people.

It has the length of 24 ft, width of 14 ft and height of 12 ft.

It is the brick building with CI sheet roof.

Myanma Alinn

Refresher course for police officers opened

NAYPYITAW, 9 May—A refresher course for police officers of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force was opened at No. 5 Police Station here on 6 May.

A total of 24 police officers from eight police forces under the Nay Pyi Taw Police Force are attending the course that will run through 17 May.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Col Aung Aung delivered an address at the opening ceremony.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 May, 2013

Civic education

Our country is now on the road to democracy. Thanks to the efforts of the new government, Myanmar becomes a well-known country in the international community. A flood of foreign investments is flowing into the country. In its taking steps towards a democratic country, civic education plays a crucial role. It needs to equip our citizens with civic education.

Civic education may be defined as the process of educating citizens on their rights, duties and responsibility to empower and motivate them to identify what areas of the political and governance processes they can effectively participate in; what they can do to influence political outcomes and thereby improve the quality of governance at both local and national levels.

It is a critical and effective empowerment tool for promoting citizens' participation in democratic and development processes. It empowers citizens both as individuals and as part of collective groupings in the society, with knowledge, requisite skills, motivation and confidence to assert and exercise their rights and responsibility in holding the government accountable. This enhances the government's transparency and contributes greatly to its credibility and public confidence in its systems.

In a democratic society, the possibility of effecting social change is ever present, if citizens have the knowledge, the skills and the will to bring it about. That knowledge, those skills and the will or necessary traits of private and public character are the products of a good civic education.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop with Myanmar Dairy Sector Representatives on Presentation of Draft Dairy Activities Concept Notes held

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Aimed at ensuring physical and brain development in school children, providing the public with nutritious milk and dairy products and development of dairy cattle breeding and dairy product manufacturing sector, regional dairy development boards have been formed in regions and states so far. More efforts are needed to establish dairy cattle breeding farms and value-added dairy product factories, said Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint at Stakeholder Consultation Workshop with Myanmar Dairy Sector Representatives on Presentation of Draft Dairy Activities Concept Notes held at the ministry yesterday.

The Union minister called for production of technology-driven value-added dairy products for

export, measures to generate more incomes of dairy cattle breeders and participation of all in establishment of small-scale milk processing plants in each and every region. It is required to draft a sustainable plan for development of Myanmar dairy cattle breeding sector to which New Zealand government offered to render assistance, he added.

Next, Mr. Geoffrey Mavromatis, leader of the group of designing the plan, elaborated the planning programme and those present took part in discussions.

The plan which is under discussion to be drawn will last five years from 2013 to 2018. The first stage will last one and a half year and the remaining period will be designated as the second stage that will push ahead taking lessons from the first stage.

MNA

IFAD to offer USD 36 million of loans for Myanmar's ...

(from page 1)

After that, the President looked round the mechanized farming (3000-acre) plantation and test running of Mango Processing Plant in Alyinlo village. He urged private companies to use high technology and machinery on an extensive scale for export of agricultural produce to customer markets.

The President held talks with Chairman of President's National Economic and Social Advisory Council U Tin Htut Oo and Country Programme Manager Dr Wang of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Agricultural Economist Mr Rayner, Mr Arban and Ms R. Rosal on offering of IFAD's low-interest loans for Myanmar farm sector

development.

As the first phase, IFAD will offer USD 36 million of loans that can be used in the process of transformation into mechanized farming system. Coordination with respective departments will be made so that the collective use of loans in farm sector development will achieve success.

The President welcomed IFAD's low-interest loans for transformation into mechanized farming

system which is a basic requirement for farm sector development and urged officials to implement it in coordination with respective ministries.

IFAD and respective ministries held discussions on cooperation for huge investments by private sector on required high technologies and processing plants for export of farm sector produces including paddy to international markets.

MNA

NPED Ministry, WB Group jointly organize Introduction to...

(from page 1)

Ans: U Soe Thane (Union Minister at President Office):

Thanks to cooperation with the World Bank, we see

We are making cooperation with the WB. In the past, we did not get such aids. Other countries and India got USD 2.5 billion and Bangladesh, over USD 800

Ms. Annette

Dixon

(Country

Director,

The World

Bank)

answering

questions.

MNA



U Soe Thane

(Union

Minister at

President

Office)

replies to

queries.

MNA



Vietnam that see all-round development as they were granted loans with low interest.

Q: Let me know the main tasks of the WB and which sectors it focuses to cooperate with Myanmar and further cooperation in the future.

Ms. Annette Dixon (Country Director, The World Bank)

A: Our projects are intended to help the government's reform process for the sake of the people. We place emphasis on infrastructural development in Myanmar. Development of electric power sector is also prioritized. It is planned to cooperate with the departments concerned for ensuring the wider use of mobile phones among the public. Development of education is no exception sector.

To make financial management of the government to be effective and efficient in the projects, cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Revenue is underway.

World Bank is taking steps to join hands with the government for the sake of the people. Works will be carried out, listening to the voices of the people.

Q: May I know work

progress regarding the projects which are under cooperation between Myanmar and World Bank.

Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung (Deputy Director-General, Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development)

A: World Bank's cooperation with Myanmar could start this year after 25 years. Cooperation in poverty alleviation scheme and infrastructural development in Myanmar is in progress.

Further cooperation will be made in the areas of village electrification, telecommunications, ICT, education and mining. Close cooperation goes on. I heard World Bank will open its branch offices in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. So it is learnt that World Bank is cooperating with the government as well as regional organizations.

The World Bank Group is an organization that provides loans and array of technical assistance to developing countries across the world. It is formed with IBRD, IDA, IFC, ICSID and MIGA that are playing their respective roles in the drive to alleviate poverty and to improve living standards of the people. — MNA

NATIONAL

11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship kicks off



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents gifts to an athlete at 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May— As a dress rehearsal for XXVII SEA Games, the Taekwondo Championship was held at Wunnatheikdhi Aye Myint. President of Myanmar

Taekwondo Federation U Mya Han and Vice-President of ASEAN Taekwondo Federation Mr Milan Kwee extended the greetings.

After that, Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered an opening speech and opened the ceremony.

Afterwards, the Vice-President greeted sports teams and presented gifts to them. The Vice-President and wife enjoyed the competition. Athletes from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are participating in the three-day competition hosted by Myanmar.

“We have much time for preparation of SEA Games and get a lot of experience. This is the first time in Myanmar. It is expected that our federation will secure six gold medals in the

competition,” said Secretary of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Zaw Win.

Joint Secretary U Mya Thein said, “Athletes are under training camps for two years. I expect our athletes will win gold medals in the coming SEA Games.”

With respect to the completion of sports grounds and gymnasiums, Director U Khin Maung Kywe of Max Myanmar Company Ltd said, “Football ground is cent per cent complete. Gymnasium has been completed by 90 percent. Other buildings will complete in coming May and June.”

Director U Kyaw Moe Win of Sports and Physical Education Department said, “International experts will inspect sports grounds and gymnasiums ahead of six months before the SEA Games. Sports grounds and gymnasiums have been completed by 85 percent.”

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Former member of House of Councilors of Japan and President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe, at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this afternoon.

They exchanged a cordial view on further promoting relations between Tatmadaws of the two countries, cultural cooperation between Myanmar and Japan, Myanmar’s peace and stability and development

and Nippon Foundation’s aids to Myanmar’s education, health, human resources and technological development.

Also present at the call together with the Senior General were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief.

The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Chairman of the Nippon Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa and officials.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for photo with Mr Hideo Watanabe and party.

MNA



Ministerial meeting on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries held



Ministerial meeting on MoU and drug control cooperation between six countries in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May— The Ministerial meeting on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries was held at Grand Ballroom of Thingha Hotel, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Director Mr. John Sandage of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered addresses on the occasion. It was also attended by delegates from the six countries of MoU on drug control cooperation, representatives from UNODC (headquarters) and resident representatives of UNODC, departmental heads and officials concerned.

The Union Minister highlighted the menace of

drugs and importance of international cooperation. He pointed out that Myanmar has only two years to go to complete its 15-year plan and the plan has been extended another five years to effectively carry out anti-drug drives. He also stressed Myanmar’s seriousness on Drug Free ASEAN in 2015.

Laotian delegation leader Mr. Kau Chansina, the former patron of 2011 Ministerial level meeting on MoU on Drug control cooperation, handed over the duties to Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko who would chair the meeting.

Resident Representative Mr. Jeremy Douglas of UNODC elaborated on current condition of drugs

abuse and drug trafficking.

The heads of the member countries made speeches and approved the report of the high-ranking senior officers’ meeting held in Yangon from 6-7 May. The heads of the member countries approved Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on MoU on drug control cooperation between six countries and they signed the MoU.

Next, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, on behalf of the heads of the member countries, explained the history of MoUs, success and the purpose of signing the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, and answered the questions raised by local and foreign media.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Nation-Building Endeavours

Kyaukpadaung Township gets one more transformer

KYAUKPADAUNG, 9 May—A new 66/11 KV-5 MVA transformer was installed in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region.

K y a u k p a d a u n g

Township installed a self-reliant 66/11 KV-5 MVA transformer which generates four megawatts in 1993.

The transformer distributes power to 12 wards and 14 villages.

Electricity Supply Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power has allowed the installation of transformer there in 2012-2013 financial year.

Kyemon



Officials inspect newly-installed transformer in Kyaukpadaung.

New pylons erected in Kengtung

KENG TUNG, 9 May—Erecting of new pylons and installment of related materials for power line are being carried out by the supervisor and line in-charge from Township Electrical Engineer's Office of Electricity Supply Enterprise

in Kengtung.

The 24 hour electricification works are being implemented by adopting plans in Kengtung. Efforts are being made to supply 24 hour electricity in cooperation with national entrepreneurs.—Kyemon



Conflict reporting course concludes in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 9 May—The conflict reporting course, jointly conducted by Myanmar Peace Center and International Media Support Group, concluded at Hotel Queen in Chanayethazan Township, here, on 7 May.

Mr Binod Bhattarai, International Media Support Trainer of Nepal presented completion certificates. Three-day course is aimed at

promoting the qualifications of reporters who cover the conflict news and peace process.

Those who want to attend the courses in Yangon, Sittway, Mawlamyine and Patheingyi may dial 09-450063912 and 09-450044210. Those eligible will have to take the course free of charge.

Kyemon

Phaya Creek Bridge upgrading works meet cent per cent

KYAIKLAT, 9 May—Among the three bridges building across Phaya Creek, the newly-built bridge situated on Yangon-Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon-Bogale Highway is of vital importance to local people.

Phaya Creek Bridge has been upgraded year after year since 1999-2000 FY. Due to flux of vehicles running over it, the bridge called for upgrading works for its durability. So, the bridge has been upgraded into the reinforced concrete one which is 50 feet in length, 20 feet in width and 14 feet in height since 10-2-2013 and it has now been finished cent per cent. The vehicles were allowed to pass the bridge on 7-5-2013. Now people are enjoying the fruitful results of upgrading works.

Kyemon



Maize farmers earn high income

YEDASHE, 9 May—Livelihoods of local people in Kyaukchaung Village in Yedashe Township largely rely on maize growing.

Now they enjoy benefit from their maize plantations.

U Thein Hlaing, one of maize growers said that his effort in maize growing earned him K 2.2 million this harvest season and he expected to get more profit to be able to buy farm equipment.—Kyemon

Nyaungdon Nyaung Chaungtha draws holiday makers

NYAUNGDON, 9 May—A large mass of sandbank is forming near Nyaungdon river bank that used to experience bank erosions in Nyaungdon, 34 miles from Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region.

It has become a new place for local people and Yangonites to do outdoor recreation activities.

As Nyaungdon river possesses characteristics of being freshwater river originated from Ayeyawady River, having clean and clear water, a level river bed and a large mass sandbank,

Nyaung Chaungtha is always crowded with flocks of holiday makers on weekends.

"People were allowed to visit Nyaung Chaungtha for recreation starting from 27 February 2012. It has become a new business place for our vendors who are doing a brisk trade. I feel very happy," says a local vendor.

A visitor expresses his feeling like this.

"It is my third visit to Nyaung Chaungtha. It is safe here if visitors stay in the prescribed swimming area. Deaths from drowning were due to drunken swimming.

Want to donate drinking water in Twantay Township?

TWANTAY, 9 May—Kyimyindine Township and Gyaungwinegyi, Gyaungwinelay, Kyunkalay and Chaungphyar Villages near Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township are facing drinking water scarcity in the summer.

Township Development Affairs Committee distributed drinking water to Kyunkalay and Chaungphyar

Villages with the use of two bowers yesterday.

"We provide safe water to villages which are under water stress in the summer, an official of the township development affairs committee, said officials."

Water donors may dial 045-50012.

Kyemon

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in

Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).—MNA

For those who cannot afford to go Chaungtha, it has become their option for recreation. Even tourists flock to this beach," he said.

Crowds throng Nyaung Chaungtha at the weekend. Most visitors are from Yangon.

Kyemon



REGIONAL

Japan aiming to develop 100 times faster supercomputer

TOKYO, 9 May — Japan's science ministry has decided to develop a next-generation supercomputer by 2020 that will operate 100 times faster than the country's fastest supercomputer "K" amid tough global competition, ministry officials said on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will seek funding for the design of the new supercomputer in its budget request for fiscal 2014, the officials said. The K supercomputer, jointly developed with Fujitsu Ltd and the state-backed Riken research institute, was the first in the world to perform 10 quadrillion computa-

tions per second. But as of November, it has slipped into third place globally in computing speed. It now ranks behind the Titan and Sequoia supercomputers in the United States.

According to a biannual ranking of the world's 500 fastest supercomputers, the K supercomputer ranked first in 2011 but slipped to second place in June 2012. The ministry is hoping to use the next-generation supercomputer to develop drugs and contribute to disaster prevention by predicting earthquakes and tsunami, among other purposes, the officials said. It is envisioned that the new supercomputer will achieve

an exaflop capability, performing a quintillion computations per second.

With supercomputers regarded as a barometre of a nation's scientific and technological capabilities, other countries such as the United States and China as well as some European nations are planning to develop exaflop-capable supercomputers by around 2020. The science ministry is hoping to keep the cost of developing the new supercomputer below the 110 billion yen required for the development of the K supercomputer, the officials said, adding where the supercomputer will be built has yet to be determined.

Kyodo News

Sultan of Brunei to visit Japan on 12-17 May, meet with PM Abe

TOKYO, 9 May — Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei will visit Japan on 12 to 17 May, with plans to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe next Monday, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the two leaders are expected to discuss strengthening ties between Japan and Brunei, a country rich in natural gas that is chair of the Association of South-east Asian Nations this year.

The sultan is also expected to meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during his stay.

Kyodo News



Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei

New Zealand government rules out patents on computer software programmes

WELLINGTON, 9 May — The New Zealand government on Thursday backed down from plans to allow the patenting of computer programs in the face of fierce opposition from the high-tech industry, which feared it would be opened up to harassing lawsuits from foreign multinationals. Commerce Minister Craig Foss released a supplementary order paper to the Patents Bill currently before Parliament, which clearly stated that computer programmes should not be patentable.

"I would like to thank the New Zealand software and IT sector for their engagement over the last few months. I'm confident

we've reached a solution where we can continue to protect genuine inventions and encourage Kiwi businesses to export and grow," Foss said in a statement. The main opposition Labour Party called it a humiliating backdown from plans that had caused uproar in the country's burgeoning IT industry and threatened to smother innovation.

"Last year Craig Foss gave in to patent lawyers and multinational software players and sought to impose a software patents system on our IT sector," Labour's communications and IT spokesperson Clare Curran said in a statement. "Now, finally Craig Foss has fessed up and admitted

he got it wrong. This is a victory for our industry, which is worth around 11 percent of our GDP." The Institute of IT Professionals (IITP), New Zealand's largest IT representative body, said the clarification had removed a major barrier to software-led innovation.

"It is in New Zealand's best interests for software to continue to be covered through the provisions of copyright in the same way movies and books are, rather than through the patent system, which has significant problems," IITP chief executive Paul Matthews said in a statement. "The patent system doesn't work for software."

Xinhua



A Thai rescue ship practise sea search during the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) in CHA-AM, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand, on 8 May, 2013. The ARF DiREx 2013 started on 7 May. Representatives from 26 members of the ASEAN Regional Forum participated in the event. XINHUA

China's Spring Airlines preparing to launch domestic flights in Japan

TOKYO, 9 May — China's budget carrier Spring Airlines Co is preparing for the launch of domestic flights in Japan, promoting procedures with the transport ministry, the chief of its Japanese unit said on Wednesday.

"We are at the stage of

promoting procedures with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, so we want to announce our business strategy later," Hiroshi Ugai, president of Spring Airlines Japan Co, told a news conference.

If the transport ministry

approves Spring Airlines to launch domestic flights, the carrier will join existing low-cost carriers Peach Aviation, operating out of Kansai International Airport, and Jet Star Japan and Air Asia Japan, operating out of Narita International Airport.— Kyodo News



Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos shakes hands with a local woman during a campaign sortie in the northern Philippine Province of Ilocos Norte on 5 May, 2013.— KYODO NEWS

Twice-defeated political aspirant challenges Imelda Marcos in polls

ILOCOS NORTE PROVINCE, (Philippines), 9 May — Ferdinand Ignacio portrays himself as engaged in a "David and Goliath" battle with former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos ahead next Monday's mid-term elections. The 47-year-old lawyer sees himself as David, the courageous boy in the popular Bible story who defeated the giant Philistine warrior Goliath by a single stone slung at the latter's forehead.

But whether Ignacio can duplicate David's feat by prevailing over 83-year-old Marcos will be determined by voters in this northern Philippine province, known as "Marcos country" for being a stronghold of the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in 1989.

Ignacio, who ran unsuccessfully for a provincial post in the 2007 and 2010 elections, is challenging the former president's widow, known the world over for her

vast collection of shoes and jewelry, for her seat in Congress. A third candidate, Lorenzo Madamba, is also in the race, though he appears to have much smaller support among the electorate.

"Everybody has a right to run, so let the people choose. After all, the voice of the people is the voice of God," Marcos said last Sunday while preparing to campaign in about a dozen towns here. Marcos was first lady of the Philippines for over two decades until the so-called People Power Revolution of 1986 ended Marcos supremacy in the country and forced the family to flee into exile.

Marcos family members reentered politics in the late 1990s and has been winning elections in Ilocos Norte ever since. She is seeking for a second term as representative of Ilocos Norte's second district at the House of Representatives to fulfill what she called her desire to be a "mother" to all.

Kyodo News

Mitsubishi Heavy to work with Chinese firm in ship repair business

TOKYO, 9 May — Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd said on Tuesday it has agreed to collaborate with China's Chengxi Shipyard (Xinrong) Co in the business of installing ballast water treatment systems.

The two companies will combine Mitsubishi Heavy's advanced technologies accumulated from its experience in ship conversion work and Chengxi Shipyard's ship conversion abilities and cost competitiveness, Mitsubishi Heavy said.

They will closely collaborate throughout the BWTS retrofitting process from marketing, system selection and designing to actual installation work.

Mitsubishi Heavy added that it will not only provide the drawings necessary for undertaking BWTS retrofitting work but also dispatch supervisors to the Chinese shipyard when necessary and train Chengxi Shipyard engineers in Yokohama.

Chengxi Shipyard is a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corp, one of the country's two largest state-owned shipbuilding groups.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers

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Email: law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm

(For Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated 10 May, 2013.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (051)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (051) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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1. The First Year academic programme leading to the MA (English as a Foreign Language) degree for the 2013-2014 academic year will be opened in June 2013.
2. Those who wishes to attend the course should
 - (a) be Myanmar citizens
 - (b) fulfil the requirements for admission to the First Year academic programme leading to the MA (EFL) degree.
3. Applications should be submitted by 16 May 2013 at the latest. Enquiries on admission may be made during office hours at Student Affairs Department, Yangon University of Foreign Languages.
Ph: 514371, Ext *809.

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TENDER NO (1/2/3/4) (E S) A.M.D (2013-2014)

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Tender No.	Description	Quantity
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2.	Implement Discs & Spare Parts	9 Items
3.	Excavator & Dozer Spare Parts	111 Items
4.	Tyre & Tube Sets	10 Items

2. Tender Closing date: 23-5-2013, 16:00 hrs
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (10-5-2013). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact; 067-431242, 431243

Director General

Agricultural Mechanization Department

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ER TURKU VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Dated 10 May 2013

House Foods enters Vietnamese market

OSAKA, 9 May — Japan's House Foods Corp said on Tuesday it has entered the Vietnamese market, starting production at a newly completed factory.

The company is producing powdered desserts and drinks at the factory in Dong Nai Province with the aim of achieving sales of around 490 million yen in fiscal 2013 ending March next year.

House Foods expects demand for products such as puddings to grow as the average age in Vietnam is only 27.4 years and Vietnamese have a tradition of making desserts for children at home. House Foods will also promote powdered drinks that contain high levels of vitamins and collagen, targeting women in their 20s.— Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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SPORTS

Azarenka boils over in surprise Madrid Open

MADRID, 9 May—Victoria Azarenka lost her temper and was



Russian Ekaterina Makarova

docked a point for smashing her racket on the way to a surprise 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 defeat by unseeded Russian Ekaterina Makarova in the Madrid Open second round on Wednesday.

The Belarussian world number three, runner-up in the last two editions of the premier clay event and

coming back from an injury layoff, appeared firmly in control against her 24th-ranked opponent after cruising through the first set.

However, Makarova raised her game to take the second set and after Azarenka smashed her racket on the ground at 3-3 in the decider the Australian Open champion's game fell apart and she suffered her first defeat of the year.

The umpire had already warned Azarenka at the end of the first set and when she took out her frustration on her racket she was given a point penalty.

"I just felt it was a weird call for me because I had no idea I had a code violation," she told a news conference.

"But, I mean, it happened. It didn't help, for sure, but it's okay. It's my own fault," added the 23-year-old.

Azarenka's vanquisher in the 2011 Madrid final, Czech Petra Kvitova, was another high profile casualty on Wednesday.

Seeded eight in the latest edition, Kvitova surrendered a one-set lead to fall 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 to Slovakian wildcard Daniela



Victoria Azarenka

Hantuchova.

British teenager Laura Robson failed to build on her fine win against fourth-seeded Pole Agnieszka Radwanska in the second round when she lost 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 to former world number one Ana Ivanovic of Serbia in the night session.

Seeded 16th, Ivanovic was a break down to the 19-year-old in the deciding set but the former French

Open champion fought back to take the tie break 7-5 as Robson double faulted on match point to miss out on a place in the last eight.

"I'll definitely take the positives out of the match," Robson said. "It's been a good week of ten-

nis for me and my level has picked up a lot since Estoril last week," added Robson, who is currently without a coach after splitting with Zeljko Krajan just before the Madrid event.

"It's not all bad and I've still got Rome to look forward to next week. It was a great match from her and hopefully we'll have some more great matches in the future."

Reuters

Singapore to host WTA Championships



Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland grips her racquet as she receives serve from Elena Dementieva of Russia during their match at the Indian Wells WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California on 17 March, 2010. —REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 9 May—Singapore will host the glittering annual finale of the women's tennis season from 2014 until 2018, the WTA said on Wednesday.

The Southeast Asian city-state beat Tianjin in China and Mexico's Monterrey for the right to stage the WTA Championships after

Turkey's Istanbul ends its three-year stint in October.

"Your sensational city, the amazing city of Singapore, has won the right to host the WTA Championships for the next five years from 2014," WTA chairman and chief executive Stacey Allaster told reporters.

Reuters

From red carpet to testy challenge for Woods at Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, (Florida), 9 May—Tiger Woods may get the red carpet treatment wherever he goes but that will be of little help to the world number one at TPC Sawgrass, site of this week's Players Championship.

Woods won his only Players title in 15 starts in 2001 and in addition to a field that includes the world's top 30 golfers, and 38 of the top 40, there is the diabolical Pete Dye layout that has frustrated contenders for four decades.

The 14-times major winner measures success by only the biggest championships, but he grudgingly admits that next in line after the Masters, US Open, British Open and PGA Championship would be the Players Championship.

"I think we have our four major championships, and that's that," Woods said when asked if the Players could be considered the fifth major. "But if there was going to be another one, this would be it. This is the best field that we have."

Woods could be primed to become only the fifth golfer to win the tournament more than once since he is currently the hottest player in the world with three wins this season that helped him regain the world number one ranking from Rory McIlroy.

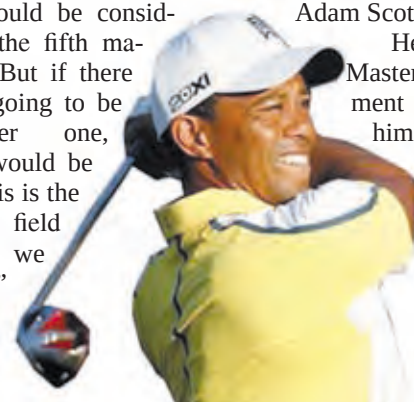
He was also in the lead at Augusta National before his third shot at the par-five 15th in the second round of last month's Masters hit the flagstick and ricocheted into the water.

The next morning he was hit with a controversial two-shot penalty-some called for his disqualification—for taking an improper drop following a review that was prompted by a phone call from a TV viewer.

Woods, who carded a triple-bogey on the hole, eventually finished tied for fourth, four shots out of a playoff won by Australian Adam Scott.

He said the Masters disappointment stayed with him for about a week.

Reuters



Tiger Woods of the US watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during a practice round before The Players Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on 8 May, 2013. —REUTERS

Man United fans digest shock, ponder Fergie-less future

MANCHESTER, 9 May—Shock, uncertainty and an air of inevitability hung in the air on the red side of Manchester on Wednesday as fans digested Alex Ferguson's retirement announcement.

Some milled around Old Trafford, where the "Sir Alex Ferguson" stand and statue of the Scot are the very visible reminders of just how important he has been for Manchester United, while others calmed their nerves with a pint in the pub.

While many former players had spoken of their shock at Ferguson's decision, for a lot of supporters there was a sense that with the manager aged 71 and with the club having just reclaimed the Premier League

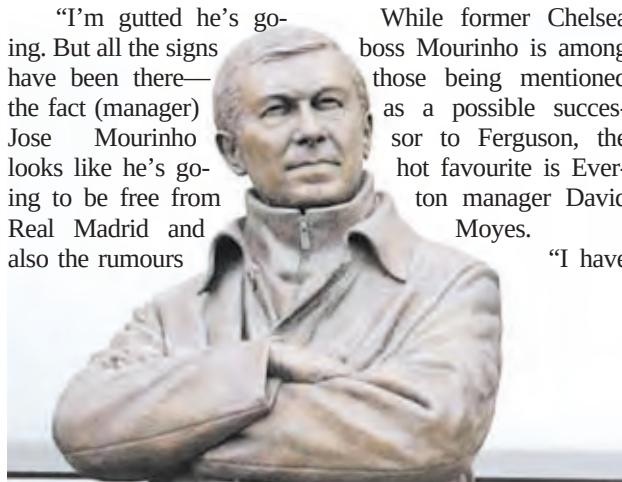
title from Manchester City, the news was not entirely unexpected even if it was unwelcome.

"I'm gutted he's going. But all the signs have been there—the fact (manager) Jose Mourinho looks like he's going to be free from Real Madrid and also the rumours

of Cristiano Ronaldo (coming back) tie in with that," pub landlord Dave Pawson said.

While former Chelsea boss Mourinho is among those being mentioned as a possible successor to Ferguson, the hot favourite is Everton manager David Moyes.

"I have



A statue of Manchester United's coach Alex Ferguson is seen outside the club's Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, northern England on 8 May, 2013. —REUTERS

Real thump nine-man Malaga to delay Barca title

MADRID, 9 May—Real Madrid made sure Barcelona will have to wait at least until Sunday to wrap up a 22nd La Liga title when Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 200th goal for the club in a 6-2 win at home to nine-man Malaga on Wednesday.

Barca need two more points to wrest the league crown back from their arch

rivals and secure a fourth title in five years and a win at third-placed Atletico Madrid on Sunday would be enough for Tito Vilanova's side. Barca have 88 points from 34 of 38 matches, with Real in second on 80 from 35. Atletico, eight points further back in third, secured a berth in the Champions League group stage with a 3-1 win at strug-

gling Celta Vigo earlier on Wednesday.

Both matches had been brought forward due to the King's Cup final between Real and Atletico on Friday 17 May. Real coach Jose Mourinho, who seems certain to leave after a disappointing season, was again whistled by a significant section of the home support at

the Bernabeu when his name was read out before kickoff.

The Portuguese has clashed with several members of the squad in recent weeks, including club captain Iker Casillas, who was again left out of the team, and fans cheered when the Spain goalkeeper's name was read out in the list of substitutes.

Reuters

GENERAL

Old Trafford set to give Ferguson emotional sendoff



Ferguson

LONDON, 9 May—Emotions will be running high at Old Trafford on Sunday for Alex Ferguson's last home game as Manchester United manager with his retirement overshadowing the presentation of the Premier League trophy to the champions.

Ferguson will take his seat in the dugout for the final time with Swansea City the visitors for his home farewell after the Scot announced on Wednesday that he will step down at the end of the season following more than 26 trophy-laden years at the helm.

Fans unable to get a ticket will be able to line the streets and toast the Scot on Monday evening when United embark on an open-top bus parade through the city.

After that, Ferguson will bow out at West Bromwich

Albion on the final day of the season.

While there is nothing at stake from Swansea's visit, United having long since sealed a 20th English title and their opponents set for a top-10 finish, the battle for the remaining two Champions League places and one relegation spot is guaranteed another twist or two in the dying embers of the season.

Chelsea (69 points), Arsenal (67) and Tottenham Hotspur (66) remain in the mix, with last season's European champions Chelsea missing the chance to all but guarantee a top-four finish when they were twice pegged back by Spurs in a 2-2 draw on Wednesday.

They get another chance when they visit resurgent Aston Villa on Saturday (12:45 pm), Paul Lambert's

side having revenge firmly on their minds after an 8-0 mauling by Chelsea in December.

Spurs visit Stoke on Sunday (1:30 p.m) while Arsenal, not in action at the weekend, face relegation-threatened Wigan Athletic at the Emirates on Tuesday.

Wigan's build-up to their first FA Cup final appearance against Manchester City on Saturday would have been far more relaxed had they managed to hold on to a 2-1 lead against Swansea on Tuesday. Instead, Roberto Martinez's side imploded to lose 3-2 and their perennial Houdini act of escaping the trapdoor is now in serious jeopardy.

Wigan's defeat, which kept them third from bottom on 35 points, will have been greeted by relief by the teams above them with Newcastle, Norwich and Sunderland holding a three-point cushion with two games to play.

Southampton, on 39, and Aston Villa and Fulham with 40 are not yet assured of safety. One win from their last seven games has plunged Newcastle into a dogfight that has left fans contemplating the spectre of a second demotion in five seasons after they were demoted in 2009.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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Myanmar TV

(10-5-2013, Friday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 19. News |
| 6:25 am | 3:15 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 20. Teleplay |
| 6:30 am | 4:15 pm |
| 3. Dance & Song of National Races | 21. Dance & Song of National Races |
| 6:45 am | 4:35 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 22. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Economics) |
| 7:00 am | 4:50 pm |
| 5. News | 23. The Mirror Images Of The Musical Oldies |
| 7:20 am | 5:00 pm |
| 6. Teleplay | 24. News |
| 8:25 am | 5:15 pm |
| 7. India Drama Series | 25. Road to 27 th SEA Games |
| 9:20 am | 5:30 pm |
| 8. How It's Works | 26. India Drama Series |
| 9:45 am | 6:00 pm |
| 9. TV Drama Series | 27. Amazing World |
| 10:00 am | 6:45 pm |
| 10. News | 28. TV Drama Series |
| 10:15 am | 7:00 pm |
| 11. TV Drama Series | 29. News |
| 11:00 am | 7:15 pm |
| 12. CLEVER | 30. TV Drama Series |
| 11:25 am | 8:00 pm |
| 13. Myanmar Series | 31. News |
| 11:40 am | 8:35 pm |
| 14. ASEAN Programmes | 32. People Talks |
| 11:50 am | 9:00 pm |
| 15. Musical Programme | 33. News |
| 12:00 pm | 34. "Duet Dance Commemorating the 27th SEA Games" |
| 12:25 pm | |
| 16. News | |
| 12:30 pm | |
| 17. Myanmar Movie | |
| 2:30 pm | |
| 18. Documentary | |

Imran badly hurt after falling from forklift



LAHORE, 9 May—In a freak accident, cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan was today badly hurt and received head injuries when he fell off a forklift that was hoisting him on to a stage during an election campaign meeting here.

Imran, 60, fell from the forklift along with his security guards from 14-15 feet height after a sudden imbalance of the wood planks on the lifter due to an increase in weight as his security personnel accompanied him towards the stage.

PTI

Photo exhibition at UN showcases Beijing's development in tourism

UNITED NATIONS, 9 May—A photo exhibition showcasing the tourism resources and historical and cultural traditions of Beijing, China's capital city, debuted at the UN headquarters on Wednesday. The exhibition, themed "Urban Sustainable Development and Tourism," displays 50 photos showing the scenery of tourist attractions of Beijing, an ancient oriental capital and international metropolis, as well as its cultural treasures, such as the Summer Palace and the National Grand Theater.

Jointly sponsored by the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN, the Beijing Municipal Government and Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development, the exhibition will last till 15 May. After the opening ceremony of the exhibition, the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF), an international tourism

body launched by the Beijing municipal government, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Health and Environment Organization of the UN at the headquarters of the world body.

Hosted by Li Baodong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, the luncheon meeting was attended by UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson, Beijing's Mayor Wang Anshun and the ambassadors of some other

countries. "The growth of urbanization and tourism is a natural consequence of globalizing interdependent world. Much of the growth in the recent decades as we know, has been boosted by China and other Asian countries," Eliasson said while addressing the meeting. The UN official also praised the establishment of the WTCF as "a concrete example of the Chinese government's commitment to sustainable urban development in tourism." —Reuters



A visitor looks at pictures on display during an exhibition promoting tourism of Chinese capital city Beijing, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, on 8 May, 2013.—XINHUA



Int'l auto show held in Guiyang, SW China.—XINHUA

Opening day of Billabong Rio Pro surfing event canceled

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 May—The opening day of competition at the Billabong Rio Pro was canceled on Wednesday due to poor conditions.

Event organizers at Barra da Tijuca beach in Rio de Janeiro said they would reconvene at 6:30am on Thursday to consider a possible 7am start, if wind conditions were favorable. The Colgate Plax Girls Rio Pro was also suspended. "After assessing conditions throughout this morning, we've opted to call

a lay day for competition today," Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) head judge Rich Porta said.

"We anticipate conditions to improve over the next several days and will return again tomorrow morning to make another call." Eleven-time world champion Kelly Slater leads the 2013 ASP World Tour rankings with 11,750 points ahead of Mick Fanning (11,700), Taj Burrow (11,700), Adriano de Souza (10,500) and Joel Parkinson (9,750).—Xinhua

President U Thein Sein receives CEO of New York-based Clinton Health Access Initiative



NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chief Executive Officer Mr Ira Magaziner of New York-based Clinton Health Access Initiative at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Health

Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein and departmental heads.

At the call, they focused on capacity enhancement of health staff and control of TB, malaria and AIDS diseases which is prioritized in health sector of Myanmar, and provision of medical equipment and pharmaceutical distribution technology and financial assistance.

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President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with Chief Executive Officer Mr Ira Magaziner of New York-based Clinton Health Access Initiative at Presidential Palace.

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NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received former member of the House of Councilors of Japan and President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They had a cordial discussion on implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, measures for long-term power supply and acquisition of potable water in TSEZ's related building plans and potential for Japanese companies' investments in Dawei Special Economic Zone, aids to peace making process and socio-economic development.

Present at the meeting together with Vice-President U Nyan Tun were Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Aung Than Oo and U Myo Aung, and departmental personnel.

The visiting delegation was accompanied by staff from Japanese Embassy.

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives former member of the House of Councilors of Japan and President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and party.

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives President of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association



Inlay Lake's conservation, regional development tasks briefed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—A briefing on implementation of tasks for conservation of Inlay Lake and regional development tasks took place at Aureum Palace Hotel in Nyaungshwe yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat

made speeches.

Union Minister U Win Tun said that the ministry carries out conservation of Inlay Lake and develops its environs laying down the plans. The Lake faced drop in water level starting from April of 2013. But, water level of the lake rose up to -1.5 feet from the lowest level of -1.7 feet on 5 May due to the rainfalls and cold weather. Therefore, visitors at home and abroad flocked

to Phaungdaw U Pagoda and Inlay region.

Union Minister U Htay Aung and the Chief Minister made clarifications on hotels in the region, and answered the queries raised by those present. After the briefing, the Union Ministers and the Chief Minister together with media men looked around progress of construction works being undertaken in the hotel zone in the Inlay region.—MNA

Mawtaung border trade camp commissioned into service

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Mawtaung border trade camp of Taninthayi Region went into operation starting from yesterday morning.

At the opening of the border trade camp in Taninthayi Township, Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko said that thanks to the trade camp, trade volume between Myanmar and Thailand would increase. Myeik-Taninthayi-Mawtaung Road would be

upgraded for secure and smooth transport thereby contributing to creating job opportunities in the region, he said.

Next, the Chief Minister and officials concerned observed the commodities flow at the border trade camp.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Pro-Rector (Academic) Dr Myat Lwin of Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport as Rector of the same university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.