

Vice-President U Nyan Tun calls for parallel focus on preparation and rehabilitation tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Chairman of National Natural Disasters Preparedness Central Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for a parallel focus on preparation and rehabilitation works ahead of the cyclonic storm Mahasen, demanding for constant contact with the response teams on the ground.

The Vice-President met Union ministers, Lt-Gen Hla Min from Commander-in-Chief's Office (Army), Subcommittee chairmen deputy ministers, the commander of western command and officials at An Township this morning.

Those present presented reports on preparations for the cyclonic storm Mahasen.



The meeting came to an end with assessment and coordination of the reports

by Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun speaking at the meeting.—MNA

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Kyodo News Agency opens Yangon branch

YANGON, 16 May—Kyodo News Agency of Japan has opened its branch in Yangon.

The opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the branch of Kyodo News Agency from Japan in progress in Yangon.

MNA

was held at Chatrium Hotel, here, this noon, with an opening speech of Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut.

On the occasion, President of Kyodo News Agency Mr. Satoshi Ishikawa and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata extended greetings.

The Kyodo News Agency was established

in 1945. It has a total of 42 branches around the world providing news of the world, local news and information on economics and research in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean languages.

Since 1 April, 2013, Myanmar has allowed NHK, AP and Kyodo news agencies to open their branches in the country as the first batch.—MNA



Japan's non-Profit Grant Aid signed

YANGON, 16 May—The handing over ceremony of the Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid took place at the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, yesterday and it was attended by Mr Mikio Numata, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Construction and U Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation and officials.

The Government of

Japan, under its project scheme, granted 1.6 billion Yen (approximately 19.10 million US dollars) for contributing to restoration and disaster prevention efforts for the areas and people affected by Flood Disaster in 2011. Total of 176 machineries are already procured and 60% of the total equipment have been already distributed to related areas, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Rakhine States by using this grant aid. Remaining

equipment will be delivered before the end of 2013.

In order to contribute to restoration and disaster prevention in Myanmar, the Government of Japan will contribute to provide ODA to support democratization and assist for Myanmar's social and economic development as well as its poverty reduction.

"All machinery and equipment will be effectively used for rehabilitation works of Magway and Bago Regions and Kayin State. They will

be the main effective force in rebuilding of infrastructural requirements not only for the rehabilitation of effected regions but also for the construction of cyclone embankments under construction in 11 road

networks in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State due to previous disaster as well," said Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.

It is expected that this assistance will

develop to recovering and reconstruction of disaster affected areas in Myanmar and further strengthen the existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM



Passengers hurt in rollover crash on expressway



PYU, 16 May— A rollover crash happened to an express bus carrying passengers at mile post No (104/4) on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway at about 4.30 pm on 14 May. The Yangon-Toungoo

Accident

passenger bus skidded out of control and overturned after hitting traffic islands. Excessive speed is believed to have led to the rollover car crash. Fifteen passengers on board were injured in the incident. The victims were sent to Pyu hospital where they are being treated in no critical condition. Myotchaung expressway police station filed a lawsuit against driver Thein Soe Paing, 50, of North Okkalapa Township for his dangerous driving.

Kyemon

Business

MAI, Asiana ink codeshare deal

YANGON, 16 May — Myanmar Airways International-MAI and Asiana Airlines have signed an agreement to codeshare on a shuttle flight service between Yangon and Seoul at MAI Head Office in Sakura Tower, here, on 10 May.

Being the one and only airline with IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit) certificate in Myanmar, MAI has drawn attention of international airlines to operate codeshare on a

mutual basis.

Under the agreement to codeshare between MAI and Asiana Airlines, sale of air tickets will be available for passengers with 8M code of MAI and flight number of MAI will be on the schedule of Yangon-Seoul-Yangon daily flights run by Asiana Airlines.

An MoU was signed between MAI and Korean Air (KE) at the head office of Korean Air in Seoul of the Republic of Korea in April. So far MAI has

been interlinked with 33 international airlines through interline and it has agreed with 19 international airlines on "IET" (Interline E-Ticket). MAI also planned to renew the contracts with former codeshare partners— Thai Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Qatar Airways. Moreover, arrangements are being made to ink codeshare agreements with Air India, Air France and All Nippon Airways, it is learnt. — Kyemon

National Sports

New bus for Myanmar selected football players

YANGON, 16 May— Ayeyawady Bank Limited, a branch of Max Myanmar Group of Companies, handed over a 45-seat bus to Myanmar Football Federation to be used in transportation of Myanmar selected men's and women's football teams.

As a gesture of praising MFF's efforts for promotion of Myanmar

football standard, Ayeyawady Bank fulfilled one of the requirements of the federation.

It was second time for Max Myanmar Group of Companies in donation of such kind of facility to MFF as it had presented a 32-seat bus for Myanmar selected football teams four months ago.

Kyemon

Tentative U-23 selected Myanmar football team formed with 30 players

YANGON, 16 May— After receiving a 10-day training in Taunggyi as a preparation for SEA Games, tentative U-23 selected Myanmar football team was formed with 30 players before a friendly match with MNL foreign players team.

The friendly match between tentative U-23 selected Myanmar football and MNL foreign players team will be held at Kanbawza

Sports Ground in Taunggyi at 4 pm on 26 May and it will be live on MRTV-4 channel.

The U-23 selected Myanmar football team will be reconstituted with 20 players ahead of friendly matches with V-League club Dong Nai FC on 9 June and Vietnamese U-23 football team on 11 June. It is planned to leave for Vietnam on 9 June.

Kyemon

Odd News

Three piglets born with physical deformity in Nay Pyi Taw Zeyathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May— While a pig gave birth to six piglets at Mayingyi village in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, three piglets were born with deformed heads and face. One of misshapen piglets has an elephant-shape head, another piglet a rhinoceros-shape head, and the third one a face that looks more monkey than a swine.

The birth of three misshapen piglets occurred at

the house of Ko Than Naing and Ma Zin Mar Oo in Mayingyi village of Khit-aye village-tract in Nay Pyi Taw Zeyathiri Township at about 9 am on 14 May. A female pig with four-month pregnancy that is breed at the house gave birth to six piglets, but three piglets were born with malformation. Newborn piglets have eight inches in length. The piglet with an elephant head has a trunk and two eyes that look elephant eyes. The piglet

Robbery suspects, caught within a day in Dawbon Township

YANGON, 16 May— Police arrested two young men suspected of an armed robbery occurred in the precinct of Myazedi pagoda in Yamonna ward-1 of Dawbon Township within a few hours on 13 May.

Soon after they were informed of the armed robbery in which Daw Khin Thaug, 81, of Yamonna ward-2 in the township was robbed of her earrings by an unknown young man with tattoos on his right arm while she was in prayer at the south-east corner of Myazedi pagoda in Yamonna ward-1 at about 8 am, police members of Dawbon police station launched a search for a robber to arrest as quick as possible. The old woman reported to the police that

she had been threatened with a knife to pull out her earrings by the robber who is thought to be about five feet and six inches tall.

As she delayed to do it, the armed man pulled it out by himself. He then drove away on bike.

While police are hunting the robber based on his appearances, they had received a tip-off that Myint Than (a) Maung Maung who is believed to have committed the armed robbery and Ko Htet, his accomplice, were at a tea-shop in Yamonna ward-1. Police rushed there to arrest them, but only Ko Htet was captured at about 1.30 pm on that day. Then police seized a pair of earrings they pawned at a shop in Thakayta Township. Police

Bride dies in apparent suicide in Myaungmya Township

MYAUNGMYA, 16 May— A bride aged 20 died after having a drink of pesticide at Kanyinwe village in Myaungmya Township on 1 May.

She is said to have committed suicide by taking pesticide used for

spraying betel plants at about 1 pm on 1 May as she was rebuked by U Pyone, her father, for marrying a man who is not acceptable to him. She died while she was being treated at Myaungmya hospital.

Kyemon

Crime



continued searching for Maung Maung (a) Myint Than and caught him in Yamonna ward-2 at about 3.50 pm on that day.

Dawbon police station charged Maung

Maung (a) Myint Than of Thinbawgyin ward in Dawbon Township and his accomplice Naing Lin Htet (a) Ko Htet with armed robbery.

Kyemon

One inmate escapes from Bago correctional facility

BAGO, 16 May— An inmate who has been serving a 19-year prison term on three counts of burglary escaped from Bago correctional facility on 2 May. He is believed to have made his escape from the prison by climbing over the wall.

The prisoner, Aung Ko, was charged with three counts of housebreakings in Pyu and Kyaukdaga

Townships in Bago Region and Kyauktada Township in Yangon Region in 2012 and jailed at respective courts for 19 years on all three counts.

The escaped inmate was from Daik U Township. He escaped from the prison after serving only six months and there are over 18 years remaining to serve. Actions are being taken to arrest him. — Kyemon



with a rhinoceros head has one eye and a horn above the eye.

"The mother pig started giving birth to piglets at about 9 am. She produced a male piglet first. Then the piglet with a rhinoceros head, the piglet with an elephant head and the piglet that has a monkey-like face were born one by one. They all are male. The fifth and sixth piglets are female. The two piglets with a rhinoceros head and an elephant head died three hours after birth.

We have a vet. We follow the instructions of the vet," Ma Zin Mar Oo said.

Among six piglets, two sows, one hog and one male piglet with a monkey-like face are still alive while two male piglets with deformed heads were dead. The birth of three misshapen piglets caught the attention of local people from nearby villages and Mayingyi village is being crowded with nosy people.

Kyemon

WORLD

NPA launches unit to supervise cyberattack investigations

TOKYO, 16 May—The National Police Agency launched a cyberattack analysis centre on Thursday in the wake of a series of digital attacks on private firms and governmental organizations apparently aimed at stealing information.

The centre, consisting of around 20 officials, will supervise investigations and information analysis by lo-

cal police forces in response to cyberattacks. It will also exchange information with foreign intelligence agencies. To enhance countermeasures against cyberattacks, the NPA has set up special investigative forces at 13 prefectural police headquarters. The number of police officers involved in the mission has reached around 410 nationwide.

The agency has also

established a framework to share information on digital attacks with private firms that have cutting-edge technologies, including companies in the defence business, and will expand it gradually.

“We need to comprehend what kinds of cyberattacks Japan is facing now,” an NPA official said. “Our efforts (to tackle the attacks) have just started.”

Kyodo News

Donors pledge about \$4.22 billion to aid Mali recovery



European Union Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs (R) exchanges documents with Mali's Foreign Minister Tieman Hubert Coulibaly (L) after signing the financial convention, as French's President Francois Hollande (back R), European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (back C) and Mali's interim President Dioncounda Traore observe the ceremony, at the donors' conference on the development of Mali in Brussels on 15 May, 2013.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 16 May—International donors pledged 3.25 billion euros (\$4.22 billion) on Wednesday to help Mali recover from a conflict with al-Qaeda linked Islamists, exceeding the West African country's target.

The development drive for Mali, one of the world's poorest countries, is aimed at halting a resurgence of the rebels driven out of major northern towns by a French-led offensive this year.

“More than 3.25 billion euros have been mobilized at this conference,” French President Francois Hollande told the meeting, organized jointly by France and the European Union.

More than 100 delegations took part in the conference, including 10 presidents or prime ministers.

The EU's executive Commission will allocate 524 million euros to Mali. Large pledges by France, the United States, Britain, Germany, Denmark, the

Netherlands, the Islamic Development Bank and others enabled the West African country to exceed its goal of raising two billion euros.

It needs the money to fill a funding gap in a 4.34 billion euro plan to keep the peace and build infrastructure over this year and next.

EU, French and Malian officials declared the conference a success. “It went beyond what we could have hoped for ... This conference marks a new chapter in the fight of civilization against terrorism,” Malian President Dioncounda Traore told a news conference.

French and EU officials said that releasing the bulk of the money was dependent on Mali fulfilling its commitment to holding presidential elections on 28 July. “We cannot wait for the elections. One third of the EU commitment will be financed before, but two thirds depends on the elections,” French Development Minister Pascal Canfin told Reuters.

He also said Mali must push through reforms in justice, fighting corruption, public finances and decentralizing power.—Reuters

WTISD 2013: Message from ITU Secretary-General, Dr Hamadoun I. Touré

ICTs and Improving Road Safety

The theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2013 is “ICTs and improving road safety”.

ICTs play a catalytic role in creating opportunities for people in every walk of life. Today, even as we take to the streets in our vehicles, we have the tools at our fingertips to communicate across the world, navigate through dense traffic and find our way in unfamiliar terrain. At the same time we can choose from a host of entertainment options, be it music, radio, television or social media.

While these technologies are becoming increasingly ubiquitous, we must ensure that we use them responsibly and with caution, especially while driving, in order to avoid accidents and injury.

Road traffic safety is a global concern for public health and injury prevention. Every year, 1.3 million people die in traffic related accidents and another 20-50 million people are injured mainly in developing countries around the world. As a result, Governments and individuals suffer an estimated USD 518 billion in global economic loss.

Driver distraction and road-user behaviour, such as “text messaging” and interfacing with in-vehicle navigation or communication systems while driving, are among the leading contributors to road traffic fatalities and injuries.

My message is clear: Don't be distracted by technology when driving, whether calling from your mobile phone, or setting the navigation system. Sending a text message or tweeting while driving is extremely dangerous and should be avoided at all cost.

At the same time, I call upon our Member States and industry partners to promote the use of safe interfaces and hands-free devices in vehicles and take action to eliminate technology-related distractions while driving. Along with promoting national policies to encourage the use of ICT in enhancing road safety, we must also promote the development and use of intelligent transport systems.

These measures will not only help prevent traffic accidents but also improve efficiencies in traffic management as a means of combating the effects of climate change.

I am pleased to say that ITU has been developing standards for safe user interfaces and communication systems in vehicles designed to optimize driving performance by eliminating unsafe technology-related distractions.

ITU has also been leading worldwide efforts in developing state-of-the-art ICT standards for Intelligent Transport Systems and driver safety that utilize a combination of computers, communications, positioning and automation technologies, including in-car radars for collision avoidance.

The theme for WTISD 2013 “ICTs and improving road safety” will be taken forward in the years to come in partnership with the automotive sector and with automobile associations worldwide under the banner of the F.I.A. — the International Automobile Federation — with whom we will be working closely to meet one of the most urgent global challenges of our times.

I urge you to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day this year by paying particular attention to improving road safety by harnessing the power of ICTs.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General

Bombs kill more than 35 people across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 May—Bomb attacks in Shi'ite areas of Baghdad and in northern Iraq killed more than 35 people on Wednesday, following weeks of violence by Sunni insurgents determined to unleash sectarian confrontation.

Tensions between mi-



Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 15 May, 2013.

REUTERS

nority Sunni and the Shi'ites who now lead Iraq are at their highest since US troops pulled out in 2011, with relations coming under more pressure by the day from the largely sectarian conflict in neighbouring Syria.

A string of car bombings hit Shi'ite neighbourhoods across the capital Baghdad on Wednesday evening, including one outside a cafe and another at a

Reuters

2,000 gather in Tokyo to promote African resource business

TOKYO, 16 May—A two-day meeting to discuss how to utilize African natural resources started in Tokyo on Thursday, with around 2,000 people, including natural resources ministers from 15 African nations, attending.

At the Japan Sustainable Mining, Investment and Technology Business Forum, or J-SUMIT, the African ministers will present their countries' development policies, while Japanese researchers will demonstrate cutting-edge technologies to develop

natural resources.

The meeting comes prior to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, known as TICAD, which will be held in June in Yokohama with the attendance of African

can leaders.

Alongside the forum, around 60 companies and organizations, such as Toshiba Corp, NEC Corp, Toyota Motor Corp and major Japanese trading houses as well as the Japan

A two-day meeting to discuss how to utilize African natural resources starts in Tokyo on 16 May, 2013. KYODO NEWS



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China missile hit highest suborbital level since 1976: scientist



Visitors tour the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan province on 18 Oct, 2007.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 16 May—China launched a large missile on Monday that reached 6,200 miles above the earth, its highest suborbital launch since 1976, according to a US scientist at Harvard University.

Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, said the

rocket was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in western China, and China said the rocket carried a science payload which studied the earth's magnetosphere.

He said the rocket could possibly be used in the future to carry an anti-satellite payload on a similar trajectory, but there was no evidence

to indicate the launch was intended to test such a capability.

The United States remains concerned about China's development of anti-satellite capabilities after it shot a missile at one of its own defunct satellites in orbit in 2007, creating an enormous amount of debris in space.

Monday's rocket launch was similar to launches using the Blue Scout Junior rocket that were conducted by the US Air Force in the 1960s for research on the Earth's magnetosphere, McDowell said in an emailed response to questions.

The launch came less than a week after US Deputy Defence Secretary Ashton Carter unveiled what he called a "long overdue" effort to safeguard US national security satellites and develop ways to counter the space capabilities of potential adversaries.

The Pentagon also released an 83-page report on Chinese military developments that highlighted China's increasing space capabilities and said Beijing was pursuing a variety of activities aimed at preventing its adversaries from using space-based assets during a crisis.

A Pentagon spokesman declined to comment on the Chinese rocket launch.

Reuters

Ice melt, sea level rise, to be less severe than feared: study

OSLO, 16 May—A melt of ice on Greenland and Antarctica is likely to be less severe than expected this century, limiting sea level rise to a maximum of 69 cm (27 inches), an international study said on Tuesday.

Even so, such a rise could dramatically change coastal environments in the lifetimes of people born today with ever more severe storm surges and erosion, according to the ice2sea project by 24, mostly European, scientific institutions.

Some scientific studies have projected sea level rise of up to 2 metres by 2100, a figure that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called a worst case that would swamp large tracts of land from Bangladesh to Florida.

Ice2sea, a four-year project to narrow down uncertainties of how melting ice will pour water into the oceans, found that sea levels

would rise by between 16.5 and 69 cm under a scenario of moderate global warming this century.

"This is good news" for those who have feared sharper rises, David Vaughan, of the British Antarctic Survey who led the ice2sea project, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"But 69 cm is a very real impact ... it changes the frequency of floods significantly," he said. And seas would keep rising for centuries beyond 2100, in a threat to coastal cities and low-lying islands such as the Maldives or Tuvalu.

Ice2sea said a thaw of Antarctica, Greenland and glaciers from the Alps to the Andes would contribute between 3.5 and 36.8 cm to sea level rise this century. The fact that water expands as it warms would add another 13 to 32 cm, Vaughan said.

Reuters

After ATM heist, India's IT sector again in unwelcome spotlight

MUMBAI, 16 May—A breach of security at two payment card processing companies in India that led to heists at cash machines around the world has reopened questions on the risks of outsourcing sensitive financial services to the Asian nation.

Global banks that ship work to be processed in India, either in-house or to big IT services vendors, were already under pressure to step up oversight of back-office functions after a series of scandals last year.

Last week, US prosecutors said a global criminal gang stole \$45 million from two Middle Eastern banks by breaking into the two card processing companies based in India and raising the balances and withdrawal limits.

The episode is reopening debate on banks sending work requiring a high degree of confidentiality to offshore locations. "It is the weakest link," said Shane Shook, an

expert with US cyber-security firm Cylance Inc who has helped financial firms conduct investigations into some major cyber crimes.

India's \$108 billion IT services industry is the world's favored destination for outsourcing. Over 40 percent of exports by the industry are support services for the global financial sector, ranging from investment bank back-office functions to

research, risk-management and processing of insurance claims. Lured by a tech-savvy English-speaking population and wages that can be one-fifth those in the West, more than three-quarters of global banks have a direct or third-party offshore presence in India. Indian IT firms, led by outsourcers such as Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys, argue that security breaches are rare.—Reuters



The EnStage Inc office is seen in the southern Indian city of Bangalore in this 12 May, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

Wheat-tomato rotation helps reduce nematodes: study

WASHINGTON, 16 May—US researchers said on Tuesday they have found a resistant strain of wheat that can reduce nematode numbers in soil and protect the next rotation of tomato plants. Root-knot nematodes cause crop losses around the world, and they can be difficult to control. Once they are present in soil, they can survive winter in a fallow field and infect plants during the next growing season.

The resistant wheat, however, serves as a trap crop to trick the nematodes into starting their life cycle but then prevents them from reproducing, according to researchers at the University of California, Davis, who described it in the journal *Crop Science* as "a better option than leaving the field fallow." "Once nematodes commit to being a parasite, they have to complete their life cycle," Valerie Williamson, lead author of the study,



said in a statement. "If they don't reproduce, the population dies out."

Finding crops resistant to nematodes may be difficult due to the pest's wide range of hosts, and trap crops are often plants that are less valuable to farmers. The researchers said they had tried a number of different rotation crops before turning to wheat. The researchers were surprised to find a strain of wheat called Lassik into which a resistance gene had been inserted. They then grew Lassik wheat and used some of the soil to plant tomato seedlings.

The wheat had the effect they were hoping for — the tomatoes grown in soil from the resistant wheat plots were less damaged by nematodes.

"If farmers use a wheat that does not have the resistant genes, more nematodes survive, and they'll be there when they plant tomatoes," Williamson said. "But if they plant the resistant wheat, there won't be as many nematodes in the soil." The researchers said the results offer a promising option for reducing nematode damage and they will next verify the findings on a larger scale.

Xinhua

Hedge fund billionaire Loeb says Sony reminds him of Yahoo

TOKYO, 16 May—Billionaire hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb says Sony Corp reminds him of Yahoo Inc before he waged a bitter proxy fight that triggered a boardroom shake-out at the Internet company last year.

Loeb's Third Point hedge fund has built up a

\$1.1 billion stake in Sony, making it the Japanese group's biggest shareholder, and Loeb said on Tuesday he was pushing Sony to sell up to a fifth of its profitable music and movie business in a move he says would help turn around its struggling electronics business.

"I rely a lot on my

experience and pattern recognition. The Sony situation reminded me a lot of Yahoo," Loeb said in an interview with Reuters in Tokyo on Wednesday.

In the case of Yahoo, Loeb began pushing the company in 2011 to go back to basics to compete against the likes of Google Inc and

Facebook Inc.

Just as Yahoo struggled to adapt to developments like social networking and mobile computing, Sony has been overtaken by nimbler consumer electronic rivals such as Samsung Electronics Co and Apple Inc.

Although Sony Entertainment, which includes artists like Beyonce and Adele and hit franchises like "Spider-Man", brought in 37 percent of the company's



Daniel S Loeb, founder of Third Point, participates in a panel discussion in Las Vegas. REUTERS

operating profit in the year to end-March, it still lags the rest of the industry, Loeb said. "Their margins are the

lowest in the industry," he noted. "We think it could be a lot more disciplined."

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

China uses space technology to modify artificial heart

TIANJIN, 16 May—A sheep implanted with a new type of artificial heart developed by Chinese scientists using cutting-edge aerospace technology has lived for 62 days thus far, the heart's developers announced on Monday.

The development of the heart was jointly conducted by scientists from the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology and TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital in north China's Tianjin Municipality.

The sheep, nicknamed "Tianjiu," is in sound condition after receiving the blood pump on 14 March, said Liu Xiaocheng, president of the hospital.

He said researchers used magnetic suspension and hydrodynamic bearings —

both examples of aerospace technology — to design and produce an implantable third-generation ventricular assist device (VAD), a mechanical pump used to support heart function and blood flow in people with weakened hearts.

The device is the first of its kind to be fitted with a battery and controller. The sheep experiment is similar to a clinical implantation, the scientists said.

Once the device is marketed, it may end suffering for the 16 million people in China with failing hearts, as many patients are waiting for heart transplants.

China began research on VAD in the early 1980s. Clinical use of commercialized VADs had yet to take place until now.—Xinhua

For Japan lenders, Abenomics' pain comes first, gain later



A man walks past a signboard of Japan's three mega banks, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (top), Mizuho Bank (C) and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, in Tokyo on 15 May, 2013.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 16 May—Japan's top three banks forecast weaker annual earnings as aggressive monetary easing squeezes them out of a profitable government bond trade and forces them to rely more on bread-and-butter lending where margins remain razor-thin. The cautious outlooks delivered by Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc (MUFG) (8306.T), Mizuho Financial Group Inc, and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc (SMFG) (8316.T) highlight the tough transition facing the industry after the central bank's radical easing in April, including a plan to purchase 70 percent of Japanese government bonds issued each month. The Bank of Japan's emergence as a dominant buyer has sliced into a source of steady profits for banks, which for years have relied on JGB trading gains make up for weak loan demand from risk-averse corporations and individual borrowers.

"We had a large profit

from selling (Japanese government) bonds last financial year but we are expecting it to sharply fall this year," Nobuyuki Hirano, president of MUFG, Japan's largest bank, told an earnings briefing on Wednesday.

While the BOJ's goal is to stimulate lending and pull the economy out of deflation, loan demand is unlikely to show a significant pickup anytime soon, while low interest rates promise to put a lid on lending spreads. The tough operating environment in Japan has given new importance to the efforts by lenders to find opportunities overseas, where they have been active in making acquisitions and branching out into new lending areas. Japanese companies have been borrowing more to finance acquisitions but remain reluctant to take on debt to grow their existing operations, said Koichi Miyata, the president of SMFG, Japan's third-largest bank.—Reuters

HSBC targets additional \$2-3 billion cost savings by 2016



The logo of HSBC bank is seen at its office in the Canary Wharf business district of London on 1 April, 2013.—REUTERS

HONG KONG, 16 May—HSBC (HSBA.L) said on Wednesday that it would target additional cost savings of \$2 billion to \$3 billion

in 2014-2016, as Europe's biggest bank cuts jobs and sells noncore businesses to bolster profitability under a restructuring plan led by

CEO Stuart Gulliver.

In a strategy update, HSBC (0005.HK) also said it would aim for a cost-efficiency ratio in the "mid-50s", up from 48-52 percent previously, a goal it had been struggling to achieve amid sluggish growth outside Asia. It maintained its long-term target for return on equity of 12 to 15 percent. The plan set out by Gulliver in May 2011 called for a complete overhaul of the bank by reducing costs, exiting sub-scale or unprofitable businesses and focusing on growth markets. When the 52 sales or disposals of non-core businesses announced since 2011 are complete, HSBC will have cut \$95 billion

in risk-weighted assets, the bank said on Wednesday. "We will continue to exert tight cost discipline whilst streamlining processes and procedures," Gulliver said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. HSBC's restructuring plan also targets generating more income from collaboration between the firm's Commercial Banking, Private Banking and Global Banking and Markets divisions. The business unit collaboration effort realized \$900 million in added revenues between 2011 and 2012, the statement said, with an additional \$2 billion in incremental collaboration revenues targeted by 2016.

Reuters

Roche banks on new drug data to defend cancer business

ZURICH, 16 May—Swiss drugmaker Roche hopes data published this week will show it has a viable follow-on product to help fend off cheaper competition for its best-selling cancer drug, which loses patent protection in Europe later this year.

Roche is set to present full results early on Thursday of a late-stage study for its GA101 drug in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL), ahead of the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting in Chicago from 31 May to 4 June.

Niko Andre, Roche's head of medical affairs for oncology, said the data would make clear GA101's true potential as a new treatment option in CLL. "The data will speak for

themselves," he said.

Roche is the world's largest maker of cancer drugs and GA101 is a key test of its ability to defend its business against cheaper copies, known as "biosimilars" because they are not identical matches of branded medicines. GA101 is a follow-on to Roche's top-seller MabThera, also known as Rituxan. The treatment for blood cancer and rheumatoid arthritis had sales of \$7 billion in 2012, but goes off patent in Europe at the end of this year. The new drug typifies Roche's strategy of protecting its existing sales once top sellers lose exclusivity by developing better versions of its original medicines.

Roche has already made



The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is seen at the company's headquarters in Basel on 5 April, 2012.—REUTERS

a running start in protecting its breast cancer drug Herceptin, off patent next year, by winning approval for two new drugs against the disease, Perjeta and Kadcyla.

Although the GA101 data are just for CLL, which is a smaller treatment area than non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) and accounts for roughly 15 to 20 percent of Rituxan sales, analyst Fabian

Wenner at brokerage Kepler Cheuvreux thinks the data will provide a good indication of its potential efficacy in NHL.

"NHL will be the real acid test. But the full data (in CLL) are the first kind of validation and that's important," Wenner said. "Headline data have shown a stronger efficacy and a longer endurance in the body, which bodes well for NHL."—Reuters

M&S's make-or-break clothing strategy gets early thumbs-up

LONDON, 16 May—Fashion media and analysts broadly welcomed Marks & Spencer's (MKS.L) new clothing strategy and a preview of autumn/winter fashion ranges, giving the firm's boss some respite from pressure over falling sales.

Britain's biggest clothing retailer said on Tuesday it would focus on better quality and styles in womenswear,

deliver more compelling and clearer sub-brands, and make shopping easier in stores, as it tries to reverse nearly two years of declining sales.

On Wednesday, shares in the 129-year-old firm, up 20 percent over the past year after periodic bouts of bid speculation, rose up to 4 percent, hitting a five-year high of 438 pence.

However, bookmaker

Ladbrokes still made Chief Executive Marc Bolland odds-on at 8/11 to have left his position by the end of the year. "The changes outlined contained a variety of enhancements based on detailed customer feedback that even the bears will find hard to completely ignore," said analysts at N+1 Singer, arguing that investors should not underestimate the

potential from the changes if they gained traction.

M&S will present the autumn/winter ranges to the bulk of Britain's fashion media on Wednesday and Thursday but some key fashion editors have already viewed the ranges and like them.

Lisa Armstrong of The Daily Telegraph called it "the most convincing effort I've seen for a long time," The Times' Laura Craik said "M&S is back in the game," and the Guardian's Jess Cartner-Morley said the collection "could be a high street game changer."

Liz Jones, the influential fashion columnist at the Daily Mail newspaper, had a sneak preview last week and said she was "pleasantly surprised", praising much improved quality.

Reuters



Branding is seen on a branch of Marks and Spencer on Oxford Street, central London, on 11 April, 2013. REUTERS

WORLD

Kerry, Lavrov confident on Syria peace talks plan

KIRUNA, (Sweden) 16 May—US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday they believed they could pull off peace talks on Syria, where their nations back opposing sides in a war that may have cost 120,000 lives.

Differences between Russia, a main ally of President Bashar al-Assad, and the United States, which supports those trying to topple him, have long obstructed United Nations action on the turmoil convulsing Syria for more than two years.

But last week Kerry and Lavrov announced plans to hold a peace conference now expected to take place in Geneva in June.

“Both of us are...very, very hopeful that within a short period of time, pieces will come together so that

the world, hopefully, will be given an alternative to the violence and destruction that is taking place in Syria at this moment,” Kerry told a news conference after meeting Lavrov in Kiruna, Sweden. “I would very much share the assessments just presented by John,” Lavrov said. He said Moscow and Washington were trying to mobilise support for the negotiations from Syria’s government and opposition, as well as other countries concerned.

Kerry said the peace drive was based a deal that has stayed a dead letter since it was announced in Geneva in June 2012 for the creation of a transitional government in Syria “with full executive authority by mutual consent” — ambiguous wording which deliberately left Assad’s future role unclear.

“That’s what we’re



US Secretary of State John Kerry talks to the media at the State Department in Washington on 10 May, 2013.

REUTERS

working toward and I don’t think it’s insignificant that at this moment in time we are finding this common ground and working closely together,” Kerry said.

Syrian revolutionaries have previously demanded Assad’s removal before any talks on the country’s future.

The main Western-backed opposition coalition is due to meet in Istanbul to consider whether to attend the new Geneva talks.

A Western diplomat in Paris said the “Friends of Syria”, an anti-Assad group of mainly Western and Arab countries, would meet in Jordan on 22 May to discuss the US-Russian initiative.

Kerry and Lavrov, who met for an hour on Tuesday night on the sidelines of a meeting of the eight-nation Arctic Council, emphasised they were working in tandem on the Syria plan.

Reuters

LDP to propose US Osprey aircraft for SDF

TOKYO, 16 May—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party plans to propose that Japan’s Self-Defence Forces be equipped with US Osprey transport aircraft, party sources said on Wednesday, as Japan remains vigilant about the worsening security environment in East Asia.

The introduction of the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey would show Japan’s resolve to enhance its defence capabilities, mainly on remote islands, despite safety concerns that triggered local opposition to the first deployment of the aircraft in Japan by the US military last year. The LDP is expected to include the introduction of the Osprey aircraft in its proposals for new defense programme guidelines that will define Japan’s longer-term defence policy, and final proposals will be worked out by the end of May.

The government under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is widely viewed as a nationalist both at home and abroad, is planning to com-

pile the guidelines by the end of the year amid heightened tensions between Tokyo and Beijing.

The Japanese government purchased three of the five main islands in the East China Sea last year.

In arguing for the Osprey, the LDP is expected to assert in its proposals that the SDF needs to be prepared for quick dispatches to remote islands. The Osprey can take off and land like a helicopter and fly like an airplane. Twelve Ospreys were deployed to Okinawa despite local opposition after a series of accidents overseas and the US Marines have started low-altitude training in Japan. Japan’s Defence Ministry has earmarked 8 million yen in the fiscal 2013 budget to study whether the SDF should be equipped with the Osprey and Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera has expressed readiness to introduce the aircraft in March, given their mobility.

Kyodo News

Al-Qaeda-linked cell busted in Egypt targets US, French embassies

CAIRO, 16 May—An al-Qaeda-linked cell, recently busted in Egypt, had planned to launch suicide car bombings at the US and French embassies in Cairo, Egyptian official MENA news agency quoted prosecution sources as saying

on Wednesday.

On Saturday, Egypt’s police arrested three suspects linked to al-Qaeda, who intended to blow up vital premises in the Egyptian cities of Cairo and Alexandria.

The three men, named

Amr Aqida, Mohamed Abdel-Halim Hemida and Mohamed Mostafa Bayoumi respectively, were arrested with 10 kg of materials used for manufacturing high explosives.

The suspects escaped from prison during the 2011

upheaval that ousted former president Hosni Mubarak, the state security prosecutor’s office said.

Hemida had been extradited to Egypt from Algeria; and Aqida extradited from Iran, MENA reported. Aqida is also accused of planning to carry out terrorist attacks against the Egyptian army in Sinai.

The suspects have confessed communication with al-Qaeda, but denied any intention to carry out terrorist attacks.

Xinhua



Firefighters and people gather at the fire site in eastern Pakistan’s Lahore, on 15 May, 2013. No loss of life was reported as an electronics warehouse caught fire in Lahore on Wednesday, local media reported. —XINHUA

Freeport suspends Indonesia mine after tunnel collapse

JAKARTA, 16 May—Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc halted operations at the world’s second largest copper mine in Indonesia on Wednesday as rescue workers scrambled to find 25 workers caught underground in a tunnel collapse a day earlier.

The head of Freeport

Indonesia said he would travel to the remote West Papua site later on Wednesday to assess rescue operations and decide on when to resume production at the Grasberg mine, which also holds the world’s largest gold reserves.

Thirty-nine workers were attending an under-

ground training class near the mine when a tunnel collapsed on them early on Tuesday morning, the company said. Rescue crews evacuated 14 people, four of whom died, the company said. The Grasberg mine, which employs more than 24,000 workers, was not significantly affected, but production was suspended to pay homage to those involved in the accident.

“There is no direct impact on our operation but as a sign of sympathy we have suspended the operation,” Rozik Soetjipto, president director of Freeport Indonesia, told reporters. “I will go to the site tonight and from there we can decide what is the next step.” Rescuers were using jacks, saws and other hand tools to free the remaining workers, as the tight space in the collapsed underground tunnel prevented them from using heavy earth-moving equipment, the company said.

Reuters



Chief Executive of PT Freeport Indonesia Rozik Soetjipto talks during a news conference in Jakarta on 15 May, 2013. The Indonesian unit of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc suspended operations at the world’s second-largest copper mine on Wednesday, a source with knowledge of the matter said, after a training tunnel collapsed the previous day.—REUTERS

US students create electricity-generating shoes

HOUSTON, 16 May—Four US students have developed shoes that extract energy with every step to power portable electronics and, perhaps someday, life-preserving medical devices, US media reported on Wednesday.

Four mechanical engineering students at Rice University in Houston, for a project required for graduation, created PediPower shoes, which deliver 400 milliwatts of energy through wires that connect the shoes to a belt-mounted battery pack, according to on-line version of *Texas Medical Centre News*.

The students, Carlos Armada, Julian Castro, David Morilla and Tyler

Wiest, focused their attention where the rubber meets the road to create a shoe-mounted energy generation. They knew of a previously patented device that draws energy from the motion of the knee, and decided to apply those principles to the foot, according to the report.

Working with the Motion Analysis Laboratory at Shriners Hospital for Children in the Texas Medical Centre, the students discovered that the force at the heel delivered far more potential for power than any other part of the foot, so they selected the heel-portion of the shoe to generate power. When the PediPower shoe hits the ground, a

lever arm strikes first. The arm is attached to a gearbox that replaces much of the shoe’s sole and turns the gears with each step. The gears drive a motor mounted on the outside of the shoe that generates electricity to send up to the battery.

Right now the shoe is simply a prototype, and is too large for day-to-day wear. The students expect the project to be picked up by another team at Rice in the fall, with the hope they can refine the materials, shrink the size and boost the power output, all of which will get PediPower closer to being a commercial product, according to the report.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

National Sports

Myanmar boat race team targets more golds in SEA Games



Myanmar boat race team in training in Yangon's landmark Inya Lake.

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—As XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar in coming December draws nearer, athletes who will represent Myanmar are undergoing camp trainings and seeking international experience abroad.

Boat race is one of 33 games to be played in the

SEA Games. Myanmar boat racers bagged most medals for Myanmar in XXVI SEA Games in Indonesia in 2011, with 10 gold, six silver and three bronze.

It is ever important for any athletes to secure home victory. Myanmar boat race team is undergoing training in Yangon's landmark Inya

Lake even under scorching sun.

The team is formed with 154 tentatively selected athletes under 15 managers and three foreign coaches.

Myanmar Boat Race Federation General Secretary U Pe Win said, "We've 154 tentatively selected players in training. Out of them, 88 are for traditional boat race, 33 for Canoeing/kayak. Both veteran selected racers or new faces are included."

Foreign canoe/kayak coaches are hired. Traditional boat racers are being trained by local coaches.

The team will play three international games ahead of SEA Games. Canoeing/kayak racers will have a joint training in China.

"Pre-SEA Games tour-

nament will be organized in Ngalaik dam in last week of August or first week of September," U Pe Win said.

A total of 41 gold medals will be presented for boat races in coming SEA Games.

"Current boat race team is even stronger than those in Indonesia SEA Games and has more time for training," he said.

He said the team received support from both the Union minister and the federation president.

Myanmar has stronger team for the traditional boat race category in which Indonesia is the archrival.

"We'd try to outperform our 10 gold record in Indonesia SEA Games."

Myanma Alinn

Donation

Dhammayon in Nay Pyi Taw handed over



NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—A consecration ceremony of Buddha Image in a Dhammayon in Mingala Theikdhi ward in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held on 12 May, in conjunction with the ceremony to hand over the facility. Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Kyaw Htoo, committee members, government staff in the ward, ward administrator U Khin Maung Kyi, Dhammayon management committee members, donors and guests.

Residing Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanassiddhi of Aye Mya Shwe Pyi Mon-

astery in Mingala Theikdhi ward and members of Sangha consecrated the Buddha Image. The congregation offered a day meal to the members of Sangha and then shared merits gained.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Oo handed over documents related to the Dhammayon to the ward administrator.

The committee has constructed 17 Dhammayons in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and handed over seven of them. The facilities are aimed at hosting religious rites and social activities.

Myanma Alinn

Burnt car remains at scene for three months

BAGO, 16 May—A six-wheeled car burnt in an accident on 24 February was still kept at the scene near a toll gate being operated by Max Myanmar at the entrance of Bago in Bago Region.

The HERO vehicle has been kept at the site for about three months. Neither

authorities nor owner has picked it up.

Bago is one of major cities in Myanmar close to the commercial city Yangon and also a tourism site.

Residents are demanding the removal of the trucks as soon as possible.

Myanma Alinn

Educative talk on disaster risk management given in Dagon Myothit (South) Township

YANGON, 16 May—An educative talk on cyclone awareness was held in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region on 13 May. It was hosted by 18th ward Dhammayon.

Township Administrator U Myint Lwin said the season was prone to storms, flood and lightning.

He urged residents of the township to tune in to radios, TVs and media for updates on natural disasters.

Educative talks on disaster risk management were given on the occasion.

It was attended by social organizations members and townselders.

Myanma Alinn

Lashio to receive more electricity



Installation of a new transformer in Lashio power plant in progress.

Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda BOT elected

MAWLAMYINE, 16 May—New Kyaikhtiyoe pagoda board of trustees was elected at General Administration Department Office in Kyaikto Township in Mon State on 8 May.

State ministers U Thet

Win and U Khun Pe Myint, departmental officials and 31 candidates were present at the election. The new BOT has yet to receive the state government's approval.

Myanma Alinn

Disaster

Labutta prepares to face cyclone



LABUTTA, 16 May—The Labutta Township Administrator, district and township departmental officials, members of disaster risk reduction committee, and NGOs/INGOs met at Ywaynadi Hall for preparedness on 13 May in the wake of Cyclone Mahasen.

Public awareness raising and preventive measures were conducted in

the township. Palmphlets were also distributed to rural villages.

Myanma Alinn

Kungyangon on alert as Cyclone Mahasen nears

KUNGYANGON, 16 May—Township General Administration Department, Township Information and Public Relations Department, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, other departments and social organizations have conducted public awareness campaigns in the township since 13 May as Cyclone Mahasen formed in Bay of Bengal approaches land.

Cyclone warnings is-

sued by Meteorology and Hydrology Department in Nay Pyi Taw are being informed to the public in real time as part of preparedness for the cyclone.

Illustrations depicting dangers of storm, flood, and landslide are being displayed in public places.

Kungyangon was one of the areas affected by deadly Cyclone Nargis in 2013.

Myanma Alinn

Muse prepares for cyclone impacts

MUSE, 16 May—Departmental personnels in Muse Township are raising public awareness in the wake of Cyclone Mahasen formed in Bay of Bengal.

Signboards and billboards are erected to inform the public of the disaster management.

The staff gave talks to the public in Kutkai, Namhkam, Monekoe, Tamonye, Manhero, and Pang sai (Kuy-

supply. The number is expected to reach 30000.

"Sixty MVA from 230/66 KV power grid from Mansi and 20 MVA from 66/33 KV Lashio main power plant are received and distributed to downtown areas and nearby

villages," said Township Electrical Engineer U Myo Ko Ko Kyaw.

The electricity supply will extend to Hopaik, Nantkyan, and Naphae villages, according to U Myo Ko Ko Kyaw.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 May, 2013

Top the chart of rice exporters

Myanmar is an agro-based country and 70 percent of the population is living in the rural areas. Rice economy of the country is 60 percent of the State economy. Agriculture sector is crucial for country's economy which accounts for more than a third of the economy. Myanmar was one of the world's top rice exporters for much of the first half of the 20th century until it was overtaken by Thailand. It shipped a record 3.4 million tonnes in 1934.

However, the export market diminished through the country's decades of economic isolation. Myanmar rice exports have been down after 1956. Thanks to a series of political and economic reforms, EU lifted economic sanctions against Myanmar. Myanmar could enter into the world's rice market and stands fifth on the list of world's rice exporting countries. Myanmar rice has been exported a record over 1 million metric tones within this financial year 2012-2013, breaking a 46-year old record.

The country was left behind in the agricultural development compared to other countries. It needs to educate farmers and use better equipment. Productivity in Myanmar's agriculture sector has been hampered by such factors as antiquated practices and poor seed quality. Myanmar needs to transform from conventional to mechanized farming system. Japan and other organizations will help Myanmar's farm sector development.

Myanmar-Vietnam discussion on 6 June

YANGON, 16 May—A 45-member business delegation led by Vice Mayor Mr Nguyen Thi Hong of Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam will hold discussions with Myanmar's entrepreneurs at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minyekyawswa road, Lanmadaw Township, here, on 6 June.

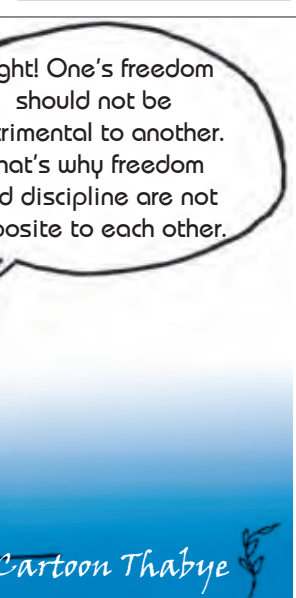
The discussion will focus

on investment in real estate, housing, construction and construction material, fruits and vegetables, agriculture, foodstuff, textile, tourism, electronic, marine products and oil and gas etc.

Those wishing to attend it are to register at UMFCCI (headquarters) not later than 5 June.

Kyemon

Medical teams providing health care to victims at relief camp in Sittway.—MNA



Cartoon Thabye

NATIONAL

No people faces life-threatening condition in Rakhine State during Cyclonic storm Mahasen



Photo shows residents in Sittway without damage after cyclonic storm Mahasen.—MNA

Health care services given at relief camps in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Two medical teams comprising one doctor and three health assistants each of Rakhine State Health Department under the Health Ministry are providing health

care services to the peoples who take shelters at relief camps in Sittway Township. They provided medical treatment to 82 patients yesterday.

There was no outbreak of

serious cholera and diarrhea diseases at the relief camps.

The Health Ministry opens clinics at the relief camps for giving health care to the people as of today.

MNA



University/colleges mountaineers honoured

YANGON, 16 May—A ceremony to honour mountaineers from Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Universities' Hiking and Mountaineering Association and those who included in Shan State (South) Kalaykokku region trip, was held at Thabarwa Khawthan Foundation (branch) in Lanmadaw Township, here, on 1 May.

Member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Patron of Thabarwa Khawthan Foundation Universities' Hiking and Mountaineering

Association Professor Dr Khin May Ohn (Retd Rector of Yangon University of Nursing) extended greetings. Then, Foundation Chairman Saya U Myo Thant (Parton of Yangon University Hiking and Mountaineering Association) explained future tasks of the association. Honouring medals will be awarded to those mountaineers at 18th get-together of the Foundation in Royal Rose Restaurant, Yangon on 23 June.

Kyemon

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Cyclonic Storm Mahasen fizzled out after hitting Bangladesh coast when it crossed near Chittagong and it is moving slowly northeasterly direction and weakened into a tropical storm according to observation in this evening, Meteorology and Hydrology Department said.

No casualties occurred in Rakhine State, according to Rakhine State Government, but it caused strong wind and scattered rain from this morning to evening.—MNA

Mandalay Region holds contests

MANDALAY, 16 May—A work coordination meeting of Mandalay Region Supervisory Committee on successfully holding drawing, cartoon, poster, computer painting contests to hail the 16th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking that falls on 26 June, 2013, was held at the meeting hall of Mandalay Region Government on 15 May.

During the meeting, Secretary of Mandalay Region Government U Ohn Lwin gave an opening speech. Drawing contest at 9 to 12 am, poster contest at 1 to 4 pm are held on 25 May, and cartoon and computer painting contests at 9 to 12 am on 26 May, at No. 14 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township. Those interested may enlist at the Offices of Mandalay Region Education Officer and Township Education Officer not later than 20 May.—Kyemon

Cyclone News

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—According to the observation at 20 hrs MST today, land depression which has crossed Bangladesh Coasts. It is forecast to move Northeast wards and gradually weaken as a low pressure areas and dissipate.

Partly cloudy will be over Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Squalls and rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Guld of Mottama, off and along Rakhine Coast.

Current atage is coded as green colour, it mains free from the danger of the storm at Rakhine State. It is latest news for the storm.

NLM

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar fashion designers to take part in 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week



Photo shows Myanmar fashion designers who will attend 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week to be held in Kyoto of Japan.

YANGON, 16 May— Myanmar fashion designer will take part in 2013 ASEAN Fashion Week to be held in Kyoto of Japan on 28-31 May.

Myanmar designers are Ma Myintzu (Zu Zu

Collection), Pyi Soe Aung, Ma Pont (My Favorite), San Bouk Rarr (Shayi) and Thet Hnin Aye (Dozo).

Under the arrangement of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar designers also attended Bangkok International Fashion Show and International Leather Exhibition held in Thailand.

Myanmar Fashion Designers Group (MFDG) has planned to create dress designs for the demonstrators and the country placard barriers at opening and closing of XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar.

Kyemon

Agriculture

Cold season groundnut production boosted in Katha Township



KATHA, 16 May—A total of 0.10 acre model plot of 5.00 acres of Hsinpadetha (11) cold season groundnut was harvested at Farmer U Set Tun's plot (657) in Shwepyithit village in Katha Township in

Sagaing Region on 12 May.

It produced 16 baskets of cold season groundnuts per acre. Therefore, 110 baskets of cold season groundnuts would be approximately boosted per acre. —Kyemon

Farming work permits presented in Kawa Township

BAGO, 16 May—A farming work permit presentation for farmers of Phosu Village in Kawa Township, Bago Region was held at Basic Education Primary School, here, on 9 May.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committee U Kyaw Swa Ohn and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Hla Htay explained the purpose

of presenting farming work permits and rights, and disciplines of farmers.

The Chairman of Village-tract Farmland Management Committee accepted 319 farming work permits and a person on behalf of farmers spoke words of thanks.

A plan is underway to present farming work permits to 23740 farmers of Kawa Township in 2013.

Kyemon

Solar panels in high demand in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 16 May— People in Mohnyin Township are facing blackout. Even though the township has installed 66 KV power grids and power stations, main power grids cannot distribute electricity.

People use more solar panels to solve power shortage problems. Now, solar panels are in high demand there. Thanks to it, solar panel installers get high incomes. GSM tower next to 66 KV power station is installed with solar panels.

NLM-001



Administrators proficiency course opened in Thandaunggyi

THANDAUNGGYI, 16 May—The opening ceremony of proficiency course for ward/village-tract administrators in Thandaunggyi Township, Leiktho and Bawgali sub-townships was held at the administrator's office in Thandaung on 13 May.

At the ceremony, Hpa-an District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Naing of General Administration

Department made a speech and Township Administrator U Thein Win explained the disciplines of the course.

A total of 70 ad-

ministrators from wards/village-tracts of township and sub-townships in Thandaunggyi are attending three-week course.

Kyemon

Donation

Fire engine donated in Katha



KATHA, 16 May—Fire preventive measures was being taken by officials from Katha Township of Sagaing Region in cooperation with Fire Services Department, Development

Affairs Committee, wards administrators and auxiliary fire brigade members. Townselders and local people donated a China-made fire engine.

Kyemon

MRCS provides aid to strong wind victims

KYAUKTAN, 16 May—A ceremony to hand over aid provided by Myanmar Red Cross Society to 39 households whose huts and houses collapsed in the strong winds that hit Kanpyaung Village of Kyauktan Township in Yangon Region on 9 May.

On 14 May, Chairman of Township Red Cross Society Branch Head

of Township Health Department Dr Daw Aye Sanda Khaing and officials presented treated mosquito nets, blankets, tarpaulin, plastic buckets and carpenter materials and household goods to the victims at the office of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Kyemon



CCA course opened in Mingin Township

KALAY, 16 May—The opening ceremony of township-level child-centered approach course in Mingin Township, Sagaing Region was held at Basic Education High School in Mingin on 12 May.

It was attended by Township Management Committee Chairman U Nay Linn Tun and departmental officials, responsible persons of Township Education Office, trainers

and trainee teachers.

An official of Township Education Office explained the purpose of the course. "CCA is aimed at holding discussions between the teachers and the pupils in the classrooms," he said.

A total of 492 teachers, headmasters and headmistress of BEPSs from Mingin Township are attending 10-day course.

Kyemon



RAILWAY STATION UPGRADED: Concreting of the 500 feet long, 30 feet wide and 1.9 feet thick platform was undertaken at Mohnyin Station on 30 April. A plan is underway to concrete the platform of Mogaung Station of Kachin State coming year.

NLM-001

WORLD

IMF board OKs Cyprus loan, warns of risks



A man walks past a branch of Bank of Cyprus in Nicosia on 31 March, 2013. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 16 May —The International Monetary Fund's executive board approved a \$1.3 billion, three-year loan to Cyprus on Wednesday, part of a larger international bailout to help the Mediterranean country avoid defaulting on its debt.

But IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said Cyprus's bailout was subject to "substantial risks," as the economy is likely to contract for the next two years.

"The macroeconomic outlook is subject to high uncertainty and risks to the programme are sub-

stantial," Lagarde said in a statement. "There is no room for implementation slippages. Full and timely implementation of the programme is critical to maintain credibility and achieve the programme's objectives."

Cyprus had to comply with certain conditions—including winding down its second-largest bank and imposing losses on large depositors—in order to receive the bailout from the IMF and the European Union, which totals 10 billion euros (\$13 billion).

The approval of the IMF's board means Cyprus

immediately gets \$110.7 million.

The Washington-based global lender said the financing package is meant to stabilize the country's financial system, achieve sustainable government finances and support economic recovery.

Lagarde said Cyprus's first priority must be to stabilize the banking system. The outsized banking sector led to the country's problems in the first place, after it was burned by losses on loans to crisis-hit Greece.

Independent auditors on Wednesday said the banking system is more vulnerable to money laundering than previously thought. The government also must consolidate public debt to about 100 percent of GDP by 2020 in order to ensure it is sustainable, the IMF said.

The IMF said its projections for the programme assume Cyprus's economy will contract 9 percent this year and 4 percent in 2014, before starting to recover in 2015, similar to falling economic activity in other countries with a banking crisis.—Reuters

Bolivia, Brazil to launch joint anti-drug operations

LA PAZ, 16 May—Bolivia and Brazil have signed an agreement on launching joint anti-drug operations, Vice Minister of Social Defense Felipe Caceres said Wednesday.

During Monday and Tuesday's meeting with Brazilian officials in Santa Cruz, the two sides discussed ways to reduce Bolivian drug supply and Brazilian demand, Caceres told

a press conference.

The deal also includes exchange of intelligence on drug trafficking and other crimes, such as human trafficking and money laundering, as well as natural resources smuggling.

"There will be joint operations to fight organized crime by air, land and rivers," added Caceres.

He also said that Bolivia has approved a budget

of 20 million US dollars for the anti-drug fight, with additional funding of 16 million dollars.

The next meeting of the bilateral anti-drug talks will be held in July in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo.

Bolivia and Brazil share a 3,700-kilometer borderline and the most vulnerable points are in San Matias, Puerto Quijarro and Cobija.—Xinhua



Rescuers evacuate the stranded residents on the old Jingshan Street in Nanchang City, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on May, 2013. A heavy rainfall hit Jiangxi Province on 14 May. The average rainfall of the Province reached 46.4 millimetres, with that of Nanchang climbing to the highest of 71 millimetres on 15 May.—XINHUA

Australia, Sweden sign agreement on submarine design, technology

CANBERRA, 16 May — Australia and Sweden have achieved a "significant milestone agreement" relating to Intellectual Property rights for submarine design and technology, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said in a statement on Thursday.

According to the joint statement with Sweden's Minister for Defence Karin Enstrom, this followed extensive negotiations between Australia's Defence Materiel Organization and the Swedish Defence Mate-

riel Administration.

"This agreement gives effect to Australia's rights to use and disclose Swedish Intellectual Property rights for complex submarine design and technology," Minister Smith said on Thursday.

"Defence materiel co-operation has been a key feature of the Sweden-Australia relationship, most notably in the area of submarine technology where our collaboration over the construction and support of

the Collins submarines has spanned two decades, and more recently, with the vital 'sense and warn' capability provided to protect our troops in Afghanistan," he added.

In 1987, Australia ordered six submarines of the Collins Class designed by Swedish firm Kockums AB. The submarines were built in Adelaide and will be in service for another 20 years. Australia is now planning for their replacement with 12 new boats with the recent

2013 Defence White Paper settling on two options - an evolution of Collins or a completely new design.

Smith said the government announced last year it would engage Kockums to undertake initial design studies for the evolved Collins.

But before that could occur, Australia needed to reach an agreement with Sweden on use of Collins and other Swedish technology for the Future Submarine Programme.—Xinhua

First responder to US fertilizer plant blast pleads not guilty to bomb-possession charges

HOUSTON, 16 May—A volunteer paramedic who was among the first responders to a deadly fire and explosion last month at a Texas fertilizer plant on Wednesday pleaded not guilty to allegations that he possessed materials for a pipe bomb.

By agreement between the defence and the prosecution, an afternoon hearing on Wednesday was cancelled after Bryce Ashley Reed waived his arraignment, according to local TV channel KHOU.

US authorities announced on 10 May that they have launched a criminal investigation into the 17 April explosion in the Texas town of West, after arresting Reed on the same day and charged him with possessing an explosive.

But officials did not say if the arrest of Reed is connected to the 17 April blast that killed 14 people, injured around 200 and destroyed hundreds of homes in the vicinity. Local sheriff's deputies were called

to a residence where they found components for a pipe bomb.

Reed, 31, told authorities the materials for explosive devices were his, according to reports. Authorities said earlier this month that investigators have determined that a stockpile of ammonium nitrate at a fertilizer plant in the US town of West was the source of the deadly that virtually leveled the town.

However, the ignition source for the ammonium nitrate, an explosive chemical, remained undetermined. Fire alone cannot cause ammonium nitrate, a chemical usually used to make fertilizer, to explode.

The investigation continues into other factors, such as intense pressure or extreme heat, that may have ignited the explosion, according to media reports.

State and federal agents will release this week the findings of an investigation into the West explosion, according to reports.

Xinhua

H1N1 virus found in marine mammals for first time

WASHINGTON, 16 May —US researchers said Wednesday they have detected for the first time the H1N1 virus in elephant seals off the coast of central California. The H1N1 strain is the same one that emerged in humans in 2009 and it's the first report of that flu strain in any marine mammal, researchers at the University of California, Davis reported in the journal PLOS ONE.

"We thought we might

find influenza viruses, which have been found before in marine mammals, but we did not expect to find pandemic H1N1," said Tracey Goldstein, lead author of the study. "This shows influenza viruses can move among species."

Between 2009 and 2011, the researchers tested nasal swabs from more than 900 marine mammals from 10 different species off the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California.—Xinhua



Policemen inspect the blast site in Jalalabad, capital of east Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, on 15 May, 2013. A policeman was killed, another policeman and seven civilians were wounded when an IED went off in Jalalabad on Wednesday.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Malaysia's Najib unveils new Cabinet after bruising election

PUTRAJAYA, 16 May—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak unveiled his new Cabinet on Wednesday that he hoped wins back public confidence after his coalition won the national election but with a reduced vote.

Touted as a “transformational Cabinet,” the lineup, he said, includes “the experienced, the technocrats and those that represent the youth.”

Najib's ruling 13-party National Front coalition, popularly known as BN,

won 133 of 222 seats in the federal Parliament, extending its 56-year rule for another five years in the general election 10 days ago.

The opposition obtained 89 seats in parliament, up from 82 in the 2008 election. However, BN saw its share of the popular vote fall to 47 percent versus the 51 percent obtained by the opposition alliance led by Anwar Ibrahim.

It was the worst result in BN's history which has traditionally controlled two-thirds of the Parliament.

Najib took over from former Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in April 2009 after the latter was forced to resign following the 2008 general election, which saw BN lose its two-thirds majority in Parliament for the first time. But BN still maintained over 50 percent of the popular vote then. Besides losing the popular vote, Najib is also under pressure as the opposition refused to acknowledge the results amid accusations of vote-rigging.

Kyodo News



Visitors view new plastic models from the Mobile Suit Gundam robot animation series at the Shizuoka Hobby Show 2013, a major toy exhibition in the city of Shizuoka, central Japan, on 16 May, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Japan Railway to offer technical support to Thai state railway

FUKUOKA, 16 May—Kyushu Railway Co (JR Kyushu) will sign next week a cooperation agreement with the State Railway of Thailand with the focus expected on providing support in running scheduled and tourist trains as well as managing train station buildings.

At a news conference on Wednesday, JR Kyushu President Karaike Koji said,

“We would like to offer cooperation as we have been told that they would like to incorporate our measures to enhance safety and on-time performances. We also hope to learn the spirit of Thai hospitality.”

The specifics of cooperation are expected to be worked out by a task force. The two sides will sign a document on 24 May.

Kyodo News

Lion Air Bali crash initial report highlights safety issues

JAKARTA, 16 May—Indonesia's transport safety authority recommended that Lion Air address safety issues in pilot training in a preliminary report into last month's crash of a new Boeing 737-800 into the sea off Bali, without identifying an exact cause.

The report shows that the 24-year-old second-in-command, who had 1,200 hours of flying experience, was in control during the descent into the airport and reported that he could not see the runway 900 feet above ground, the National Transportation Safety Committee said in a report released late on Tuesday.

Weather reports indi-

cated that there was a sudden loss of visibility in the area, it said.

The captain then switched off the auto-pilot and the second-in-command handed over controls to him at 150 feet, or 1 minute, 6 seconds before the crash, after repeating that he could not see the runway. One second before the crash, the pilot commanded a “go-around” and attempted to abort the landing, but it was too late.

Lion Air could not be reached for comment.

The NTSC said it expected to release its final report within the next 12 months.

Reuters



A rescue team swims beside the wreckage of a Lion Air plane near Ngurah Rai airport in Denpasar, Bali, on 15 April, 2013.—REUTERS

At least six dead after Cambodian factory collapses

PHNOM PENH, 16 May—At least six people died when a shoe factory collapsed in Cambodia on Thursday and many others were injured, a member of the trade union at the plant said, amid concerns about safety standards at some Asian factories producing cheap clothing.

Cambodia has seen a rush of investment in recent years, especially into the shoe and garment sector, with Western and Asian firms attracted by its low-

cost labour.

“There were about a hundred people inside the factory when it collapsed at about 7 am,” union member Sum Sokny, 29, told Reuters. She said five women and one man died at the plant. According to one report, about 50 people were trapped inside the single-storey building, located in Kampong Speu Province, west of the capital, Phnom Penh. The factory is owned by Wing Star Shoes Co Ltd.

The Phnom Penh Post, a daily newspaper, reported on 22 March that workers from the plant had stopped work and blocked a main road for about an hour in a protest over wages and working conditions.

Strikes over pay and poor working conditions are common in Cambodia, which like Bangladesh is home to numerous factories producing clothing cheaply for Western retailers.

Reuters



A farmer walks in the damaged rice field caused by saltwater intrusion at Thanh Phu District of Ben Tre Province in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam, on 15 May, 2013. With an area of 3.9 million hectares and a population of about 17.5 million people, the Mekong delta is the most vulnerable location in Vietnam to impacts of climate change including long lasting and deep flood, drought, tropical storms, erosion along the sea embankments.

XINHUA

Singapore remains 4th most desirable place to live, work

SINGAPORE, 16 May—Singapore remained as the fourth most popular place in the world to live and work for professionals, a survey by recruitment firm Hydrogen and business school ESCP Europe released on Wednesday.

The city-state's ranking was the same as in the survey last year, while the top three destinations were also still the United States, Britain and Australia. But the top three saw their dominance coming up again.

The report showed that 24 percent of the respondents picked the United States as the top relocation destination, 11 percentage higher than the 13 percent last year. Britain and Australia each got 13 percent of the votes, up from 9 percent in last survey.

Singapore got 9 percent of the votes, up from 6 percent last year.

The report said Singapore has emerged as the “leading technology hub as well as a key finance one.”

“Singapore is very

high up the value chain in terms of what it does in technology.

Singapore has an exceptionally well-educated workforce, is a very innovative country and is producing the new tech entrepreneurs and engineers who are creating much of the high tech industry of the future, for example in life sciences, medical equipment and biotech,” Simon Walker, Hydrogen's Asia managing director commented in the report.—Xinhua

Thailand, Bangladesh boost bilateral trade

BANGKOK, 16 May—Enhanced Thai-Bangladeshi cooperation will double the trading volume between the two countries to 1.7 billion US dollars in the next three years, Thai News Agency quoted the country's commerce minister as saying on Wednesday.

Commerce Minister Boonsong Teriyapirom said after a meeting of the Thai-Bangladeshi trade committee that the two countries had agreed to map out an operation plan to minimize their trade imbalance, jointly organize trade exhibitions, and exchange trading knowledge to facilitate Thai and Bangladeshi investors.

Thailand will set up a committee to specially study the possibility of selling essential products to Bangladesh on a government-to-government basis, he said. The two countries had also agreed to promote business and investments and abolish obstacles to boost bilateral trade, he said.—Xinhua



A University of Tokyo team demonstrates in Tokyo on 15 May, 2013, a system to project the screen of a smartphone on a fast-moving object such as paper or a human palm.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
YANGON, MYANMAR
JOB VACANCY**

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in the 2013 budgetary year is looking for 1 (one) staff, who shall serve as a local staff of the Defence Attache Office at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, with the following requirements:

- Male/Female, aged between 27-35 years
- Indonesian more preferable
- Bachelor Degree
- Provision in English, both written and spoken
- Knowledge and skills in the field of information technology, security system and administration matters
- Having the knowledge about Myanmar and Indonesia
- Driving skills required
- Physically and mentally healthy, having fulfilled the security clearance

Documents to be submitted and general requirement:

- ✓ Application letter to the mentioned position; Curriculum Vitae and Photo;
- ✓ Recommendation letter of good conduct from the authorities concerned;
- ✓ Recommendation letter of good health from government hospital;

Eligible candidates may submit applications to the Embassy during office hours (09.00 am-04.00 pm), **not later than 22nd May 2013**. Late applications will not be accepted and only qualified candidates will be contacted.

On 31st May 2013, the Embassy will conduct written test and interview for all applicants.

Yangon, May 2013

Argentina launches claim at WTO against EU's biodiesel rules

BUENOS AIRES, 16 May —Argentina Wednesday presented a claim against the European Union (EU) before the World Trade Organization (WTO) for its restrictive biodiesel import and marketing rules, the Argentinean Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The objective of the legal action in Geneva is to assure that international regulation guaranteeing equal access of Argentina's biodiesel to the European market is respected," said the statement.

"The European rules affect the marketing of Argentinean biodiesel in EU by giving the product a least favorable treatment compared to biodiesel produced in other places," the ministry said.

The statement also

said that "Argentina's government considers the restrictions for the access of Argentinean biodiesel and other products to the European market as obstacles that affect the conditions for a constructive dialogue in the framework of the bilateral and regional trade negotiations."

According to local daily "La Nacion", Argentina's claim "is at the first stage of a process that leads to prolonged trade disagreements which are resolved by a group of experts appointed by the multilateral organization."

The daily added that EU has 60 days to address Argentina's complaint and if both parts do not achieve an accord, the group of experts will resolve the disagreement.—Reuters

ITTF museum to be moved to China from Switzerland

PARIS, 16 May—The Museum of the International Table Tennis Association in Lausanne, Switzerland, will be moved to China, the ITTF President Adham Sharara said here on Wednesday.

Sharara, who was just re-elected as ITTF President, told reporters the move is to attract more visitors but the future site

in China is not decided.

"The museum has been in Switzerland for 10 years and we hope to have more people to see it," the Canadian said.

He said that the former Chinese women's team coach Shi Zhihao, who was elected as vice president of the ITTF, will be responsible for the museum's move.

Xinhua

14th Japanese Speech Contest (2013)

The 14th Japanese Speech Contest will be co-hosted by Japanese Embassy and MAJA (Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni) at Park Royal Hotel(Ballroom) on the day of 30th June 2013.

Any contestants are welcome to enquire at the following, between 20th May to 14th June 2013.

1. MAJA (Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni)
09-8612151, 09-8613848
2. HITO Centre (Mandalay)
02-31762

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV AYSAN VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 LAND & SEA LOGISTICS**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

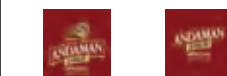
Prevention is better than cure



Volunteer teachers attend a welcome meeting Held by Confucious Institute Headquarters of China and Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC) of Thai Education Ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 May, 2013. Over 500 volunteer Chinese teachers were selected by Hanban to teach in schools belong to OBEC.—XINHUA

Corrigendum

In the Cautionary notice appeared on 29 March, 2013, the following 6 marks are used in respect of Beer, Draught Beer, ale, lager, stout, porter, malt beverages; Mineral and aerated waters and other alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages of all kinds."



4/12746/2012

4/12747/2012



4/12748/2012

4/12749/2012



4/12750/2012

4/12751/2012

89 oil thieves arrested in Nigeria

YENAGOA, (Nigeria), 16 May—The Joint Task Force (JTF) in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region has arrested 89 suspected oil thieves in its anti-oil theft joint operations.

A statement from the task force in Yenagoa on Wednesday said the JTF impounded a barge laden with unspecified volume of suspected crude during the operation.

The statement signed by Onyema Nwachukwu, JTF's spokesman, said the self-propelled barge was

intercepted by the maritime component of the JTF at Burutu, Delta State.

It said 22 illegal crude oil distillation camps were destroyed, while 18 boats, 133 plastic surface tanks and 28 pumping machines used for crude oil theft in the Niger Delta were seized. "Three of the illegal oil distillation camps which had 138 plastic tanks of 7,500 liters capacity each, 23 steel surface tanks, 16 pumping machines, two electricity generating set, one welding machine were discov-

ered by patrol operatives of three Battalion Sector 1 at Otumara, Obe/Jesse communities of Delta state," the military statement added.

"Three other camps used for illegal distillation of crude oil were also scuttled in Gbelebu village in Ovia south West Local Government Area of Edo state," it said.

"The operations also saw troops of 146 Battalion, Sector 2 of the JTF deployed in Cawthorne Channel 2 and Bodo West Creek further destroyed 16 illegal

crude oil distillation camps in Okpomakiri, K-Dere and B-Dere and communities in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers state," the JTF added.

"Some 15 wooden boats conveying about 26,000 liters of stolen crude oil were also intercepted in these areas," the statement stated.

It said the JTF's strategy against oil theft included advocacy and dialogue to persuade members of the communities to support it.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Angelina Jolie caps journey from wild child to doting mother

CANNES / LOS ANGELES, 16 May— As a tattooed wild child wearing her husband's blood in a locket and luring Brad Pitt away from Hollywood rival Jennifer Aniston, Angelina Jolie was dream fodder for the tabloid Press. But her transformation into a humanitarian campaigner and now poster girl for the fight against breast cancer with her revelation that, faced with a high cancer risk, she had undergone a double mastectomy has elevated her to heroine status in the media.

Her deeply personal account of the decision to undergo the operation, published in *the New York Times*, won her wide praise for her courage and Pitt's support of her move has put the couple in a new light in and beyond Hol-

lywood. Jolie said she made the difficult choice in order to "tell my children that they don't need to fear they will lose me to breast cancer." "This week they have shown that they are real people and a real couple with a solid relationship," said Wendy Mitchell, editor at trade magazine *Screen International*, speaking at the world's largest film festival in

Cannes.

"They have both grown up and even though the tabloid Press will still chase them, there is a new respect there for them." Jolie, 37, has managed to put her wild reputation behind her, staying out of the public spotlight with Pitt and their six children and only taking to the stage to promote films and causes in which she is involved. In April, she stood alongside British Foreign Secretary William Hague at a G8 meeting in London, her hair in a bun and in a business suit more typical of Wall Street than Hollywood, to pledge an end to sexual violence and rape in war zones.

A month earlier, in her role as a special envoy for the UN Human Rights Council, Jolie accompanied Hague to refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo, never giving an indication of the personal health traumas



US actress and humanitarian campaigner Angelina Jolie leaves a G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting in London in this 11 April, 2013 file photo. REUTERS

she was going through at that time. The actress, whose past roles have included the "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" films, still makes big studio entertainment such as next year's "Maleficent," a twist on "Sleeping Beauty" in which she stars as the wicked sorceress who puts a curse on the princess.

She also has

combined her humanitarian campaigning with filmmaking, marking her directorial debut with 2011's "In the Land of Blood and Honey," a love story between a Muslim woman and a Serbian man with the Bosnian war as a backdrop. Industry

insiders at the Cannes film festival this week, the year's biggest movie industry gathering, were stunned by Jolie's mastectomy announcement but said the way she released the news, in her words in the *Times*, was a sign of her maturity. Jolie and Pitt, 49, also are talking about marriage.—Reuters

Singer Shakira will leave NBC's 'The Voice' after season

LOS ANGELES, 16 May— Pop singer Shakira will leave NBC's television singing competition programme "The Voice" after only one season as a judge in order to spend more time with her family.

The Colombian singer told entertainment news outlet "Access Hollywood" after Tuesday's episode of "The Voice" that she wanted to spend more time with her infant

child and finish up a new album.

"Not for next season," Shakira, 36, said when asked if she was coming back. "I was really struggling with the fact that I had to leave my nest with my little baby," she added. "So now I need to stay with him for a little bit and also work on my next album. You never know, maybe (I will be back) for the future seasons."

Singer Christina Aguilera is expected to rejoin the show's panel of four judges in the fall after a one-season hiatus. Shakira and R&B singer Usher were added as judges this season, replacing Aguilera and singer Cee Lo Green, who had been on the panel along with country singer Blake Shelton and Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine since "The Voice" began in 2011.

Reuters



Kangana Ranaut started working early at the age of 17.—PTI

Kangana Ranaut: Gangster dramas lucky for me

MUMBAI, 16 May — Himachal girl Kangana Ranaut entered filmdom with hit crime-romance Gangster — A Love story and the actress, whose latest release Shootout At Wadala also did well, feels gangster thrillers are lucky for her. "I think gangster-based films are very lucky for me. My debut film Gangster in 2006 was successful, then came Once Upon A Time In Mumbai and now Shootout At Wadala," the 26-year-old said here on Tuesday at the success bash of Shootout At Wadala.

Directed by Sanjay Gupta, Shootout At Wadala is the story of Mumbai po-

lice's first official encounter in which they shot dead gangster Manya Surve. In the film, John Abraham plays Manya, while Kangana Ranaut is seen as his love interest Vidya Joshi. In her seven-year-long career, Kangana tried her hands at romance and comedy as well with Woh Lamhe, Double Dhamaal and Tanu Weds Manu. If these films did well at the box office, Kangana too got accolades for her performances.

When asked about her reaction on being sidelined in favour of other actresses —Priyanka Chopra, Sunny Leone and Sophie Choudry during Shootout At Wadala

pr-release promotions, Kangana said: "This is producers' decision how they want to promote their film. Actors should not interfere in such things and actors like me don't even do that."

"These are minor things, so there is no point feeling sad or ignored. Moreover, whatever is best for the film should be done," she added. She concluded by saying: "I have been working since I was 17 and have completed seven years here. So when you have that much experience, you know that films come and go. They are not everything. We do also have our own life." — PTI



Colombian pop star Shakira performs during her concert in Caracas, on 27 March, 2011. Shakira is currently on her The Sun Comes Out World Tour.—REUTERS

SPORTS

Valcke guarantees Sao Paulo World Cup stadium



FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 May—FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke has guaranteed Sao Paulo's World Cup stadium will be ready on time, one day after claiming the venue could be taken off the tournament schedule due to construction delays. Valcke met with Itaquerao stadium officials on Wednesday and

said he was confident the December 2013 deadline would be met.

"We are very satisfied with the meeting and with the fact that we could talk face-to-face," Valcke said. "Sao Paulo will be an example for other cities to deliver the stadium in time, by 31 December. 'The discussion with Corinthians

was very fruitful since we understand we both want the same goal, to have the stadium ready. It is also a special project because of the legacy it leaves for the east zone of Sao Paulo."

Local officials last week said the Itaquerao stadium would not be ready until at least March next year due to complications involving the installation of temporary stands. But Itaquerao spokesman Andres Sanchez denied work on the venue was behind schedule. "This was an excellent meeting. There was some misunderstanding but (we) are aware of our responsibilities," Sanchez said. "I have always been sure that we would host the opening game of the 2014 World Cup and now I am even more. The schedule agreed with FIFA will be respected."—Xinhua

Boxer Floyd Mayweather tops highest-paid US athletes' list

NEW YORK, 16 May—Undeclared boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr is the highest-paid professional athlete in the United States with expected earnings of at least \$90 million this year from just two bouts, according to *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

The 36-year-old welterweight—considered the best defensive boxer of his generation—topped the magazine's Fortune 50 list, issued on Wednesday. Mayweather also took the top spot last year, earning an estimated \$85 million, again from just two fights, the magazine reported. Miami Heat basketball star LeBron James, 28, a four-time National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player, came in this year in the number two slot, earning a total of \$56.5 million.

The list is calculated by combining estimated salary,

winnings and endorsements. Mayweather's total earnings are even more impressive considering he received no endorsement money either this year or last. James' \$56.5 million income combines a \$17.5 million salary with an additional \$39 million in endorsements. Golfer Tiger Woods, the highest paid US athlete from 2004, when the list was first published, through 2011, dropped to the No 5 slot on this year's list, earning \$40.8 million.

Chicago Cubs outfielder Alfonso Soriano came in as the 50th highest-paid US athlete with an estimated \$18.2 million. Candidates for the list must be US citizens and compete in a US-based league. Internationally, soccer great David Beckham is estimated to earn more than \$48 million, landing him the top spot on the magazine's annual list of highest-paid athletes worldwide, The International 20.

Reuters



Undeclared WBC welterweight champion Floyd Mayweather Jr of the US celebrates his victory over Robert Guerrero, also of the US, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 4 May, 2013.

REUTERS

Shirt-ripping Janowicz stuns Tsonga, Murray hurt

ROME, 16 May—Jerzy Janowicz ripped off his shirt after stunning Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Juan Martin del Potro visited the Pope and Andy Murray and Stanislas Wawrinka pulled out through injury at the Italian Open on Wednesday. Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova sailed through their second round matches with embarrassingly one-sided wins. Nadal began his quest for his seventh ATP title of the season by demolishing local hope Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-3, winning 74 percent of his service points and breaking his 25th-ranked opponent five times.

In the women's singles, second seed Sharapova never faced a break point in her 6-2, 6-2 win over Garbine Muguruza of Spain while China's Li Na went through with a 6-3, 6-1 win over compatriot Zheng Jie. All eyes were on Murray who

said he was doubtful for the French Open after suffering a lower back problem that forced the world number two to retire after levelling his second round match against Marcel Granollers. "We'll have to wait for Paris," Briton Murray told the ATP website. "I'd be very surprised if I were playing in Paris."

"I'll need to take some days off and see how it settles down, but a few days can make a difference." The French Open starts on 26 May. Swiss Wawrinka, beaten by Nadal in the Madrid Open final on Sunday, pulled out of his match against Alexandr Dolgoplov before the start with a minor thigh injury. World number 24 Janowicz could not contain his excitement after his win over eighth-ranked Tsonga, ripping off his shirt to celebrate as he clinched the match.

Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain reacts during the men's singles match against Marcel Granollers of Spain at the Rome Masters tennis tournament on 15 May, 2013.

REUTERS

Rangers to play two outdoor games at Yankee Stadium in 2014

LOS ANGELES, 16 May—The New York Rangers will play two outdoor games at Yankee Stadium early next year as part of the National Hockey League's (NHL) Stadium Series, the league said on Wednesday. The Rangers will face off against the New Jersey Devils on 26 January and then battle the New York Islanders on 29 January in the first hockey games to be played at the Major League Baseball stadium which seats over 50,000 people.

"The Stadium Series affords the opportunity to have all three NHL teams in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area play, outdoors, at one of the most-celebrated stadiums in the world," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. "We'll be

able to create a multi-faceted, multi-day experience for our fans."

Next season's four-game Stadium Series kicks off on 25 January when the 2012 Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings take on the Anaheim Ducks at Dodger Stadium, home of Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers. The series concludes on 1 March when the Chicago Blackhawks host the Pittsburgh Penguins at Soldier Field, home of the National Football League's Chicago Bears. Outdoor games have been staged by the NHL in some of baseball's and American football's iconic stadiums for a decade.

"We have long thought that Yankee Stadium would be a great venue for outdoor hockey," said Lonn Trost, New York Yankees chief op-

erating officer. "In addition to being a first-class baseball facility, Yankee Stadium was designed to house unique and memorable events." Another focal point of the NHL season is the Winter Classic on

New Year's Day, which next year will pit the Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs at Michigan Stadium, the football venue for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.—Reuters



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30) celebrates defeating the Washington Capitals with teammates Anton Stralman (6) and Derek Stepan (21) during Game 7 of their NHL Eastern Conference quarterfinal playoff hockey game in Washington on 13 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Maradona accused of attacking journalists



Diego Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, 16 May—Diego Maradona threw stones at journalists and

kicked a photographer following his arrival at Argentina's Ezeiza international airport on Wednesday, local media reported.

The 52-year-old and his 22-year-old girlfriend, Rocio Oliva, were surrounded by journalists and fans upon arriving at the terminal and allegedly asked his security team to use physical force to disperse onlookers.

The couple was then followed by media crew as he drove to the home of former girlfriend Veronica Ojeda to meet his three-

month old son, Diego Fernando, for the first time.

"On the way, in heavy rain, Maradona made the car stop, got out with a Havana cigar in his hand, took some stones from the edge of the highway and started throwing them at reporters' cars and kicked a photographer's leg," a paparazzo told La Red radio.

The 1986 World Cup winner is currently living in Dubai, where he coached local outfit Al Wasl before being sacked in July last year.—Xinhua

Meeting draws roadmap for India's return to Oly fold

NEW DELHI, 16 May—The crucial joint meeting between the Indian officials and the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne today agreed in principle on a roadmap to bring India back in the Olympic fold.

The meeting, which assumed great importance for India's sporting future, will now work out the exact details and the timeframe to get the ban lifted since it was imposed on 4 December last for India's failure to adhere to the Olympic Charter.—PTI

GENERAL

Enhanced English-language education sought in elementary schools

TOKYO, 16 May—A governmental panel on education reform will propose enhancing English-language education in Japanese elementary schools by making it an official subject for fifth and sixth graders, according to a draft proposal by the group obtained by Kyodo News on Wednesday.

As a way of nurturing people who can play an active role amid intensifying international competition, the panel headed by Waseda University President Kaoru Kamata will suggest boosting English-language education in elementary

schools, at which English is currently taught only once a week.

The upgrading of English to an official subject in elementary schools would require more training for teachers to be conducted, the evaluation of student achievement and the preparation of textbooks approved by the education ministry.

The education reform body will also call for English to be taught without any Japanese being spoken in some classes at junior high schools and increased student exchanges with foreigners through activities

such as camping.

The group will propose establishing “special zones for international education,” in which local governments would invite prominent overseas universities to open branch campuses. To increase the number of college students studying abroad, the panel will urge universities to give credits to students who intern at companies overseas, for the start of the academic year to be shifted from spring to fall, and for experience of studying abroad to be given weight in exams for national public service personnel.

Kyodo News

80-yr-old Japanese starts climbing Mt Everest

TOKYO, 16 May — An 80-year-old Japanese climber has launched his bid to become the oldest person ever to reach the summit of Mt Everest, his management office said on Thursday.

If all goes as planned, Yuichiro Miura will conquer the world's highest peak around 24 May to break the record held by Nepali climber Min Bahadur Sherchan, who

File photo shows Yuichiro Miura, an 80-year-old Japanese climber. Miura has launched a bid to become the oldest person ever to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, his management office said on 16 May, 2013.

KYODO NEWS



achieved it in 2008 at 76. It has been reported, however, the Nepalese is also bidding

to scale the mountain at the age of 81 to defend his record.—Kyodo News



Sri Lankan army personnel march during the Victory Day parade rehearsal in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, on 15 May, 2013. Sri Lanka celebrates War Heroes Week with a military parade scheduled for May 18. The parade celebrates the fourth anniversary of the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels in May 2009, ending a 37-year long separatist conflict.—XINHUA

Singapore, China enhance collaboration in traditional Chinese medicine research

SINGAPORE, 16 May—Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) said on Wednesday that they have inked the 5th Plan of Cooperation (POC) with China's State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) in the area of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), mainly in research collaboration.

The MOH said it is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the ministry and the SATCM in 1999, which provides for the POC once every three years, and an annual meeting of the Sino-Singapore Committee on

TCM Cooperation held alternately between Singapore and China. The MOU aims to “formulate cooperation plans and facilitate the mutual exchange of information and expertise on the teaching, practice and regulation of TCM between both countries.” The latest 5th POC has widened the collaboration in TCM research, which represents “an area of relevance for Singapore following MOH's research grant set up this year for research collaborations between western scientific researchers and TCM institutions for better patient outcomes.”

Xinhua

Indian university opens gallery on friendship between China, Tagore

KOLKATA, 16 May—A prestigious Indian university here on Wednesday opened a gallery about the friendship between legendary Indian poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore and China. The gallery, to be permanently exhibited by the Rabindra Bharati University, enlightens on Tagore's contribution to and historical position in cultural exchange between China and India. It consists of eight rooms highlighting different features of Tagore's relations with Chi-

na. Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Zhang Lizhong said at the inauguration ceremony that Tagore is not only a poet and philosopher well known to Chinese readers, but also a great sympathizer of the Chinese people's struggle for better fate in the first half of the 20th century.

He denounced both the opium trade imposed by the British on China and the aggression of China by Japanese imperialists, said Zhang.

B Basu, minister-in-

charge of Education of the state of West Bengal, said that civilizational exchanges between China and India started in immemorial times and Tagore is one of the pioneers in seeking cultural exchanges with China in the 20th century. He said the on-going India-China exchanges of culture will make more meaningful and eventful relations between the two countries.

The items displayed in the gallery are provided by Chinese and Indian institutions including the

Shanghai Archives Bureau and scholars on Tagore who provided 250 Chinese books on the Indian writer.

The Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing offered the first Chinese edition of lyrics by Tagore to the exhibition in 2011.

Professor Liu Yuening, the publisher of the edition, also gave dulcimer performances in collaboration with Indian musicians at the ceremony to the effect of a new style of China-India music combination.

Xinhua



Members of the National Ballet of China perform at the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 May, 2013. The performance was part of the activity of “introducing high arts to schools”, which was started in 2006 and was aimed at improving the aesthetic faculties of the young.—XINHUA

France to invest 12 bln euros to bolster local firms' competitiveness

PARIS, 16 May—France planned to invest via its Public Investment Bank, 12 billion euros (15.45 billion US dollars) by 2017 to inject new breathe into the competitiveness of the domestic companies, a bank official said on Wednesday.

Addressing the depu-

ties, the bank's chief executive Nicolas Dufourcq detailed that the bank will invest 9.2 billion euros directly in small and medium seized enterprises and 2.7 billion euros through contributions to specialized investment funds.

With 40 billion euros

of financing capacity, the Public Investment Bank was created to offer enough liquidity to firms in financial troubles to help them improving their competitiveness enough to well positioning their products and services in global markets.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 14 May, 2013 shows the Fuji Mountain seen behind blossoming Shiba Sakura in Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture. According to local media, the Fuji Mountain will likely be added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites next month after an influential advisory panel to the UN cultural body made a recommendation.—XINHUA

Partly damaged cars to be confiscated and sent to foundry



Automobile Import Supervisory Committee Meeting in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May— Vehicles with damaged bonnet and body will be confiscated in line with legal procedures and sent to foundry, according to Automobile Import

Supervisory Committee Chairman Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.

The Union minister said that it would be done in a transparent manner, adding that persons and companies

that import automobiles against the rules will face suspension of import permit for a year.

The Union minister as he addressed the committee meeting at his ministry this

morning mentioned that permits have been issued for importation of a total of 155287 cars between 19 September, 2011 and 10 May, 2013.

Though the citizens are allowed to import reconditioned cars, some of the cars imported are already partly damaged when sold at the auction and consequently the media have raised questions over the case, said the Union minister.

The committee has informed respective departments to take measures against the cases in line with procedures on 5 May, 2013. Damaged cars are still at ports with some being shipped to the country, admitted the Union minister who promise to take action against the cases.

Those present then discussed operational difficulties and follow-up measures.—MNA

Cyclonic Storm (Mahasen) crosses Bangladesh Coasts

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—According to the observations at 5:30 pm M.S.T today, Cyclonic Storm (Mahasen) over North Bay of Bengal has crossed Bangladesh Coasts near Chittagong. It is forecast to move Northeast wards as land depression and weaken gradually, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—NLM

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects evacuation efforts in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May— Natural Disaster Preparedness Team led by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin looked round evacuation centers opened at No.4 Basic Education High School, Thetkaypyin village BEMS (affiliated) and religious building in Sittway yesterday evening.

The chief minister and party met religious leaders at Thetkaypyin religious building and elaborated on evacuation of victims

to safer places and efforts of Union government and Rakhine State government for natural disasters preparedness measures. He urged them to make cooperation in storm preparedness. Then, he inspected relief aids in the religious building.

After that, the chief minister and party visited evacuation of victims and relief aids at Sittway Station and monasteries in Arkyeik-tawgon of Sittway.

MNA

Two injured in Monghsat plane accident

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—A MA 60 plane owned by Myanmar Airways flying Yangon-Monghsat-Heho-Monghsat-Yangon skidded while landing on the runway of Monghsat airport at about 11.51 am today.

The plane carrying 55 passengers and crews left Yangon International Airport at 7.56 am and landed at Heho Airport. Then, it left Heho at

11.08 am and arrived at 11.51 am at Monghsat Airport.

The plane skidded and stopped at about 200 yards from the runway No. 12. The weather condition was normal when the accident occurred.

Daw Nan Myint Aye of Monghsat and Ma Nway Oo Maw of Malswemyauk got injured in the accident. The injured were sent

to Monghsat Tatmadaw Hospital. Left fan, landing gear and engine of the plane were damaged. A total of 36 passengers for Monghsat-Yangon schedule were transported to Yangon with other flight. The accident is assumed to be resulted from break system failure while landing, according to the Ministry of Transport.

MNA



Myanmar Airways' plane skids while landing on the runway of Monghsat Airport.—MNA

Assistance provided to war victims

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May— Tatmadawmen yesterday gave medical treatment to a total of 237 households from Naungmaha, Naung-

kham and Mankun Villages of Nankham Township, Shan State (North), who had come back home after fleeing their homes for fear

of battles.

Rice, edible oil and foodstuff were also provided to them.

MNA



Preparations were stepped up before the cyclonic storm Mahasen hits Rakhine State.—MNA

Evacuees provided with health care services

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Medical treatment is being given to evacuees in Rakhine State by medical teams of local stations. The medical teams provided health care services, foods and water

to 232 peoples taking shelter in Oath Monastery and Mental Wellness Monastery in Sittway, 57 people from Ohntawlay relief camp taking shelter in Sittway local station, 152 persons at Kanyintan

Village Basic Education Primary School, 263 people at 4th Mile Basic Education Middle School, 185 peoples in Mulayama Monastery in Zeditaung Ward in Kyaukpyu today.

MNA

Border guard force gives medical treatment in Matmung Sub-township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May— A total of 40 villagers from Swunkalaung and Twaenauk Villages in Matmung sub-township were provided with medi-

cal treatment under the supervision of Commander of Matmung sub-township border guard force Major Sai Yi on 13 May.

On 14 May, Major Sai

Yi and party together with their families donated 30 bags of rice worth K 450,000 to Pyinyardipa Monastery in the sub-township.

MNA