The New Light of Myanmar
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President U Thein Sein leaves for US

President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar being seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport before departure for United States of America.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left here for the United States of America by air at 11.45 pm yesterday to pay a working visit to the US.

The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region ministers, Charge d' Affaires ai Ms Virgina E. Murray from US Embassy in Myanmar and officials.

The delegation members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Than Htay, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Ye Htut, Dr Pwint Hsan, Dr Myo Myint and Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and officials accompanied the President.

MNA

Implementation of housing projects inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 16 May inspected progress in implementation of Waibagi Myothit Single Housing Construction Project in North Okkalapa Township and Low-cost Housing Construction Project in Shwepaukkan Myothit.

The deputy minister stressed to build the housing meeting set standards and conduct soil test for the projects.

MNA

Mawlamyine car show

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—The most amazing Mawlamyine exhibition & car show organized by Creation Strength Co Ltd kicked off at State Hall in Mawlamyine on 16 May.

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint formally opened the car show. Taxi. AA Probox, Taxi. AA Succeed, Taxi. AA Nissan, AD Van, Taxi. A Nissan Wingroad 1500 CC automobiles are on sale at the show. In addition, Korea-made motor bikes, concrete brick makers, electronics, cosmetics, and fitness equipment are also being sold.

The exhibition will be held up to 20 May.

MNA

Significant day temperatures (18-5-2013)

Chauk	**41°C**
NyaungU	**40°C**

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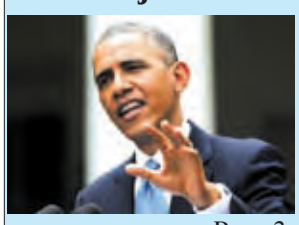

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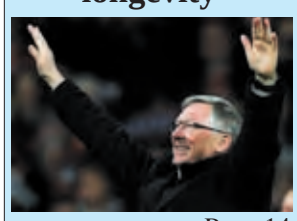
Ferguson praises "amazing" Beckham's longevity



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Toyota opens auto repair workshop in Yangon

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Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road: A trade route for Thai, Myanmar, China, India

Byline: *Maung Maung Myint Swe*
Photo: *Kyaw Thu Win*

Muse is a border town which is on the track to rapid development. Being a border town between Myanmar and China, its border trade camp is being kept open, facilitating flow of commodities from the two countries via Muse. Moreover, the town is situated on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road which is also known as ASEAN Highway-14.

As a road section of Asia Highway No (14), the 453 km long ASEAN Highway-14 links with not only neighbouring countries but also other Asian countries.

ASEAN Highway-14 linking Muse on Myanmar-China border with Mandalay includes five road sections—124 km long Muse-Hsenwi road section, 52 km long Hsenwi-Lashio road section, 104 km long Lashio-Kyaukme road section, 106 km long Kyaukme-PyinOoLwin and 67 km long PyinOoLwin-Mandalay road section. So far construction of these road sections by national race companies under BOT system has been completed.

Now, hundreds of vehicles are running on all road sections, thereby contributing towards smooth and speedy flow of commodities and travelling of passengers from one place to another and better socio-economic status of local people in the regions along all road sections.

As Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road (ASEAN Highway-14) is also linked with ASEAN Highway-1 which is 1665 km long from Myawady on Myanmar-Thai border and Tamu on Myanmar-India border, it is a trade route for Myanmar to connect Thailand, India and China for ensuring development.

Myanma Alinn: 14-5-13
***Trs*: YM**

Photo shows a part of ASEAN Highway-14 (AH-14) near PyinOoLwin Township.

LOCAL NEWS

Photo shows a domino-effect car crash involving four vehicles— one passenger bus of No (182) Parami bus line and three saloons— near Bo Min Yaung traffic light on Theinbyu road in Yangon at about 3.30 pm on 17 May.— KYEMON

Crime News

Counterfeit bills found at bank in Insein

YANGON, 18 May— Insein Township Police said they had received a report about counterfeit notes at Myawady Bank (Insein Branch) on Lanthit street in Nanthagon ward of the township on 14 May.

According to Bank Manager Daw May Myo Zaw, they found 34 5000-kyat notes among other notes from a customer at about 12.30 pm on 14 May. The customer was identified as U Saw Kyaw Kyaw, 43, owner of Saw Trading Timber Company at No (296/E) Kone Myint Tha street in east Ywama ward of Insein Township, who deposited it together with K 140 million into his account at the bank. U Khin Aung (casher) and Daw Su Su Thein (cash in-charge) discovered the counterfeit notes. Police confiscated the fake notes and informed CID of the seizure of fake money. It is learnt that numbers and letters of the seized counterfeit notes are similar to 5000-kyat bills seized by Hmawby police station.

Kyemon

Smuggled cattle seized in Kawa Township

KAWA, 18 May— According to a tip-off that there was a cattle smuggling near Aung Meiktha village in Kawa Township of Bago Region, police members of Kadat Sein police station together with witnesses rushed there to conduct a check. They seized ownerless there head of cattle at Lachanthaung near the village at about 4 pm on 14 May. — *Kyemon*

Accident

Tragic death of drowned two-year-old in Thongwa Township

THONGWA, 18 May— A two-year-old child was found dead on the edge of a lake in front of a house in Awbar Nyunt village on 7 May. He is believed to have drowned after falling into the lake which is 300 feet in length and 1.5 feet in depth.

As police were informed of the drowning death by the village administrator, they rushed there and made necessary investigation. They found Maung Min Hein Ko, 2, dead with no external injuries. According to witnesses, he is assumed to have drowned in the lake while playing alone as his parents stuck in house repair work. The dead body of the child was sent to Thongwa hospital where investigating is ongoing whether or not there is foul play in his death.

Parents are to be alert to the possibility of danger while the drains in front of their houses are filled with water in monsoon and they must place a close watch on their very young children.

Kyemon

Six hurt in mechanical failure–related road accident

MAUBIN, 18 May— All passengers on board were fortunate to escape unhurt in a crash between a 20-wheeled truck and an express bus. The crash occurred at a place between mile post No (40/4) and (40/5) on Yangon-Pathein motorway near Thaungdan village in Nyaungdon Township of Maubin District in Ayeyawady Region at about 12 noon on 13 May.

The 20-wheeled truck, Nissan, driven by Nay Zar Hlaing, 21, of Hlinethaya Township swerved into the wrong path and crashed into the front part of the Yangon-Pathein passenger bus driving on the opposite lane as the driver lost control while the truck put its rear part out of joint.

The crash left two bus conductors— Myint Zaw Oo, 38, and Zeyar, 25 — wounded and caused partly damage to the front part of the express bus. The driver and three others on board the truck were also injured in the crash . Chaunggyi police station is investigation into the road accident. —*Kyemon*

Speedster crashes into concrete blocks

YANGON, 18 May— A saloon crashed into concrete blocks laid on Thudhamma road in the middle near 5th street bust-stop in North Okkalapa Township, here, at about 10 pm on 16 May.

The vehicle driven by U Kyaw Thurein, 45, from south to north skidded out of control and hit the concrete blocks, turning his car on the damaged blocks to the opposition direction. The crash caused damage to the vehicle and five concrete blocks.

Kyemon

Lightning kills two head of cattle in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 18 May— Two head of cattle had got caught in a lightning strike and were killed while grazing in a field near Byeekat village, one mile south-east of Yamethin, at about 2 pm on 11 May.

The two cows were pronounced dead on the spot after they were struck by lightning. Moreover, nearby four herders collapsed unconscious as they got frightened when they saw the deaths of two cows by lightning.

Kyemon

Riders hurt in head-on collision between two motorbikes

THAYET, 18 May— A head-on collision between the two motorbikes occurred on Mindon street in Thayat Township of Magway Region on 15 May, leaving riders on the motorbikes wounded.

A motorbike driven by Myint Tun Naing, 37, of south Minde ward in Thayat together with Pyae Phyo Maung, 16, collided head-on with a motorbike driven by Win Naing, 40, of Zeedaw village in Thayet Township at Hsinbyutaung junction on Thayet-Mindon motorway at about 8 pm on that day.

Three riders on the two motorbikes suffered cuts and bruises in the collision. Thayat police station is investigating into the crash. — *Kyemon*

Car plunges into trench on expressway

YANGON, 18 May— A vehicle, Toyota Wave, came off the road and plunged into the roadside trench on Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon expressway. The driver was fortunate to escape with minor injuries to his arms.

The vehicle driven from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw plunged into the trench while stopping with a screech of the brakes at mile post No (165). The accident caused damage to front part of the car.—*Kyemon*

WORLD

Japan likely to miss most of July TPP trade talks

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 May—Japan is likely to miss most of the next round of Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations in July as it is being arranged to start before the country becomes the 12th member of the talks, a senior Malaysian government official said on Friday.

The 18th round is set to be held on 15 to 24 July in Kuala Lumpur, while Japan waits for the United States to complete its 90-day notice to Congress around 24 July to officially admit it as a new member of multilateral talks for creating one of the largest free trade zones in the world.

While Tokyo has asked the existing 11 TPP members to extend the round of talks, the latest schedule revealed indicates it will be able to attend only a few days at the most.

The Malaysian official said the members could still decide to extend the period of the meeting for two or three days, but they cannot postpone the entire meeting at a time when they are aiming to reach a basic agreement in October. Separately, Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamed told reporters that any change to the schedule has to be agreed on by other TPP members.

"The feedback I got was there is no consensus yet on this request by Japan," Mustapa said. Top negotiators of the countries could hold talks on whether to allow for the extension of the next round later Friday at the earliest as they have gathered for their 17th round of talks in the Peruvian capital Lima.

In Tokyo, Japan's economic revitalization minister Akira Amari told reporters the July meeting is "not formally decided yet," and indicated he hopes the upcoming round will be extended. Saying members of the TPP negotiations have promised Japan they will make utmost efforts to realize "meaningful participation" of Japan at the meeting, Amari said he hopes the efforts will bear fruit and allow Japan to join "substantive discussions."

As Japan is unable to attend the ongoing Lima round of talks either, it is gathering information there to prepare for the next round of talks in hopes to secure national interest in key fields such as agriculture, automobiles and insurance.

Cabinet members involved in TPP issues agreed at their meeting on Friday to appoint negotiators for all 21 fields on the table next month and manage information obtained from other countries to prevent leaks.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe formally announced the country's intent to join the TPP talks in mid-March and the existing 11 TPP members have given the green light for Japan to join on 20 April. The United States notified Congress of its intent to start TPP talks with Japan four days later. TPP members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, Vietnam and Japan.

Kyodo News

After tough week, Obama tries to change the subject to jobs

US President Barack Obama answers a question in the rain during a joint news conference with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the White House Rose Garden in Washington, on 16 May, 2013.
REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 18 May—President Barack Obama on Friday will seek to turn the spotlight from controversies threatening to swamp his agenda to the economy by announcing he will cut in half the time it takes to get federal approval for large job-creating projects.

Obama travels to Baltimore, where he is due to say that he has signed a presidential memorandum streamlining the review and permitting of federal infrastructure projects.

In making the announcement while posing in front of heavy dredging equipment at Ellicott Dredges, Obama will have a chance to remind the public that he wants to spend $50 billion on repairing the nation's aging roads, bridges and ports.

Even as Obama insists he wants to cut red tape, the visit may draw attention to a pipeline project that has stalled in a protracted federal approval process since 2008 — the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline from the Canadian oil sands.

The pipeline has been championed by Republicans, who blame Obama for the delay, and pilloried by environmental groups who argue Obama's credibility on his vow to address climate change hinges on rejecting the project.

Peter Bowe, the president of Ellicott Dredges testified on Thursday at a House of Representatives small business committee hearing about how the delay has hurt his company, which provides equipment and labor in the oil sands.

"For us, it's all about jobs," Bowe said, urging speedy approval of the pipeline, which Obama delayed last year, saying it needed further review. The State Department is continuing to study the project, and the administration is unlikely to make a decision until late this year or even early 2014.

Reuters

Fearing Afghan instability, Russia mulls border troops

KABUL, 18 May — Russia, predicting instability once NATO-led troops withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of next year, is considering deploying border guards on the Tajik-Afghan border, Moscow's envoy to Kabul told *Reuters* in an interview. Moscow, still sore from its disastrous, decade-long war in Afghanistan in the 1980s, is increasingly concerned by what it describes as the combined threat of narcotics and terrorism reaching Russia through former Soviet Central Asian countries.

"We prefer to tackle this problem on the Afghan border to stop these threats," Andrey Avetisyan said late on Thursday in the Russian Embassy in Kabul.

Its sprawling grounds host a Soviet-built teal Volga car recovered in Afghanistan by embassy staff and a memorial to the 15,000 Soviet lives lost in the war against mujahideen fighters.

"We used to have a serious presence on the Afghan-Tajik border and, at that time, the situation there was much better, so it would be in the interest of both Russia and Tajikistan and even Afghanistan if Russia is present there," he said. Avetisyan said such a presence would involve Russian border troops, but declined to give a number.

Russian border guards used to patrol the Tajik frontier with Afghanistan but left in 2005, ending a Soviet-era legacy and handing all power over to local authorities. Ex-Soviet Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan also border Afghanistan to its north.

Russian Ambassador to Afghanistan Andrey Avetisyan speaks during an interview in Kabul on 16 Feb, 2012.
REUTERS

Avetisyan said any agreement on border troop deployment would "of course" have to be agreed upon with Tajikistan.

Reuters

Colombia's Santos hints he will run for re-election in 2014

BOGOTA, 18 May—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos hinted on Friday that he would seek re-election next year to ensure continuity of his policies, though he did not explicitly announce his candidacy.

Santos told reporters that he would make a formal announcement by the November deadline. "I want clearly and firmly to see that the government's policies continue after 7 Aug, 2014," said Santos, referring to the date a new administration would take office.

"I want the peace policy re-elected, I want the housing policy re-elected, those that have reduced poverty — re-elected."

Santos also announced that Housing Minister German Vargas Lleras, who led a programme to give 100,000 free homes to the poor, has resigned from the Cabinet and will run a foundation that helped Santos win the 2010 presidential election.

Reuters

Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos speaks during the inauguration of the 26th International Book Fair in Bogota on 17 April, 2013.
REUTERS

Pro-Assad hackers attack Financial Times

LONDON, 18 May—The website and Twitter feed of British newspaper the *Financial Times* were hacked on Friday, apparently by the "Syrian Electronic Army", a group of online activists who say they support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The group posted links on the newspaper's Twitter feed to a YouTube video, uploaded on Wednesday, which purports to show members of the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front Syrian rebel group executing blindfolded and kneeling members of the Syrian army.

The video could not be independently verified. Hacking attacks on verified Twitter accounts of media organizations have triggered urgent calls for the micro-blogging website to increase account security, particularly for news outlets. "Various FT blogs and social media accounts have been compromised by hackers and we are working to resolve the issue as quickly as possible," a statement from the FT press office said.

The paper is owned by Pearson Plc Twitter was not immediately available for comment.

Stories on the FT's website had their headlines replaced by "Hacked By Syrian Electronic Army" and messages on its Twitter feed read: "Do you want to know the reality of the Syrian 'Rebels?'", followed by a link to the video.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

People walk past furniture made of recycled wood at the 2013 creativity fair in Taiyuan University of Technology in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 17 May, 2013.—XINHUA

Oceanauts honoured as "heroes"

BEIJING, 18 May —Seven oceanauts with China's manned submersible *Jiaolong*, which proved capable of diving 7,000-m-plus deep, have each been given the title of "Manned Submersible Hero." The honour, bestowed by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council, was announced on Friday at an award ceremony jointly held by the State Oceanic Administration and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

Jiaolong completed a dive of 7,062 metres in the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench during its trial operation in June 2012, enabling China to conduct deep-sea scientific research and resource exploration in 99.8 percent of the world's oceans. The crew behind *Jiaolong*'s record dive were honoured as a "Heroic Group."

Prior to the ceremony, President Xi Jinping met with representatives of the honoured units and individuals, expressing congratulations and greetings to all science and technology workers as well as officials who helped make the achievement possible. Meanwhile, Xi called for unity and hardwork to push forward the country's ocean cause toward making new breakthroughs. Also at the ceremony, the administration and the ministry gave the "Advanced Group" title to 22 units behind the research and development of the project, with 19 people each honored as an "Advanced Individual."

Xinhua

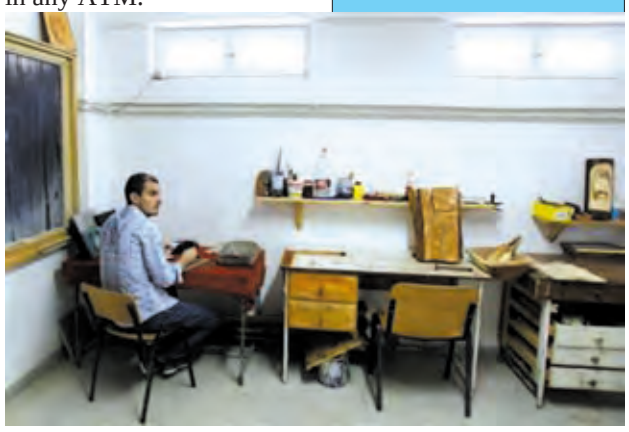
Visitors watch the product demonstration at the exhibition area of Volvo during the China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair in Shanghai, east China recently.—XINHUA

Penitent Romanian hacker aims to protect world's ATMs

VASLUI, (Romania), 18 May—Valentin Boanta, sitting in his jail cell, proudly explains the device he has invented which, he says, could make the world's ATMs impregnable even to tech-savvy criminals like himself. Boanta, 33, is six months into a five-year sentence for supplying gadgets an organized crime gang used to conceal ATM skimmers, which can copy data from an unsuspecting ATM user's card so a clone can be created. He said he had started to make the devices for the sheer excitement of it and denies ever planning to use them himself, saying he only sold them to others.

Boanta says his arrest in 2009 and trial brought contrition, as he realized the impact of his actions and felt an urge to make amends. It also brought the former industrial design student a flash of technical inspiration. "When I got caught I became happy. This liberation opened the way to working for the good side," Boanta said. "Crime was like a drug for me. After I was caught, I was happy I escaped from this adrenaline addiction," he said. "So that the other part, in which I started to develop security solutions, started to emerge." It was during his trial that he got down to work.

The stage for Boanta's product pitch these days is the book-lined cell in the northeastern Romanian town of Vaslui he shares with five pickpockets and burglars. "All ATMs have ageing designs so they are prone to vulnerability, they are a very weak side of the banking industry," he said. "Every ATM can be penetrated through a skimming crime. My security solution, SRS, makes an ATM unbreachable."Boanta says his "Secure Revolving System-SRS" can be installed in any ATM.



Valentin Boanta works in a craftsmen section of the Vaslui penitentiary, 340 km (211 miles) northeast of Bucharest on 15 May, 2013.—REUTERS

It allows the bank card to be inserted longer side first and then rotates it to prevent skimmers being able to lock on to the magnetic data strip. The system returns the card to its user with a reverse rotation. Outwardly it is a trapezoidal metallic box around 6 inches long with the card slot in the middle. The SRS, funded and developed by a technology firm near Bucharest called MB Telecom, is patented and won an award this year at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva. The inventor and company are not yet saying how much it will cost, but insist it will be available soon.

Reuters

Foxconn says needs more time to further cut workers' overtime

TAIPEI, 18 May—Foxconn Technology Group said on Friday it needs more time to reduce overtime at its China factories after labour monitors appointed by top client Apple Inc said cutting workers' hours by a 1 July target would be a challenge.

Apple last year commissioned the Fair Labour Association (FLA) to investigate working conditions at the plants after Foxconn, the holding company for Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, came under fire for a series of suicides and accidents since 2010. In its third report, the FLA said Foxconn had resolved 98 percent of the issued raised in the initial investigation, including cutting working hours and overtime, improving health and safety and increasing union participation. The company employs more than one million people at its China plants.

Foxconn, however, faced the challenge of further cutting overtime hours to the standards set by Chinese law by the target date, said the report which was released on Thursday. The law stipulates a maximum of 40 working hours plus nine overtime hours a week. "We need more time with the deadline," Foxconn spokesman Louis Woo told *Reuters*. "We can't say when we can meet that target now. We're trying to come up with a realistic timetable."

Many Foxconn workers, migrants from other parts of China, oppose a reduction in overtime because they want to make as much money as possible in a short time. Some workers have said they may leave the company if overtime is cut. Hon Hai, the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer, draws an estimated 60 to 70 percent of its revenue from assembling gadgets and other work for Apple.

Reuters

Climate change alters global fishing landscape

VANCOUVER, 18 May—Rising global temperatures are driving fish species towards cooler, deeper waters, making warm-water species increasingly dominant in global fisheries catches, a new Canadian study has found.

The study, conducted by researchers from the University of British Columbia and published in *Nature* this week, is the first of its kind to show that ocean warming has had a global impact on the composition of species caught by fishermen over the past four decades. Previous studies indicated that some species are shifting location in response to temperature increases, with fish gradually moving away from the equator into cooler waters.

However, the new study showed that species from warmer waters have also been replacing those traditionally caught in many fisheries worldwide at least since 1970, according to the researchers. "One way for marine animals to respond to ocean warming is by moving to cooler regions," said the study' s lead author William Cheung. "As a result, places like New England on the northeast coast of the US saw new species typically found in warmer waters, closer to the tropics."

These shifts could have several negative effects, including a large reduction in catch in the tropics, where water temperatures could exceed the preferences of many tropical species, the researchers said.

Additional impacts could include decreases in profits and jobs, conflicts over new fisheries that emerge because of distribution shifts, and food security concerns, particularly in developing countries, they said.—*Xinhua*

Han Bing adjusts his handmade 3D printer in Tianjin Municipality, north China, on 16 May, 2013. Based on the method released on the internet, the 41-year-old by himself made this machine eventually, which costing some 2,000 RMB yuan (325 US dollars) and spending four months. At present, Han's 3D printer could only make simple items designed on the computer, like teapots and whistles. And he hopes his creation could function more powerfully by continuous improvement.—XINHUA

DirecTV interested in buying video website Hulu

NEW YORK, 18 May —The largest US satellite video provider, DirecTV, is one of the companies considering a bid for online video website Hulu, according to a source familiar with the situation. The person acknowledged that other parties were involved, adding that DirecTV was "one of many" suitors. Media reports have previously identified Time Warner Cable Inc as another company weighing a potential stake in the company.

Representatives of Direc TV and Time Warner Cable declined to comment on Friday. Reuters reported in April that former News Corp president Peter Chernin had bid around $500 million for Hulu, the service he helped create in 2007. *Reuters* also reported that Guggenheim had been hired to advise Hulu and was also contemplating a bid.

DirecTV had circled Hulu once before, when the video company put itself on the block in 2011. Other suitors at the time included Google Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Dish Network Corp. Talks collapsed over the price of that deal.Hulu has more than 3 million subscribers paying $7.99 a month for its premium service, and generated revenue of around $700 million last year.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Psychiatrists unveil their long-awaited diagnostic "bible"

NEW YORK, 18 May —The long-awaited, controversial new edition of the bible of psychiatry can be characterized by many numbers: its 947 pages, its $199 price tag, its more than 300 maladies (from "dependent personality disorder" and "voyeuristic disorder" to "delayed ejaculation," "kleptomania" and "intermittent explosive disorder"), each limning the potential woes of being human. But to the psychiatrist who shepherded the tortuous creation of the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," perhaps the single most important number is the "5" in its title: This is the DSM-5, not the DSM-V.

That may seem like a cosmetic change, but the American Psychiatric Association, which will release the book on Saturday at its annual meeting, decided to use Arabic instead of Roman numerals because "we want it to be a living document," said Dr David Kupfer of the University of Pittsburgh, the chairman of the task force that produced the DSM-5. Rather than waiting another generation to revise the manual — the DSM-IV was published in 1994 — psychiatrists will regularly update it with, for example, findings from genetics and neuroscience, labeling the revisions DSM-5.1 and DSM-5.2 and so on.

"We used '5' because V.0 and V.1 just don't look good," said Kupfer. The fact that the world's most powerful psychiatrists (their decisions determine what counts as a mental disorder, and thus what insurers cover and which children receive special services in school) are already building in ways to change the manual is commendable, even its critics say. But it is also emblematic of the DSM-5's failures, they argue, which include turning normal human behavior and feelings into mental illnesses, and expanding the criteria for disorders until an astonishing one in four US adults has a diagnosable mental illness every year —and even more do over a lifetime.

The latest revision began in 1999 with high hopes for putting mental illness on a scientific footing, using neuroscience in particular to tell the difference between, say, normal sadness and major depression. That reflected persistent criticism that "drawing a line between sickness and disease is a special problem in psychiatry," said psychotherapist Gary Greenberg, who participated in the "field trials" that tested the DSM-5's proposed diagnostic criteria before they made the final cut. "We don't have blood tests or other objective criteria to distinguish mental sickness from health. So you have a set of criteria that are very common, which means the potential for many people being diagnosed as mentally ill when they're not."

Reuters

Yellow fever vaccination booster dose unnecessary

GENEVA, 18 May —A booster dose of yellow fever vaccination every 10 years after the primary vaccination is unnecessary because a single dose of vaccination is sufficient to provide life-long immunity against the disease, World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday. The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE) arrived at the conclusion after having reviewed the lastest evidence, according to WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Record released on Friday. WHO said since yellow fever vaccination began in the 1930s with 600 million doses dispensed, only 12 known cases of yellow fever post-vaccination have been identified. All these cases have developed the disease within five years of vaccination.

Based on currently available surveillance data, SAGE concluded that vaccine failures were extremely rare and did not cluster as time increases after immunization. According to conventional guidance, a booster dose is recommended every 10 years. However, Dr Helen Rees, chair of SAGE, stated it was no longer necessary. "Looking at really very good evidence, it was quite clear to SAGE that in fact a single dose of yellow fever vaccine is effective," said Rees in a written statement. She pointed out that the new recommendation was important for yellow fever endemic countries for it would allow those countries to reconsider their vaccine programme.

WHO senior health advisor Philippe Duclos told a Press conference that with this recommendation, the vaccine available can better be targeted where it is most needed and help increase the protection of the population versus revaccinating somebody who has already been protected. Duclos further clarified that the new recommendation would not change the routine immunization or the yellow fever vaccination certificate required by international health regulations. He added the issue was about the period of validity of the certificate and that WHO would soon embark on discussing the new recommendation with its member states.

Yellow fever disease is endemic in tropical areas of Africa and the Latin Americas. Statistics show an estimated 200,000 cases and 30,000 deaths are attributable to yellow fever annually, most of them occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. Since there is no cure, vaccination is regarded as the effective measure against this disease.

The valid international certificate of yellow fever vaccination from travellers, including those in transit, arriving from infected areas or from countries with infected areas are required under international health regulations.

Xinhua

After Google, Amazon to be grilled on UK tax presence

LONDON, 18 May—Internet retailer Amazon.com Inc. will be called back to the British parliament to clarify how its activities in the UK justify its low corporate income tax bill, two lawmakers told *Reuters*. Amazon will follow search giant Google, which attended another grilling by parliament's Public Affairs Committee (PAC) over its tax affairs on Thursday.

A *Reuters* report earlier this month raised questions over Google's earlier assertions that its UK-based staff don't sell to customers. Over the past six years, Amazon has paid around $9 million in income tax on over $23 billion of sales to British clients, because it says it operates a single European business out of Luxembourg, rather than a multinational structure of independent subsidiaries in different countries, and should therefore pay tax in Luxembourg.

However, *Reuters* has uncovered evidence from the company's own statements, job advertisements, statements from three suppliers and five former employees, as well as the profiles of over 140 staff on networking website LinkedIn, which suggests the UK unit has a high degree of autonomy, with local managers deciding on many aspects of its business.

*A worker collects orders at Amazon's fulfilment centre in Rugeley, central England on 11 Dec, 2012. —*REUTERS

The information, collected during a three-month investigation, suggests that while Amazon depicts itself as a virtual business, its structure may not be so different from its bricks-and-mortar rivals." The basic business model wasn't very different to a mail order company in the 1970s or 80s," said Mark Riley, a Business Development Manager at Amazon.co.uk between 2005 and 2008.

Bryan Roberts, Retail Insights Director for consultants Kantar Retail, said apart from the fact buyers seal deals over the Internet, Amazon's UK unit Amazon.co.uk Ltd, which is based in an office block in Slough, near London, was essentially a UK retailer.

Reuters

Rivals get longer to comment on Google EU antitrust offer

BRUSSELS, 18 May—EU antitrust regulators have given some of Google's rivals more time to study its proposals to settle anti-competitive complaints, which could provide more leverage to pry further concessions from the Internet search giant. The European Commission last month told interested parties they had until 26 May to say if they are satisfied with the offer by the world's most popular search engine to mark out its services from rival products in Internet search results.

The EU antitrust authority has given some rivals until 27 June to complete their technical analysis of Google's proposals, said one person familiar with the matter. The regulator is able to grant extensions if there are strong grounds for doing so. A Commission competition spokesman, Antoine Colombani, declined to comment on the Google case. Several Google competitors and complainants about the company's practices have been critical of the proposed settlement, which includes providing links to at least three competing search engines, and allowing rivals to stop Google from using specific information.

According to British price comparison site Foundem, Google's offer would only reinforce its dominance. Google has more than 80 percent share of the market in Europe, according to research firm comScore. Other critics said the proposal would force rivals to compete among themselves, raising their costs and increasing merchants' dependency on Google. If Google clinches a deal with the Commission, it would avoid a finding of infringement of competition rules and a possible fine that could be as much as $5 billion or 10 percent of its global revenue.—*Reuters*

May consumer sentiment rises to highest in nearly six years

*A shopper walks down an aisle in a newly opened Walmart Neighbourhood Market in Chicago in this on 21 Sept, 2011 file photo.—*REUTERS

NEW YORK, 18 May —Consumer sentiment rebounded in early May to the highest level in nearly six years as Americans felt better about their financial and economic prospects, particularly among upper-income households, a survey released on Friday showed.

The Thomson Reuters/ University of Michigan's preliminary reading on the overall index on consumer sentiment rose to 83.7 from 76.4 in April, topping economists' expectations for 78. It was the highest level since July 2007. The barometer of current economic conditions jumped to 97.5 from 89.9, the highest since October 2007, while the gauge of consumer expectations gained to 74.8 from 67.8.

More consumers gave a favourable view of their personal finances than in anytime since 2007, with the largest gains among households in the upper third of income levels. More respondents also thought the economy would continue to improve in the year ahead.

Shopping plans were similarly encouraging, with the gauge of buying attitudes for durable goods rising to 148 from 137. The survey's one-year inflation expectation was unchanged at 3.1 percent, while the survey's five-to-10-year inflation outlook edged down to 2.8 percent from 2.9 percent.

Reuters

Surfboards lean against a wall at the Google office in Santa Monica, California, on 11 Oct, 2010. REUTERS

WORLD

Syria's Nusra Front eclipsed by Iraq-based al-Qaeda

BEIRUT, 18 May—The most feared and effective rebel group battling President Bashar al-Assad, the Nusra Front, is being eclipsed by a more radical jihadi force whose aims go far beyond overthrowing the Syrian leader. Al -Qaeda's Iraq-based wing, which nurtured Nusra in the early stages of the rebellion against Assad, has moved in and sidelined the organization, Nusra sources and other rebels say.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq includes thousands of foreign fighters whose ultimate goal is not toppling Assad but the anti-Western jihad of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri—a shift which could extend Syria's conflict well beyond any political accord between Assad and his foes.

The fighting has already cost 90,000 lives. The break-up of an important part of Syria's opposition, already splintered into hundreds of armed groups, worsens the dilemma faced by the West as it debates whether intervention to support the rebels will result in arms being placed in the hands of hostile Islamist militants. And the if the West were to intervene, it may now be under pressure to attack al-Qaeda opposition forces rather than Assad. "Nusra is now two Nusras. One that is pursuing al-Qaeda's agenda of a greater Islamic nation, and another that is Syrian with a national agenda to help us fight Assad," said a senior rebel commander in Syria who has close ties to the Nusra Front.

Fighters from Syrian rebel group Jabhat al-Nusra take their positions on the front line during a clash with Syrian forces loyal to President Bashar al Assad in Aleppo in this 24 Dec, 2012 file photo. —REUTERS

"It is disintegrating from within." Others said that Nusra's Syrian contingent has already effectively collapsed, with its leader Abu Mohammad al-Golani keeping a low profile and his fighters drifting off to join other rebel groups. Nusra fighters have claimed responsibility for the deadliest bombings of the two-year-old Syrian conflict and their brigades have led some of the most successful rebel offensives against Assad's forces. The group was formally designated a terrorist organization by the United States six months ago, a step which Washington said was vindicated by a declaration in April that Nusra was merging with al -Qaeda's Islamic State of Iraq.

Reuters

Employment rate of college graduates at 93.9%

TOKYO, 18 May—The employment rate for those who graduated from colleges in March rose for the second straight year to stand at 93.9 percent as of 1 April, the start of the business year, up 0.3 point from a year earlier, the government said on Friday. The employment situation for college graduates has been recovering since the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc, a labor ministry official said.

"Companies are resuming job offers, while joint efforts by colleges and Hello Work job-placement offices to help students find jobs have had positive effects," the official said.

The rate, however, is 3.0 points below its peak in 2008 and around 24,000 graduates are believed to remain without job offers.

Given this situation, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry and the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry are thus focusing on supporting job hunting by college graduates for a three-month period through June.

The employment figures exclude those who went on to graduate schools or stayed on in college for another year because they could not find jobs. Among overall graduates, the rate for landing jobs came to 66.0 percent, according to the two ministries.

The employment rate for female graduates came to 94.7 percent, up 2.1 points, exceeding that of male graduates, which stood at 93.2 percent, down 1.3 points.

The government survey also showed 93.4 percent of graduates of humanities courses and 96.2 percent of those of science courses found jobs.

The employment rate of two-year junior college graduates rose 5.2 points to 94.7 percent, the highest since the survey started in April 1997. The rate for job-seeking high school graduates as of the end of March increased for the third straight year, rising 1.0 point to 95.8 percent —96.9 percent for males and 94.2 percent for females, according to the survey.

Kyodo News

Clash between Russian oil chiefs could undercut Putin ally

An attendant holds a gas pump at a Rosneft petrol station in St Petersburg on 23 Oct, 2012.— REUTERS

MOSCOW, 18 May—A rare public clash between two leading figures in Russia's state-dominated oil industry hints at a split in President Vladimir Putin's inner circle and could be intended to rein in one of his closest advisers. Igor Sechin, who has built oil company Rosneft into the world's largest with Putin's help, has pushed for an expansion of a pipeline "spur" to take more oil to China, a profitable alternative market to Europe where demand is falling.

But on Thursday, the head of Russia's pipeline monopoly Transneft, Nikolai Tokarev, attacked the plans by asking whether he was becoming just a "service company" to Rosneft — unusually outspoken comments for a member of Russia's siloviki, otherwise known as "the men of power" around Putin. A year into his third term, splits are emerging in Putin's ruling team after street protests which have unsettled the president. Three ministers, most recently his former political strategist Vladislav Surkov, have been ousted.

"Who will pay to expand the pipeline spur to China? Transneft isn't just a service company for Rosneft," Tokarev said on Thursday evening after a meeting of Transneft's expert council on innovation. Rosneft declined to comment. Sechin, 52, has been close to Putin for two decades but, since completing the $55 billion takeover of Anglo-Russian oil firm TNK-BP in March, his ambitions have become increasingly curtailed and Rosneft's share price has weakened.

Putin recently upbraided Sechin for promoting a $15 billion offshore liquefied natural gas venture with ExxonMobil that could breach the export monopoly of Gazprom — a company used by Putin to project Russia's energy power abroad. —*Reuters*

Japan to offer energy-saving infrastructure for developing nations

TOKYO, 18 May —Japan will offer developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region an environmentally friendly urban infrastructure plan that taps into Japan's energy-saving technologies, Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara said on Friday.

Ishihara told a news conference he will make his proposal at a forum on Saturday gathering 18 countries to discuss partnerships for low-carbon growth in East Asia.

Japan will present a comprehensive package that includes a diversified energy scheme utilizing solar, wind and other sources of power, efficient public transportation, and water and sewerage systems, Ishihara said.

The idea is to help developing countries upgrade their city environments by offering funding and training. In exchange, Japan will make use of a bilateral offset credit mechanism under which it will obtain greenhouse gas emission rights from developing countries, officials said.

Kyodo News

35 killed, 45 injured in blasts in eastern Iraq's Diyala

BAGHDAD, 18 May—At least 35 people were killed and 45 others injured in two blasts, which hit almost simultaneously on Friday in Baquba, capital of eastern Iraq's Diyala Province, after the Friday prayer, an official said.

The two roadside bombs exploded near the Saroya mosque in Baquba, 65 km northeast of Iraq's capital of Baghdad, and hit the Sunni worshipers as they were leaving the mosque after prayer, the city's mayor Abdullah Hayali told *Xinhua*. Initial reports said 30 were killed and some 40 were wounded.

A day ago, at least 12 people were killed and 25 others injured as a suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shiite mosque in northern Iraq's Kirkuk. Violence is still common in Iraq despite the dramatic decrease since its peak in 2006 and 2007 when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.—*Xinhua*

Nigerian forces bombard militant camps from the air

MAIDUGURI, 18 May —Nigerian forces used jets and attack helicopters to bombard militant camps in the northeast on Friday, in their biggest military offensive since Boko Haram launched an uprising in 2009.

"A number of insurgents have been killed," the defence headquarters spokesman said, including at the Sambisa game reserve in Borno state, the epicenter of the insurgency.

"It is not just Sambisa, every camp is under attack. But we have not done the mopping up operations on the ground to determine the numbers killed," Brigadier-General Chris Olukolade said by telephone. A military source, who declined to be named, said at least 30 insurgents had been killed.

Nigerian forces are trying to regain territory controlled by increasingly well-armed Boko Haram insurgents in their northeastern stronghold states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, put under a state of emergency by President Goodluck Jonathan on Wednesday.

Reuters

South Korean soldiers take part in a US and South Korean joint toxic gas drill in Yeoncheon, Gyeonggi Province, northern South Korea, on 16 May, 2013.
KYODO NEWS

Ministry of Education School Enrolment Week From (27) to (31) May

People to participate in enrolment of all school-going age children

Toyota opens auto repair workshop in Yangon

YANGON, 18 May—Japanese automobile maker Toyota Motors Corporation is looking for operating a manufacturing plant in Myanmar, according to the company's executive consultant Takemoto.

He made the comment at the opening ceremony of Toyota's auto repair workshop in Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township.

Toyota's workshop is the first step for setting a manufacturing factory.

Toyota workshop will provide aftersale services to products of the Toyota group in Myanmar.

Toyota sees great potential in Myanmar which has a huge market of 60 million population.

Car body workshops in downtown Yangon generate a lot of noises and are even harmful to health of nearby residents. The opening of the workshop separate from populous areas.

The workshop is being run by joint venture between local firm TTAS Company and Toyota Corporation of Japan.

Myanma Alinn

HRD

Yangon, Akita universities seek to cooperate in mining

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye and International Exchange Promotion Coordinator of Akita University of Japan Mr Yoshiyuki Takahashi and party discussed signing agreement of academic cooperation in mining subject between Yangon University and Akita University, at the Education Ministry, here yesterday morning.—*MNA*

Multiplier course on child-centered approach conducted in Thazi Tsp

THAZI, 18 May—Township Multiplier Course of Child-Centered Approach was opened in Thazi Township in Meiktila District of Mandalay Region on 12 May.

The opening ceremony at Basic Education High School No. 1 was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Than Soe, Region Hluttaw representatives and officials of No. 2 Basic Education Department and Region Education Department, and township level departmental personnels. The course is being attended by headmasters and teachers of primary schools. The first batch course will run through 23 May—*Myanma Alinn*

Opening ceremony of Multiplier Course on Child-Centered Approach in Thazi Township in progress.

Thongwa Tsp opens multiplier course on child-centered approach

THONGWA, 18 May—A township level multiplier course on child-centered approach was opened in Thongwa Township in Yangon South District on 12 May. The opening ceremony was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1.

Assistant Director U Maung Kyei of No. 3 Basic Education Department, Township Education Officer Daw Htway Yin, her deputies, headmasters of high schools, middle schools and primary schools in the township were present.

The course is being attended by 559 primary school teachers, and 27 teachers from four monastic education schools.

Thirty seven trainers are providing the trainining. The course instructors demostrated the child-centered approach with 240 basic education primary school students. —*Myanma Alinn*

Myanmar artists remember ex-UNSG

YANGON, 18 May—Two famous artists and sculptors in Myanmar will work on potrait and statue of former United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, a Myanmar national who led the world most influential institution.

The French Embassy will host the event on 3 July.

"U Thant is an individual for we Myanmars to be proud of," Ko Kyaw Kyaw Min, a participatant sculptor, said.

Artist Shwe Myint will draw potrait of the ex-UNSG, well-known for his peace efforts in his reign at the United Nations till his last breath.

U Thant Museum has been opened in his former residence in Yangon.

The event is aimed at filling empty wall in the museum.

Both potraits and statue will be donated to the U Thant Museum.

Myanma Alinn

Loikaw hosts Myanmar-Thai business consultation

LOIKAW, 18 May—A business consultation was held between Myanmar's Kayah state and a Thai province at Kayah state government office here on 14 May.

It was attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo, Kayah state ministers, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Tun Aung, departmental personnel and Nice-Governor of the Thai province Suttha Saiwanich.

Representatives from two states exchanged views on tourism, culture, sports and border trade.

The delegates from Mae Haungsaung had first visited Myanmar in April, 2012, and Myanmar delegates including Kayah state government ministers visited the Thai side vice versa three months later.

They sought ways for cooperation between the two territories in their tours.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar-Thailand business consultation in Loikaw in progress.

Immigration issues CSCs to citizens in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 18 May—Citizenship scrutiny cards were issued by Immigration and National Registration Department at Wakhingon pagoda in Kankauk ward in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay Region on 14 May.

Head of Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Thaung Zaw, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representative Dr Kyaw Hla and officials attended the ceremony to issue the citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens.

A total of 665 cards have been issued in the fifth phase of the project.

The department is making field trips in east Aung Nan Yeik Tha ward and surrounding neighbourings to issue CSCs.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 19 May, 2013

Road slaughter

With a car boom in Yangon and hordes of motorcyclists in Mandalay and other towns, Myanmar has suffered road accident fatalities during recent years than ever before on record. In April alone, 389 road users were killed in 1346 traffic incidents. According to facts and stats of Myanmar Police Force, Yangon and Mandalay stood in order in the list of road deaths and injuries. So, it can be said that the two big cities have worst and maximum traffic violators.

Of vehicles running on the roads across the country, 80 per cent are motorcycles. Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay with a high number of registered and unregistered motorbikes are prone to fatal motorbike accidents. Two-third of road deaths across the country involves motorcyclists. Low use of helmet, use of unqualified helmets, speeding and drunkenness are contributing to this slaughter on downtown roads and highways as main factors.

There has been blanket coverage of increased road fatalities which have become a hot topic in conversation, calling for concrete road safety plans to decrease future carnage. A unified stance of all departments concerned is needed to lead to a substantial solution before the grisly road accidents become mundane. We should not blame the traffic enforcement agency alone as incompetent to tackle. Risk accidents can be attributed to mechanical failures, environmental conditions and errors of human judgment triggered by excessive speed and drunken driving.

A good starting point to avert mechanical failure-led tragedies is to crack down on illegal imports of motorbikes that failed to come under scrutiny and shipping of defective vehicles into the country. Construction of roads, bridges and highways meeting set standards and increased presence of traffic officers in accident hot spots are workable measures to reduce environmental conditions-related road casualties, but weather situations are unpreventable and unpredictable. Driving license should not be a license to kill. Further restrictions should be placed on driving tests to turn out safe and secure drivers. Moreover, all road users are to be alerted to punitive actions against traffic rule violations.

Defence Ministry (Youth) playing against Triangle Region Command in National Hockey League 2013 jointly organized by Sports Ministry and Myanmar Hockey Federation on 18 May. The former beat the latter 6-1.

NLM

NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 18 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham left here for Chiang Mai of Thailand by Myanma Airways special flight this afternoon to attend the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai and the 10th Celebrations for the United Nations Day of Vesak (Buddha's Birthday) in Bangkok.

The Vice-President and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, and Region Ministers, staff from Thai Embassy in Myanmar and departments.

The Vice-President was accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Khin Zaw and Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and departmental heads.—*MNA*

***Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham who will attend Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai and 10th Celebrations for UN Day of Vesak (Buddha's Birthday) being seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party at Yangon International Airport.*—MNA**

Banks Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 18 May—The executive boards of Banks Supervisory Committee under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Myanmar Banks Association met at the meeting hall of Myanmar Banks Association in Yankin Township here this afternoon.

Patron of Myanmar Banks Association Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein delivered an address at the 147th meeting. Chairman of Banks Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Secretary of Banks Supervisory Committee and the Chairman of Myanmar Banks Association discussed banking matters in relation to laws, regulations, procedures of private banks and foreign investment.

MNA

***Union Minister U Win Shein gives speech at executive boards meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee.*—MNA**

Elite Tech Open Golf Championship 2013 concludes

YANGON, 18 May—Mainly sponsored by Elite Tech Group of Companies and organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, the final round of Elite Tech Open Golf Championship 2013 took place at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Insein Township yesterday along with prize presentation.

It was attended by MGF Patron Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), MGF President U Tayza, personnel and fans. Myo Win Aung stood first in amateur level with 289 strokes and Thein Zaw Myint of KM Golf Center won first prize in professional level.

The winners were presented with cash and gifts. Air Bagan, Asian Wings Airways, AGD Bank, Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, CEPSR, tiger Golf, Myanmar Solar Power (MSP) co-sponsored the event.

NLM

Union Minister visits CVT training school

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint this morning visited Center of Vocational Training – CVT Myanmar at the building of Myanmar Red Cross Society on Strand Road in Botahtaung Township.

The courses conducted by the school are business course, electrical proficiency course, furniture making course, hotel and hospitality course and mines production course and the course duration is three years. The trainees attending the CVT course are Myanmar youths who engaged in their works. A total of 600 trainees are being given lectures with the aim of enhancing junior professional level. New courses are opened in the first week of May yearly.

Jointly organized by the Ministry and CVT Myanmar and with the assistance of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), plans are underway to establish a new training school to turn out skilled workers.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Mobile library in operation in Yaksawk Township

YAKSAWK, 18 May— To help push forward intellectual improvement of the public as part of people-centered public service, head of Yaksawk Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Mu Mya Saw and staff supervised works on mobile library, wall magazines and photo shows. The head elaborated on the objectives of mobile library, raising reading habits and benefits of reading and donated 100 books to local people.

Kyemon

Birthday party for hip conjoined twins at Mandalay Children's Hospital

MANDALAY,18 May — A birthday party for two-year-old hip conjoined twins, Aung Khant Kyaw and Aung Myat Kyaw, who have been successfully separated at 550-bed Mandalay Children's Hospital, was held at the hospital on 16 May.

It was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr Sein Han, Specialist Professor Dr. Aung Mra, Pediatrician Professor Dr Aung Aung Oo and specialists, nurses, parents and relatives of the twins.

The hip conjoined twins Aung Khant Kyaw and Aung Myat Kyaw born in Sagaing Township received successful surgical operation performed by specialists in Yangon and Mandalay at the hospital in May 2012.

Kyemon

Sanitation carried out in Sagaing

SAGAING, 18 May— Members of Sagaing Township Police Force carried out sanitation tasks across the township to ensure proper flow of drainage under the close supervision of district management committee starting from 15 May.

The head of Sagaing Township Police Force said, "We are clearing the drains on both sides of roads as preparation before arrival of the cyclonic storm which could trigger heavy rain. And departments concerned are also undertaking sanitation tasks at their designated places."

Fortunately, the storm changed its direction and did not enter into Myanmar.

Kyemon

Farming work permits presented in Kalay

KALAY, 18 May— Farming work permits were presented to the farmers at the Administrator's office of Sakhangyi village-tract in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region on 15 May and Chairman of Kalay District Farmland Management Committee Administrator U Nyi Nyi Htway gave a speech.

Then, Secretary of Kalay District Farmland Management Committee and Head of District Settlement and Land Records Department U Thein Lwin explained rights and disciplines of farmers.

Chairman of Kalay Township Farmland Management Committee Township Administrator U Aye Naing presented 171, Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Aung Kyaw Soe, 267 certificates to the farmers of Nansoungpu Village.

A plan is underway to present 40087 farming work permits to 32751 farmers.

Kyemon

Three old grenades found in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 18 May— Three grenades were found near Guest House of Union Solidarity and Development Party in Mohnyin on 14 May morning by mushroom seekers.

Daily wage earners Maung Thingyan and Maung Kyaw Soe from Township Development Affairs Committee found three grenades under jack fruit tree between development affairs staff quarters and USDP guest house while searching mushroom at 7:30 am on 14 May.

Head of Mohnyin Police Station Police Captain Hla Htwe and members, local artillery commander Lt-Col Nay Min Oo and members and Aung Thabye Ward Administrator U Naw Lar rushed to the scene to inspect the ordnances. It is learnt that it was Chinese made 91 form old grenades and it cannot be harmful or explosive.—*NLM-001*

Powered trailer fire burns three houses

Fire

KYAIKMARAW, 18 May—A powered trailer fire burnt down three houses in Tayana Village, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State on 15 May.

While the petrol barrels were being loading off from powered trailer in front of oil filling station of U Tun Sein in Tayana Village on 15 May evening, the battery wire shock of the powered trailer ignited the petrol barrels, resulting in the nearby houses caught the fire.

A total of 14 fire engines, 18 core firefighters and 50 auxiliary firefighters from Kyaikmaraw and Mawlamyine townships and surrounding villages and locals put off the fire which was extinguished an hour later after its start.

Three two-storey houses, the power trailer were damaged in the fire which also consumed 75 gallons of petrol. The Kyaikmaraw Township police have filed a lawsuit against U Tun Sein.—*Kyemon*

Nation-building endeavours

Falam gets more water

HAKA, 18 May— Falam Township of Chin State gets more water after the water from Zaryi Spring, seven miles four furlongs from Falam is piped to the township.

The tasks also included replacement of old pipelines with 2-inch PVC ones and construction of a 10000 gallon-storage-capacity tank and a 30000 gallon-storage-capacity tank. The township development affairs carried out the works at the cost of 73.8 million kyats, contributed by Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The spring produces 30000 gallons of water a day, benefitting 2345 people from 278 ouseholds in Kyinhmawl and Darhtauk wards in the township.

Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, state ministers, departmental personnel formally opened the facilities on 16 May.

Kyemon

Digging of drinking water lake in Padaung Township

PADAUNG, 18 May— Villagers form Yaytwinhla village, participated in collective digging of drinking water lake at the village of Talokepin village-tract in Padaung Township of Pyay District, Bago Region on 16 May.

The village has to rely only on the lakes even though the tube wells donated by the government and wellwishers run short. The village has to face danger of fire in summer. At the request of village administrators, Bago Region Constituency No.2 Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Than Zaw has pledged that coordination will be made with respective administrative bodies for funds allotments out of regional development funds by Region Government for digging of lake and construction of bridge.

Kyemon

Loan disbursed to cooperative societies in Yaksawk Township

YAKSAWK, 18 May— As part of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks and development of cooperatives works, east cooperative society of Shan State (south) disbursed micro finance loan to cooperative societies. A total of more than K 47 million of loans was given to eight cooperative societies in Yaksawk on 15 May.

It was attended by the Chairman of Shan State Cooperative Societies Development Committee, Shan State Planning and Economy Minister U Aung Kyaw Nyunt, Hluttaw representatives, depart-mental officials and members.

Kyemon

Head-on motor bike collision leaves three injured

THAYET, 18 May— Three injured in head-on motor bike collision in Thayet, Thayet District, Magway Region on 15 May.

The accident happened near Sinphyutaw Junction on Thayet-Mindon motor road around 8 pm on 15 May. The three got minor injuries. Thayet Police Station is investigating into the case.

Kyemon

WORLD

Greek PM hails "Greekovery" replacing "Grexit"

Greece's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras addresses the audience during the 12th Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) conference on ''Mediterranean blue economy:enhancing marine and maritime cooperation'' in Athens on 8 April, 2013.
REUTERS

ATHENS, 18 May— Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras has hailed kinder words from lenders and revived interest in the country's deeply-discounted bonds and stocks as a "Greekovery" to replace last year's "Grexit" catchphrase. Although there is little sign of economic recovery, Greece is finally attracting some of the cheap funds that are being pumped out by major central banks and feeding an investment boom on stock and bond markets.

Greek bond yields are at a three-year-low and its stock market has hit a two-year high, helped by praise from foreign lenders for government efforts in getting its bailout program back on track. "Until recently, many analysts believed that Greece was a lost case.

We proved them wrong," Samaras said in a speech in Beijing during a trip to China on Friday. "Most of them now witness not a "Grexit"—an exit from the euro zone—but a "Greekovery"—a recovery of the Greek economy." The economy, however, remains mired in sixth year of recession with unemployment at a record 27 percent and living standards have sunk due to wage and pension cuts.

"Samaras's 'success story' insults the country's youth, of whom 70 percent are unemployed," George Varemenos, a lawmaker from the main opposition Syriza party, told Skai TV. Investor interest in Greece revived this week after the Fitch agency upgraded the country's sovereign credit rating to B-minus—still highly speculative—from CCC on Tuesday. "Steadily Greece convinces more and more that it is on the course of becoming a true success story," said Samaras, who is on a trip to China and Azerbaijan to win business investment and reverse a 20 percent fall in output since the debt crisis began in 2009. Chinese shipping group Cosco has already made a major investment in Greece's largest port at Piraeus (OLP), which is 74 percent state-owned and is on the government's privatizations agenda.

Reuters

At least 20 killed when mine collapses in eastern Congo

KINSHASA, 18 May — At least 20 people were killed when a mine collapsed in mineral-rich but conflict-plagued eastern Democratic Republic of Congo following heavy rains, the government said on Friday.

The accident occurred on Thursday at the mine near the village of Rubaye in the country's North Kivu Province. Local officials were attempting to recover bodies still believed buried on Friday.

"We're still digging at the site, so the death toll could rise. The provincial government is handling the rescue," government spokesman Lambert Mende told *Reuters*. Congo's eastern borderlands have some of the world's largest deposits of tin ore and coltan, which is used in electronic devices like mobile phones and video game consoles.

But the region is a patchwork of rebel and militia fiefdoms left over from a 1998-2003 civil war that killed millions, and the insecurity has discouraged large-scale industrial mining. Rampant poverty has pushed hundreds of thousands of Congolese to work in unregulated smaller mines, often controlled by armed groups, where fatal accidents are commonplace.— *Reuters*

New conscripts for Russian Army and their friends and relatives attend a seeing off event at a recruiting station in Moscow, Russia, on 17 May, 2013. Russia aims to recruit 153,200 new conscripts this spring.— XINHUA

Chad seeks arrest of exiled president's allies

N'DJAMENA, 18 May— Chad has charged four allies of the country's former president with human rights abuses and issued warrants for their arrest, a senior government source said on Friday. The source, who asked not to be identified, said they were wanted in connection with atrocities carried out during the rule of the country's last leader Hissene Habre.

Habre fled to Senegal after he was ousted in a coup by current President Idriss Deby in 1990. There were no details of the specific accusations against his former officials. But Senegal, under pressure from the International Court of Justice and campaign groups, has set up a special court to look into allegations 40,000 people were killed or tortured during Habre's rule.

Rights campaigners have accused Habre, 70, of using his political police to target political opponents and rival ethnic groups after seizing power in an earlier military coup in the landlocked oil-producing central African state in 1982.

"Those sought include Mahamat Nouri, Bandoum Bandjim, Bichara Idriss Haggar and Abakar Torbo," the senior government official at the justice ministry told *Reuters*.—*Reuters*

Hold Syrian peace talks soon, says UN chief

SOCHI, (Russia), 18 May—A proposed international conference to try to stop Syria's civil war should be held as soon as possible, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Friday, but no date has yet been agreed for a meeting that appears to face growing obstacles.

Ban spoke as UN officials announced that the number of refugees fleeing the fighting in Syria, a conflict that has claimed the lives of 80,000 people over the past two years, had exceeded 1.5 million as conditions there deteriorate rapidly.

Western leaders have been cautious about the prospects of the talks achieving any breakthrough, and Russia's desire that Iran should attend could complicate matters because of potential opposition from the West.

The main Syrian opposition, expected to decide its stance next week, has previously demanded President Bashar al-Assad's exit before any talks.A rising death toll, new reports of atrocities by both sides, suspicion that chemical arms may have been used and the absence of prospects for a military solution have all pushed Washington and Moscow to agree to convene the conference.

"We should not lose the momentum," Ban said of the proposal to bring the Syrian government and opposition representatives to the conference table. "There is a high expectation that this meeting should be held as soon as possible," he said after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Lavrov agreed: "The sooner the better," he told a joint news conference with Ban, who was due to meet President Vladimir Putin later on Friday.

Iran is a US foe and the main regional ally of Assad's government, which has also received support from Russia.—*Reuters*

Free Syrian Army fighters adjust a rocket to be launched towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Deir al-Zor on 15 May , 2013.
REUTERS

UN relief chief to visit Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 18 May —The UN relief chief will visit Sudan on Monday and is expected to discuss with government officials and aid organizations there about the humanitarian crisis that has uprooted more than one million people and forced over 200,000 to leave the country, a UN spokesman said on Friday.

The four-day visit will take Valerie Amos, the UN Under-secretary-general for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, and also to Darfur, said Martin Nesirky, spokesperson for UN Secretary-general Ban Ki- moon, at a daily briefing here.

"While in the country, Valerie Amos will meet with government officials and representatives of aid organizations to discuss how to improve humanitarian access to people affected by conflict and displacement, particularly in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur," Nesirky noted.

The humanitarian community continues to work with the Sudanese government to address deteriorating living conditions in camps and to find lasting solutions for those who have been uprooted for many years, the spokesperson added.

Fighting between the Sudanese armed forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) broke out after neighboring South Sudan seceded under the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended a decades-long civil war.

South Kordofan has been witnessing growing armed clashes between the Sudanese army and the SPLM-N. In Blue Nile, the fighting displaced and then isolated tens of thousands of people. Violence has subsided from its peak in 2003 and 2004, but heavy fighting has been reported since early this year between the rebel alliance and the Sudanese army supported by militias in Darfur.—*Xinhua*

Gov't not to mint 1-yen, 5-yen, 50-yen coins in FY2013

TOKYO, 18 May—The Finance Ministry said Friday it will basically not mint 1-yen, 5-yen and 50-yen coins for general use in fiscal 2013 as the growing use of electronic money has crimped demand for the coins.

Japan Mint, an arm of the ministry, has refrained from producing 5-yen and 50-yen coins for general use since 2010 and of 1-yen coins since 2011.

The ministry said it will mint 1 million units of each of the three coins for collector sets. It will also issue 700,000 units of 1,000 yen coins to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the enforcement of the nation's Local Autonomy Act, the law governing matters relating to local government.

The ministry said it would mint 1-yen coins and coins of other denominations in fiscal 2013 if demand arises in connection with the government's plan to hike the sales tax rate from 5 percent to 8 percent on on 1 April, 2014.

Kyodo News

Chinese top leaders Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Liu Yunshan, Zhang Gaoli meet with representatives of the honoured units and individuals of China's manned submersible mission in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 May , 2013.— XINHUA

Singapore's first H1N1 flu vaccine starts clinical test

SINGAPORE, 18 May —Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) announced on Friday that the first healthy volunteer had been given a dose of the H1N1 influenza vaccine jointly developed by the agency and the Switzerland-based Cytos Biotechnology AG in a clinical trial.

The agency said the vaccine may open the door to accelerated production of influenza vaccines in Singapore, aiming at providing the city-state "an effective means of combatting influenza epidemics and pandemics".''In this first Phase 1 clinical trial, the safety and immunogenicity of this novel vaccine candidate and its potential to protect against H1N1 influenza infection will be evaluated," the agency said in a statement.

"This is the first time Singapore is attempting to make its own flu vaccine. In the wake of the recent H7N9 bird flu outbreak, it is timely that A*STAR is bringing Singapore's first H1N1 flu vaccine into Phase 1 clinical trial. This different approach of making flu vaccines will better respond to the needs of a flu outbreak," Lim Chuan Poh, chairman of the agency said.

It is said that if the Cytos' new virus-like particle technology in producing this influenza vaccine proved to be effective and successful, it could accelerate the production of vaccines against new emerging strains of flu. "This will greatly aid Singapore's preparedness to produce vaccines quickly, safely and economically in the event of a flu epidemic," a professor said.—*Xinhua*

Japan ready to help Pakistan overcome power shortages

ISLAMABAD, 18 May — Japan is ready to help Pakistan overcome the country's chronic power shortages, but at the same time it seeks comprehensive power sector reforms, a senior official from the Japan International Cooperation Agency said on Friday.

In an interview with *Kyodo News*, JICA's chief representative in Pakistan, Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, said the agency has already singled out four 400-megawatt power turbines at Mangla Hydro electric power station in Pakistan-administered portion of divided Kashmir and a coal-fired power plant in Thar in Sindh Province for replacement with Japanese assistance.

Development of hydroelectric and coal-based power plants is central to Pakistan's plans to overcome power shortages. Pakistan has been faced with power outages across the country, with some parts having experienced blackouts for up to 18 hours. Overcoming the power crisis in two years was one of the election promises by the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, which has emerged as the biggest force in last week's general election.

It is also top priority of Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party, which is planning to set up a provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province with large hydropower potential. Both parties have declared development of coal-based power plants and hydropower plants as a top priority to literally "steer the country out of darkness." Pakistan boasts to have one of the largest coal reserves in the world, enough to generate tens of thousands of megawatts of electricity for 200-300 years.—*Kyodo News*

Akiko Yamanaka, owner of cafe Koguma, stands in front of the restaurant refurbished from a vacated antiques shop in a house built in the 1920s in Tokyo's Sumida Ward on 15 April, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Cambodia, Thailand to enhance cooperation in fighting cross border crimes

PHNOM PENH, 18 May —Cambodia and Thailand agreed on Friday to enhance cooperation to fight against all forms of illegal cross-border activities, a joint statement said. The agreement was made between Cambodian defence minister Tea Banh and his Thai counterpart Gen. Sukumpol Suwanatat at the 9th General Border Committee, which was held in Rayong Province, Thailand on Friday.

"Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation to prevent and crack down on illegal activities along the border such as drug trafficking, illegal logging, and illegal border crossing," said a joint statement released by Cambodian defence ministry. "The two ministers also agreed to enhance maritime security." They also agreed to cooperate to improve livelihoods for peoples living along the border through the development of tourism, education and public health, it said.

In addition, both sides commended the two countries' Joint Working Group for fruitful discussions towards landmine clearance in the World Court-defined Provisional Demilitarized Zone (PDZ) surrounding Cambodia's Preah Vihear Temple. "Moreover, the two ministers vowed to release only accurate and positive information in regard to border issues in order to strengthen mutual trust and respect," the statement said.

Cambodia and Thailand have had sporadic border conflicts over the territorial dispute near Cambodia's Preah Vihear Temple since the UNESCO listed the temple as a World Heritage Site on 7 July, 2008. Thailand claims the ownership of 4.6 square kilometers of scrub next to the temple.

Deadly clashes between the both sides' troops happened in February and April 2011 during the rule of former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.—*Xinhua*

Cambodia's factory owners told to focus on safety standards

PHNOM PENH, 18 May —Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC) on Friday urged all factories in Cambodia to focus on safety standards in order to avoid any incident of building collapse in the future. The appeal was made after a partial collapse of a concrete ceiling in Wing Star Shoes, a China's Taipei-owned factory, in Kampong Speu Province on Thursday, left 2 workers dead and 9 seriously injured.

"The partial collapse of the shoe factory on Thursday is an important experience for us," GMAC's president Van Sou Ieng told reporters in a press briefing on Friday. "I will write a letter to urge all GMAC members to focus on safety standards and all construction must be controlled by engineers." He said GMAC will convince a meeting with all its members on 28 May in order to disseminate measures to prevent such incident in the future.

Van Sou Ieng said the factory owner was fully responsible for the incident on Thursday, and it provided compensation of 5,000 US dollars to each family of the dead and 1,000 US dollars to each of injured workers. Employing about 7,000 workers, Wing Star Shoes factory produces running shoes for Japanese sportswear maker Asics Corp. Police blamed the ceiling collapse to "technical error in building construction" and "factory owner's neglect".

Garment industry is the country's largest income earner, representing more than 80 percent of the country's exports. The latest report of the Ministry of Commerce showed that currently, the country has about 500 garment and footwear factories employing some 510,600 workers. Last year, the country exported garment products in equivalent to 4.6 billion US dollars, up 8 percent year-on-year.—*Xinhua*

Bomb threat disrupts flights in SW China Airport

CHONGQING, 18 May— All flights at the Jiangbei International Airport in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality were disrupted for over one hour following a bomb threat, sources with the airport said on Friday. The airport received an anonymous call at around 6:30 pm Friday, in which the caller claimed that a plane had a bomb onboard, according to one airport source. The airport immediately carried out safety inspections on all flights. Inbound flights were forced to return to the airport and outbound flights were delayed, according to the source.

Another source with the airport said the threatened flight was bound for Shanghai.The airport lifted the emergency alert at 7:50 pm and resumed flights. An investigation is under way. Also on Friday, another bomb threat caused flight 9C8856 of Spring Airlines, a private carrier in China, to land in Fuzhou, capital of east China's Fujian Province, for a safety check.

The flight was travelling from the south China city of Guangzhou to Shanghai in the east, according to Zhang Wu'an, a spokesman for the company.

Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC DAWN VOY NO (1320)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC DAWN NO (1320) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Researchers recover rare earths from ores using salmon milt

TOKYO, 18 May—A Japanese research team has found a more effective and less costly way of recovering rare earths from mineral ores by using salmon milt, it said on Friday amid global interest in the materials essential for producing high-tech products such as hybrid car motors and mobile phone parts.

Separating and recovering rare earths from ores containing many of the 17 types has been expensive and requires tedious work due to the use of a special type of resin, but their discovery will make it "low-cost and environment-friendly," said Yoshio Takahashi, a professor of environmental chemistry at Hiroshima University in the team.

The team of researchers also from Aichi Prefecture-based Aisin Cosmos R&D Co. announced its findings at the Japan Sustainable Mining, Investment & Technology business forum in Tokyo.

It looked into the possibility of using milt, which is rich in phosphoric acids but mostly thrown away, after Takahashi and others found in a 2010 study that phosphate groups found on the surface of bacteria can absorb and separate rare earths over 10 times more efficiently than the typically used resin.

In an experiment in which salmon milt, which is easily available, was dried and transformed into a powdered state and put inside a beaker containing a solution with rare earths, they discovered that the milt adsorbs rare earth elements as much as bacteria, especially scarce and expensive thulium and lutetium.

But unlike bacteria, milt does not have to be cultivated and is easier to preserve in its powdered state. The team also believes that by making more use of milt through chemical means, it can extract various kinds of rare earths. —*Kyodo News*

Photo taken in Tokyo on 17 May, 2013, shows a scene from a presentation at the Japan Sustainable Mining, Investment & Technology business forum delivered by Yoshio Takahashi (R, below), professor of environmental chemistry at Hiroshima University, who belongs to a Japanese research team from the university and Aisin Cosmos R&D Co. —Kyodo News

Ukraine to complete first phase of LNG project in 2014

KIEV, 18 May—The first phase of Ukraine's liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal project is expected to be completed in 2014, head of the State Agency for Investment and National Projects Vladyslav Kaskiv said on Friday.

"Technically, the floating unit can come to Ukraine in mid-2014. The start of gas supplies would depend on our partners," Kaskiv told reporters. The floating storage and regasification unit to receive liquid gas will become the first stage of the LNG terminal project, he said. The unit with an annual capacity of 5 billion cubic meters of gas will be placed in the Black Sea near the southern city of Odessa, he said.

Ukraine is also building an on-shore part of the terminal with a capacity of 10 billion cubic metres of gas per year. Its planned launch date is 2018.

The LGN terminal project, which will cost 1.256 billion US dollars, is expected to cut the price of imported gas by 15-20 percent. Ukraine relies heavily on the Russian gas, which costs about 426 dollars per thousand cubic meters in the second quarter of 2013.

Xinhua

Sri Lanka to open largest mall in tandem with tourism growth

COLOMBO, 18 May —A Sri Lankan company is planning to build the largest mall in the post-war country, in an effort to cash in on a booming tourist industry, it said in a statement here on Friday. The Abans Group in collaboration with Silver Needle Hospitality has signed an agreement with AEDAS, an internationally reputed award winning architectural firm, to lead the design for their proposed 100 million U.S. dollar five-star super mall opposite the Beira Lake in the capital of Colombo.

The construction will commence early next year and is expected to be completed by 2016, the statement said. The Abans Lifestyle Mall will be unique as it will be the first and only lifestyle mall in Sri Lanka on par with the huge super malls in Singapore and Dubai. It will offer Sri Lankans as well as tourists a place where they can come and spend the whole day with their families and enjoy the many faceted attractions all under one roof.

"As this is our first joint venture development in Asia, it was crucial that we selected a high-calibre architect who understood our desire for creating, inviting and engaging an iconic landmark that meets the professional and leisure accommodation needs of the business traveler and enhances the Colombo lifestyle," Managing Director and Group CEO of Silver Needle Hospitality was quoted as saying in the statement.

Silver Needle Hospitality currently operates over 4,000 keys in the Asia Pacific region. Headquartered in Singapore, Silver Needle Hospitality has regional offices in Bangkok, Sydney and Bangalore.

Xinhua

UNESCO releases Hangzhou declaration on culture

HANGZHOU, 18 May — UNESCO concluded the International Congress of Hangzhou on Friday by issuing a declaration recognizing the power of culture for sustainable development. Alissandra Cummins, chairwoman of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said the declaration was a positive outcome of the congress and it details eight measures to make culture a pillar for sustainable development.

According to the declaration, UNESCO calls upon the world to integrate culture into all development policies and plans, facilitate cultural development, mutual cultural understanding and cultural reconciliation, safeguard the cultural rights of all to promote inclusive social development, and boost the role of culture in poverty reduction and inclusive development.It also advocates using culture to advance environmental sustainability, as well as improve people's ability to handle disasters and adapt to climate change.

Culture must be cherished and protected for future generations, and it should be utilized to improve sustainability and resource management in cities and foster new cooperation models, according to the declaration. China's Vice Minister of Education Hao Ping said the measures proposed by the declaration would have a significant impact on the world's future development agenda and mark a milestone in the global history of cultural development. More than 400 delegates from 81 countries and 20 international organizations attended the congress, which opened in east China's Zhejiang Province on Wednesday. Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO's assistant director-general for culture, said it was a good time to send the right message on cultural protection at the Hangzhou congress since the previous conference to promote cultural policies was held in Stockholm in 1998.— *Xinhua*

Visitors view a Saker sports car at the 2013 China (Taiyuan) International Automobile Exhibition in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 17 May, 2013. Some 400 vehicles of 63 brands were taken to the auto show here, which kicked off on 16 May. —XINHUA

Ohio art museum to open new Japanese gallery in June

NEW YORK, 18 May — The Cleveland Museum of Art announced on Thursday that it will open a new exhibition room for its Japanese art on June 16 as part of a $350 million renovation and expansion project.

"We regard it as one of the most important Japanese collections in North America," museum president David Franklin told Kyodo News at a New York event to announce the opening.The museum's Japanese art collection, including a medieval-era statue "The Buddha of the Western Paradise, Amida Nyorai," will be displayed in the new gallery after 10 years of not being shown, according to the museum.

Beginning next February, the Midwest museum will display about 50 pieces of Japanese artwork for three months on loan from the Tokyo National Museum at a separate special exhibition hall in the building. "I think our visitors will be surprised and enthralled by these beautiful objects," Franklin said. It is part of a 2014 cultural exchange that will include works designated as important cultural properties by the Japanese government, such as Kuroda Seiki's "Maiko Girl."

Kyodo News

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez in a high-neck gown from Zuhair Murad's Autumn / Winter 2011 Couture collection. REUTERS

Jennifer Lopez named Chief Creative Officer of NuvoTV

LOS ANGELES, 18 May—NuvoTV announced that Jennifer Lopez will assume the position of its Chief Creative Officer at its upfront presentation for advertisers on Wednesday.

Lopez—who owns a stake in the English-language cable network for Latinos and produces programming for the network under her company, Nuyorican Productions—took the stage for the presentation alongside NUVOtv's chief executive officer Michael Schwimmer, head of programming Bill Hilary and senior vice president of advertising sales Craig Geller.

"Latinos are a force in this country. We are an engine for growth—we have huge economic power and unprecedented political and cultural influence and it's time for television to reflect who the modern Latino actually is—not who we are believed to be—not who we may have been—but who we are now," said Lopez in a statement.

"NUVOtv is poised for another year of substantial growth," Geller said. "Our appeal to advertisers has never been stronger with a growing and influential audience, richer programming and, of course, the obvious benefits associated with having Jennifer Lopez as our creative and marketing partner."—*Reuters*

Justin Bieber spotted clubbing with Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES, 18 May —Teen Pop sensation Justin Bieber was spotted clubbing with his on and off-girlfriend Selena Gomez at Supperclub in LA.

The 19-year-old singer was reportedly enjoying his night out with Gomez, adding fuel to rumours that they are getting back together, reported Ace Showbiz.

Bieber was at the club to attend his DJ friend Tay James birthday party.

He and Gomez arrived around 11.30 PM with his guards in tow and entered the club through the private back door.—*PTI*

I pay off my friends debt: Bradley Cooper

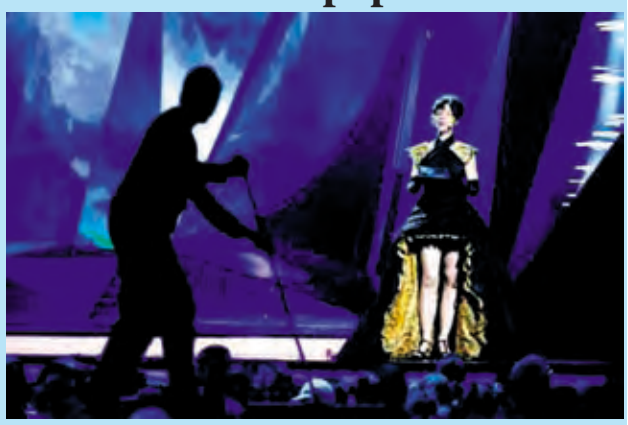
LONDON, 18 May — Bradley Cooper has revealed that he uses his wealth for his friends to pay off their debts in their hard times.

The 38-year-old actor said he never let money and fame change his thinking process, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"There is a certain amount of disorientation. You can't relate to having more money than you ever imagined or even know how to spend or invest. It's absolutely luxury, I know that.

PTI

Eurovision returns to ABBA's homeland with pop and kitsch



STOCKHOLM, 18 May— Bare-chested Irish drummers, a Ukrainian giant and a much-discussed kiss will be on display at this Saturday's Eurovision final in Sweden which—love it or hate it—promises plenty of pop, kitsch and barefoot ballads.

Some 26 countries will compete for the jewel in the crown of European pop in the homeland of former Swedish supergroup ABBA, one of Eurovision's most successful winners.

Denmark's 20-year-old Emmelie De Forest looks set to steal the show with bookmakers putting her as a clear favorite, trailed by Norway, Ukraine, Russia and Azerbaijan.

Her song—"Only Teardrops"—could keep the show in the Nordics for a second year running, moving it just across a bridge that separates Sweden and Denmark after Loreen won last year's contest for Sweden with dance track "Euphoria".

"It's just quite a catchy song—it's sort of true Eurovision," said Jessica Bridge, a spokeswoman for bookmaker Ladbrokes, of Denmark's entry. "It's euro-pop, and I think it's just struck a chord with people really. I think that's the one."

Ladbrokes has Denmark on 4/6 odds, making the barefoot blonde who performs against a flaming backdrop one of the strongest contenders ever to go into a Eurovision final.

Reuters

Jackie Chan wants to be serious but will never quit action films

CANNES, 18 May—After countless broken bones and smashed teeth, Jackie Chan has given up doing his own stunts and wants more serious roles but the Kung Fu actor says he will never stop being an action star despite earlier plans to quit big action movies.

At the Cannes film festival to promote his upcoming film "Skiptrace", the Hong Kong actor said at 59 he could no longer do his own stunts as it took so long to recover from any injury.

"I am not a superhero," Chan, in a white polo-necked shirt and Chinese-style jacket, told *Reuters* on Friday in an interview at a beachfront restaurant on the French Riviera.

"I really want to be like an Asian Robert de Niro who can do all kinds of things —comedy, drama, heavy roles," he said, adding that he would love the chance to play a villain.

Chan, who has starred in more than 150 films in a career spanning more than 40 years, last year said he would retire from big action movies after "Chinese Zodiac 2012", released in December. It was quite an announcement from an actor who made his name flying across the big screen in hand-to-hand combat and car chases in films like "Rush Hour" and "Police Story".

"I am not young any more ... and I don't want to break my ankle or my arm again," he said, adding that he currently needed a shoulder operation.

His next film is an action movie, "New Police Story 2013", the sixth in the franchise, that had its first public screening last month at a film festival in Beijing where Chan now lives, and will hit theatres later this year.

"Skiptrace" is an action comedy in which he joins forces with rising Chinese actress Fan Bingbing, known from "X-Men: Days of Future Past". The film is due to start shooting in September for release next year.

The story follows a Hong Kong detective who forms an unlikely partnership with an American gambler as they try to track down Hong Kong's most notorious criminal and embark on a wild journey across China.

Reuters

Cast member Jackie Chan poses at the premiere of "The Karate Kid" at the Mann Village theatre in Los Angeles on 7 June, 2010. The movie opens in the US on 11 June.—XINHUA

Cast members attend the premiere of Iranian director Asghar Farhadi's film 'Le Passe' (The Past) during the 66th annual Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 17 May, 2013.—XINHUA

"Harry Potter" first edition annotated by author up for auction

LOS ANGELES, 18 May—Ever wondered what went through author JK Rowling's mind when she wrote the first "Harry Potter" novel?

Fans of books about the boy wizard will have a chance to bid on a unique first edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," annotated by the author, at a charity auction this month, the English PEN organization said on Friday.

The book contains Rowling's handwritten thoughts and commentary about the book and the film adaptation, as well as 22 hand-drawn illustrations including one of a sleeping baby Harry and another of Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore.

It includes a 43-page "second thoughts" segment from the author, with phrases such as, "I wrote the book ... in snatched hours, in clattering cafés or in the dead of night. For me, the story of how I wrote 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' is written invisibly on every page, legible only to me ..."

The book will be one of 51 first editions annotated by authors at an auction on 21 May that will include "Bridget Jones's Diary" by Helen Fielding, "Northern Lights" by Philip Pullman and Roald Dahl's "Matilda" with original illustrations by Quentin Blake.

Reuters

SPORTS

Ferguson praises "amazing" Beckham's longevity

LONDON, 18 May—David Beckham's longevity and his ability to reinvent himself were "absolutely incredible", retiring Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has said.

Beckham and Ferguson, who were synonymously linked with Manchester United until the former England captain moved to Real Madrid, both announced in the past 10 days they would retire from football at the end of the current season.

The 71-year-old Ferguson's final game in charge after 26 years at Old Trafford will be on Sunday while the 38-year-old Beckham will retire as a player after Paris St Germain's French Ligue finale against FC Lorient on 26 May.

"You talk about longevity and in many ways reinventing himself, it has been absolutely incredible," Ferguson was reported as saying by the BBC on Friday.

"When he went to America there wasn't a person in this place who really thought he could have a career," Ferguson added about Beckham's move to LA Galaxy in 2007.

Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson

"Yet he went on and still played for his country, he played for AC Milan in European ties and he played for PSG in European ties, and I don't think anyone could have imagined that.

"He had unbelievable stamina ... he could run all day, and that has allowed him to stay in the game at that kind of level, playing for his country in his mid 30s."

Beckham joined Manchester United as an 11-year-old and went on to play 11 years at the club under Ferguson, winning six Premier League titles and the Champions League in a trophy-laden career.

The midfielder, who described Ferguson as a father figure, had a falling out in 2003 when a boot kicked by the manager in the team's dressing room following a defeat struck Beckham in the face and the player moved to Real Madrid later that year.

"I think he's picked the right time (to retire)," Ferguson added. "He's won the league again with PSG and he is exactly the same as me, he has plenty of things to do"He is an amazing person."—*Reuters*

Djokovic crumbles to defeat against Berdych in Rome

ROME, 18 May—Czech Tomas Berdych snapped a run of 11 consecutive defeats by world number one Novak Djokovic to reach the semi-finals of the Rome Masters before Rafa Nadal was stretched to the limit against David Ferrer on Friday.

Berdych clawed his way back from a 6-2, 5-2 deficit to stun the Serbian top seed 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 and set up a semi-final meeting with Nadal, who for the second week running outlasted compatriot Ferrer in a fierce claycourt scrap.

Nadal won 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 for his ninth consecutive victory over Ferrer who hit the Mallorcan with every weapon in his locker but still came up short as he did in Madrid last week.

"It was an extremely tough match, David always takes you to the limit," Nadal, looking for his sixth title in eight tournaments since returning from injury, told reporters.

"I am extremely happy. I think I made a huge effort both in the second set when I was 4-0 down and in the third to get past a fantastic opponent."

Frenchman Benoit Paire dropped just one game against Marcel Granollers of Spain to reach his first Masters Series semi-final where he will play second seed Roger Federer. The Swiss overcame Poland's Jerzy Janowicz 6-4, 7-6.

After easing through the first set, Federer survived a scare when he was broken in the opening game of the second, but after clawing his way back to 5-5, he took the tiebreak for the loss of just two points.

*Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic hits a return to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their men's singles quarter final match at the Rome Masters tennis tournament on 17 May, 2013.—*REUTERS

In the women's event top world number Serena Williams pulverised Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-0 to reach the last four but there will be no re-run of last week's Madrid final after Maria Sharapova was forced to withdraw from her quarter-final against Sara Errani because of illness.

Berdych had not tasted victory over Djokovic since the 2010 Wimbledon semi-finals and was on the brink of a 12th straight loss to the Serbian before an amazing transformation.

The clean-hitting world number six won five games in a row to level the match and then dominated the deciding set to leave Djokovic with food for thought before the French Open.

Reuters

Defending champion Ding reaches quarterfinals at table tennis worlds

PARIS, 18 May —Defending champion Ding Ning of China beat Park Seonghye of South Korea in straight sets to reach the women's singles quarterfinals of at the World Championships here on Friday.

The top seed eased past the 166th-ranked Park 11-8, 11-4, 11-5, 11-7 for the win.

Ding, beaten finalist in last year's London Olympic Games, will next take on Ri Myong Sun of DPR Korea, who defeated Austria's Liu Jia in the other match. Chinese women booked five out of eight berths in the quarterfinals and the day's only loser from the Chinese team is Cheng Men, who was beaten by Olympic champion and teammte Li Xiaoxia.

Li, the world No 3, beat Cheng 11-6, 11-6, 11-3, 11-9.

Li will next meet another Chinese Wu Yang, an 11-2, 11-9, 11-4, 11-7 winner over Kim Hye Song of DPR Korea.

World No 2 Liu Shiwen eliminated Seo Hyowon of South Korea and Zhu Yuling beat Jiang Huajun of Hong Kong, China.

Xinhua

*China's Ding Ning competes during the women's singles round of 16 against Park Seonghye of South Korea at the 2013 World Table Tennis Championships in Paris, France, on 17 May, 2013. Ding won 4-0.—*XINHUA

*Malaysia's Jun Hoong Cheong and Pandelela Rinong Pamg, China's Si Yajie and Liu Huixia, Britain's Tonia Couch and Sarah Barrow (L to R) pose on the podium during the awarding ceremony after the women's synchronized 10m platform final during the fifth stage of Diving World Series of International Swimming Federation (FINA) in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 17 May, 2013. Si Yajie and Liu Huixia claimed the title of the event.—*XINHUA

Santos coach concerned at Neymar reports

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 May —Santos coach Muricy Ramalho has admitted concern at mounting speculation linking Neymar with a move to Barcelona.

Local media reported on Friday that the Catalan club's football director Raul Sanllehi had met with Santos officials during the week to negotiate a deal for the Brazil international striker.

Ramalho believes the innuendo has had a negative impact on the 21-year-old.

"I have said so many times that he needs to be focused and settled because there is going to be pressure on him until he makes a decision," Ramalho said.

"It's difficult for him. The good thing is that he is happy with life. He wants to train and play all the time. The pressure comes when he is off the pitch."

Neymar, who is contracted to Santos until the 2014 World Cup, has also attracted the interest of European giants Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester United.

Xinhua

Chinese basketball girls taste second straight victory over Cuban in International Challenge

YANGQUAN, (Shanxi), 18 May—Chinese women's national basketball team edged the Cuban counterpart 74-67 to enjoy a two- game winning streak in Sino-Cuban Women's International Basketball Challenge here on Friday.

As a warm-up for Asian Women's Basketball Championship this October, Chinese team's head coach Tom Maher found some "new faces " this time. He showed positive attitude towards these young girls ' performance in this game, including Li Meng, born in 1995, the youngest girl in this national team.

"Li showed that she got the way to learn, and I believe in her success in the future," he said.

Ji Yanyan contributed a team-high 14 points. Xu Nuo, Chen Nan and Liu Jiacen each scored nine points.

The Chinese side crushed over the same opponent 73-57 in Beijing on Thursday. Over 3,000 fans crowded into Yangquan Gymnasium to support the Chinese girls. Center Chen Nan opened the game with a jumper, followed by Ji Yanyan's layup and Liu Jiacen's three-point play, which forced the Cuban side into a timeout.—*Xinhua*

*China's Yin Na (L) spikes the ball during their match against Porto Rico at the 2013 China International Women's Volleyball Tournament held in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 17 May, 2013. China won 3-0.—*XINHUA

GENERAL

*Graduate high school students dance during the 13th Quadrille Dance Parade in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on on 17 May, 2013.—*XINHUA

New media rule limits foreign TV channels airing in Vietnam

HANOI, 18 May—A new regulation on the management of pay television (pay TV) which came into effect as of 15 May this year has halted broadcasting of many foreign TV channels in Vietnam. K+, a joint venture between France's Canal+ and Vietnam Television's cable TV with satellite television service, has stopped airing of 20 foreign channels in compliant with the new regulation, Le Trinh, a staff at the consumers' services department of K+, confirmed on Friday.

They will be allowed to broadcast legally in Vietnam if they get the editing license from the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Trinh said, adding that the foreign music channel, Channel V, has recently acquired the license and continues to be broadcast by K+ on Friday. Other foreign channels including CNN and BBC are under procedure for the editing license and will be brought back to customers in a couple of days, Trinh said. Under Vietnam's Decision 20/2011/QD-TTg, passed on 24 March, 2011, all foreign pay TV channels must be edited and translated into Vietnamese to ensure that their contents are not in contravention of Vietnamese laws on media and advertisement, except for live coverage of sport events, live coverage of the opening and closing ceremonies of sporting events at regional and international levels. The editing license and translation must be done before 15 Nov, 2012.

However, the regulation encountered objections from TV providers, saying translating special kinds of foreign news channels including BBC and CNN which broadcast live 24/24 would make the broadcasting being delayed. In order to consider the issue, the MIC has asked the prime minister to extend the deadline to 15 May, 2013. In a further move, on 29 March , 2013, the government promulgated Decision 18a/2013/QD-TTg revising several articles of the Regulation on Pay Television Management under Decision 20/2011/QD-TTg.

Accordingly, there are only two kinds of foreign channels which need to be translated into Vietnamese, including all content on film channels, reportage and documentary program on general channels, general entertainment channels, sports channels and music channels.— *Xinhua*

Clinic fire kills four in southern Russia

MOSCOW, 18 May—Four people were killed and another one injured in a fire which engulfed a clinic in Russia's southern Saratov region Friday, the *Itar-Tass* news agency reported.

Nine medical staff were in the building when the blaze started from the clinic 's pharmacy in the town of Engels.

The death toll rose to four from previously reported two as firefighters extinguished the blaze. The reason of the fire was still unknown.—*Xinhua*

5.1-magnitude quake hits China's Yellow Sea

BEIJING, 18 May—A 5.1-magnitude quake jolted China's Yellow Sea at 6:02 am Saturday Beijing Time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicentre, with a depth of 8 km, was monitored at 37.7 degrees north latitude and 124.7 degrees east longitude, the center said.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-5-13 09:30 am ~ 20-5-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Perfect Combination of Art and Nature
* News
* Never Forget It
* Delicious "Monlatsaung"
* News
* My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe
* News
* Sittway, Evergreen Seaside Town
* News
* "Topic on Journal" Novitiation Ceremony
* News
* Exquisite Silver Jewellery
* Myanma Agarwood
* News
* Tasty! Delicious! Smart food!
* Myanmar Movies "Extending My Love to you"

Myanmar TV

(19-5-2013, Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:35 am
3. Dance & Song of National Races

6:45 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News / Weather Report

7:20 am
6. Documentary

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. Amazing World

9:00 am
9. News/ International News

9:20 am
10. How It's Works

10:15 am
11. TV Drama Series

11:00 pm
12. Science & Environment

12:00 pm
13. News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm
14. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News

2:40 pm
15. Variety Song

3:00 pm
16. News

3:15 pm
17. TV Drama Series

4:25 pm
18. Dance & Song of National Races

4:35 pm
19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Chemistry)

4:50 pm
20. Road to 27th SEA Games (Weight Lifting)

5:00 pm
21. News

5:15 pm
22. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
23. News / Weather Report

6:20 pm
24. Cartoon Series

6:50 pm
25. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
26. News

7:15 pm
27. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
28. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm
39. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:00 pm
30. News
31. Tamyetmar Takwetsar
32. TV Drama Series
33. New Melody

GM recalls defective Cadillacs in China

BEIJING, 18 May—Shanghai GM will recall 2,653 imported Cadillac SRX vehicles as their wheel nuts may become loose and pose a safety hazard, China's consumer quality watchdog said on Friday.

As of Friday, the company will recall Cadillac sport utility vehicles (SUVs) manufactured between 3 Sept, 2012 and 7 March, 2013, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a statement. The wheel nuts have not been installed correctly, which may cause them to become loose, the statement said. The bolts may break after continued use and pose a safety hazard, it said. To fix the problem, the company will readjust the wheel nuts on the vehicles, the administration said.—*Xinhua*

HK light rail derailment injures more than 60

HONG KONG, 18 May—A light rail train running in a suburban area of northwestern Hong Kong derailed on Friday, injuring at least 62 commuters, local reports said. The tail car of the two-car light rail train reportedly derailed and crashed into the front car before reaching Tong Fong Tsuen station. The car came to a rest lopsided with broken glass and loose seats.

Most of the injured people, 42 women and 20 men including three children, sustained minor injuries, Commercial Radio said. Commuters said the car derailed during a curve, throwing some people off while others were trapped by dislodged seats. The cause of the derailment was not immediately clear.

Kyodo News

At least 20 injured as commuter trains collide north of New York

NEW YORK, 18 May—Two trains collided Friday in the US state of Connecticut, injuring at least 20 people.

The two commuter trains include one bound for New York, media reports here said.

Local train authorities said emergency workers are heading to the scene. According to police in Fairfield, there were no fatalities.

Xinhua

Fire fighters trys to approach the warehouse building which is still on fire in Yerevan, Armenia, on 16 May, 2013. A three-floor warehouse caught on fire at Wednesday night and fire department still failed to extinguish the fire at Thursday noon.

XINHUA

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Sunday, 19 May, 2013

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife attend ceremony to honour monks who passed Tipitaka examination

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents certificate to a title recipient Sayadaw.

MNA

YANGON, 18 May— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attended a ceremony to honour one Tipitakadhara monk, one Mula Abhidhammakovida monk, two Mula Abhidhammika monks, one Dighanika-rakovida monk, three Dighabhannaka monks, three Vinayakovida monks, 18 Vinayadhara monks, 10 Ubhato Vibhangakovida monks and 42 Ubhato Vibhangadhara monks totaling 81 at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, here, this morning.

It was also attended by members of Sangha led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Union ministers and their wives, the Yangon region chief minister and wife, deputy ministers, and Yangon Region ministers, departmental officials and members of religious associations.

After receiving a sermon delivered by the SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint supplicated on religious matters.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented certificates and insignia to Tipitakadhara title recipient Sayadaw Ashin Viççittalankara of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township in Yangon Region who had passed the Abhidhamma second part oral test and Mula Abhidhamma Kovida title recipient Ashin Viççittasara of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery from Dagon Myothit (East) Township who had passed the Abhidhamma first part writing test, Mula Abhidhammika title recipients Ashin Vilasa of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township, Ashin Setthañanalankara of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township and Dighanikaya Kovida title recipient Ashin Jotisaralankara of Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, deputy ministers and region ministers conferred religious titles and insignia on recipient monks.

After that, Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami delivered a sermon, and the congregation led by the Vice-President and party shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party offered alms to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon donate offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Union A & I Minister views harvesting of Palethwe summer paddy

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing views harvesting Palethwe paddy in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected harvesting of hybrid Palethwe summer paddy and land reclamation, at mechanized farming (3000 acres) plantation near hotel zone in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, this morning.

The Union minister and party also met farmers at the briefing hall of the plantation and viewed chemical-free fruits and vegetables booth of Shwe Pyi Taw Hotel. They inspected value-added fruit and vegetables processing factory near Alyinlo village. The Union minister called for private sector investments for establishment of the processing factory.

MNA

CAD/CAM jewellery designing workshop

YANGON, 18 May— Rhino Gold software professionals from Spain conducted a workshop on computer aided design/ computer aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) for goldsmiths at UMFCCI Office on Minye Kyawswa Road here this morning.

The workshop aims to enable the goldsmiths and silversmiths to create world-class jewellery designs through modern machines and IT. It is also seen as part of efforts to value-add the precious jewels of the country in penetrating international jewellery market as CAD/CAM have become to take a greater part in making new, creative designs of jewellery items in western and Asian countries.

US-based 100-year-old Gesswein Siam Company and BT Gold Refinery of Myanmar jointly organized the workshop at which Rhino Gold software professionals from Spain shared their knowledge of computer aided designing of jewellery items. It was attended by jewellery designers, goldsmiths and silversmiths, jewellery shops and companies and enthusiasts.

Moe Thuzar Soe (NLM)