

The New Light of Myanmar

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Volume XXI, Number 36

13th Waxing of Kason 1375 ME

Wednesday, 22 May, 2013

Myanmar will continue reform process, move forwards

President U Thein Sein



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein holds talks with President of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama at White House on 20 May.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May —President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein held talks with President of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama at White House in Washington, the USA, on 20 May.

Also present together with the President were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane and Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Than Swe. The US President was accompanied by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

After the meeting, a joint press conference by the two leaders was held at White House at about 3.30 pm.

US President Mr. Barack Obama said that the United States of America and White House cordially welcomed President U Thein Sein; that he was proud of being the first

US President who visited Myanmar last year; that it was a good trip by a leader from Myanmar as President U Thein Sein made his first visit to the US during a 50-year period; and that the two countries had strange relations last 50 years.

He added that change in relations was due to a series of political and economic reform processes in Myanmar under the vanguard of the President that led the country to the democratic course; that political prisoners were freed including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the period of two years and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was now taking part in political process; that the parliament was paving the way for all-inclusiveness for the sake of the country; and that by-elections that largely deemed free and fair were successfully held.

He continued that President U Thein Sein was striving to resolve decades-long national races issues in Myanmar and in the process

of enacting laws meeting democratic standards; and that all sanctions including economic sanctions had been relaxed like other countries.

Thanks to relaxation of sanctions, Myanmar economic entities would be able to run their businesses on a wider scale. More job opportunities would be brought about with

an increase in trade and investments.

He said he agreed with President U Thein Sein that the long journey of reform process would take much time. He learnt that Myanmar would continue to release political prisoners and hold talks with national races organizations not only to reach ceasefire but also to encourage them to take



President U Thein Sein signs the visitors' book at the White House.—MNA

The United States will help Myanmar achieve success

President Barack Obama

part in political process. He confirmed the agreement to focus on the need of victims in conflict-affected areas and provide them with assistance. USAID works were underway for development of agricultural sector and upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay road, he said.

Myanmar had been engaging in ASEAN and Asia and Pacific region affairs. He reaffirmed that the US would participate in the regional affairs. He welcomed Myanmar's reform process under the leadership of President U Thein Sein and pledged that US would help Myanmar achieve the success of President U Thein Sein's new political reform processes that could take much time.

President U Thein Sein said that he was very glad to have a chance of holding his first-ever talks with US President Barack Obama at the White House. Amity and friendship between Myanmar and US have long been existed as both countries have established diplomatic relations since 1947. During the past decades, different political system had made strange relations between the two

countries.

He said that his visit was the first-ever one by a Myanmar leader to the US during 50 years. Both countries have the same political system as Myanmar was practicing democracy system. The government had made a lot of political and economic reforms during two years. Due to its young democracy, Myanmar's reform processes achieved successes with a spate of challenges and difficulties.

Being a developing country, Myanmar had to face many difficulties in democratic transition. High poverty rate, low job opportunities, young democratic practices and lack of qualified middle-class were underlying causes of facing these difficulties. Thanks to the US's help, Myanmar could overcome some of these difficulties.

He expressed his thanks for President Obama's policy shift. Today talks with President Obama mainly focused on Myanmar's rule of law, capacity building of Tatmadaw men and police members and agriculture, education and health sectors. He praised President Obama's farsightedness and said his visit would be a fruitful one for Myanmar.

He pledged that Myanmar would make efforts for its continued democratic reform processes and move forwards as Mr Obama said.

MNA

State of the Sea

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.—NLM

LOCAL NEWS

Crime

Theft of cash and belongings at Toungoo hospital exposed during few hours

TOUNGOO, 21 May — Toungoo No (1) police station said that they had been informed of a theft of K 70000, a citizenship scrutiny card, a service personnel identity card, a bunch of keys, a driving license a handbag worth 170,000 at Toungoo hospital by Dr Daw Ni Ni Lwin at about 1 am on 7 May.

After making necessary investigations at the hospital, police carried out further investigations to expose the theft in cooperation with ward administrators concerned. They caught Ko



Oo (a) Ye Lin, 32, together with K 668000 and other missing items in Ward-19 in Toungoo at about 7 am on that day. He was charged with the theft at No (1) police station in Toungoo.

Kyemon

Illegal teak seized on bullock cart

PAUNGDE, 21 May — Police members of Paungde police station intercepted a smuggling of illegal teak while they were on patrol at 2.30 am on 16 May.

While conducting a search of a bullock cart driven by U Hla Tun, 52, of Mekong village after

stopping it, they seized two 12 feet long sawn teak and six nine feet long sawn teak, 0.10 ton of illegal teaks on the cart.

Police confiscated illegal teak, two head of cattle and a cart and filed a lawsuit against U Hla Tun.

Kyemon

Kawlin Township police force steps up crackdown on drug traffickers

KAWLIN, 21 May — While Kawlin police force is carrying out a crackdown on narcotic drugs traffickers in cooperation with duty-conscious local people in Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region, a combined police force led by Police Inspector Yan Naing Tun of anti-narcotics special squad conducted a search of vehicles at the gate of Kyutaw toll road in the township on 17 May.

While carrying out a

search of a motorbike driven by Kyaw Soe Oo (a) Shan Lay together with Than Khaing (a) Maung Naing (a) Gaungkyar of Kawlin Township, they noticed suspicious of their behaviors and seized 0.1 gram which is assumed to be heroin in a penicillin bottle when one of suspects dropped it.

Now the two suspects are being taken into custody at Kawlin Township police station.

Kyemon

Four young men taken into police custody for their acts of vandalism

YANGON, 21 May — As Bhamo Township Development Affairs Department informed police on 15 May that three lamp posts worth K 50,000 had been vandalized, police launched investigations into the case of vandalism. There are 22 lamp posts setting up for security purpose and beautifying of the town along the bank of Gawyar lake in Bhamo.

According to investigations, police identified Myint Thwin, 18, Htwe Htwe Aung (a) Ko

Htwe, 18, and Kyaw Zin Tun (a) Nga Pyu, 13, of Paukkon ward as perpetrators and arrested them.

After questioning them, further investigations revealed that those who destroyed the traffic lights at the junction of BEHS (1/2) in Paukkon ward by throwing stones at it at 11 pm on 30 April were Myint Thwin, Htwe Htwe Aung (a) Ko Htwe and Kyaw Lin Chit (a) Pauk Si, 17. The four young men were charged with vandalism and taken into police custody. — Kyemon

Photo shows sanitation works being carried out by YCDC staff in Hlinethaya Township on 20 May.

KYEMON



Tragic drowning death of four-year-old boy in Thongwa Township

THONGWA, 21 May — Thongwa police said that they had a report of drowning death at Padatwaing village in Thongwa Township

on 17 May. They rushed there and made necessary investigations into which Maung Zeyar Lin who is four years and five months

old was found dead with no external injury.

According to his parents and a witness, the four-year and five-month-old child is said to have drowned after falling into the village creek behind the

house while he was on his way to his grandmother's house, 100 feet from his house. The creek is four feet in depth.

The dead body was sent to Thongwa hospital where investigation is ongoing to know whether there is third party hand in the drowning death or not.

Kyemon

Man dies of being run over by train

THAYAWADY, 21 May — A man died of being knocked down by a train near mile post No (63/11) on Yangon-Pyay railroad in Kywechan village in Thongse of Thayawady Township of Bago Region on 16 May morning.

The victim who is

believed to be about 35 years old was run over by the GF-0200 (03) 72 Pyay-Yangon down-train while he was crossing over the railway tracks.

Thongse police station is making investigation to identify the victim.

Kyemon

Domino effect crash on Yangon-Mandalay Highway



TOUNGOO, 21 May — A domino-effect crash involving a container truck, a light truck and four motorbikes occurred in front of a restaurant near mile post No (125) on Yangon-Mandalay road in Kaytumadi Myothit in Toungoo Township at about

1 pm on 16 May.

The crash erupted when the container truck crashed into the stationary light truck, causing it overturned. Four men on their motorbikes were injured after getting caught in the crash with the overturned light truck.

Kyemon

Accident

PAUNG, 21 May — A road accident happened to a 12-wheeled loaded truck on Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway near Kyakhatngu village in Paung Township of Mon State at about 5.30 am on 15 May.

The truck skidded out of control and overturned at near Bridge No (2/128) between mile post Nos (174/4) and (179/5) on the road. The rollover crash is believed to have slipped on the wet road due to the rains.

No casualties were reported, but the accident caused damage to the car estimated at K 500,000.

Kyemon

Rollover crash of loaded truck on Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway



WORLD

Conference leaders vow to reduce Asia-Pacific water problems

CHIANG MAI, (Thailand), 21 May—More than 1,000 representatives and leaders from 50 countries in the Asia-Pacific promised cooperation on Monday to reduce the prevalence of water-related problems in the region.

Meeting in northern Thailand, the conference adopted the Chiang Mai Declaration to reiterate their commitment to preventing water-related disasters that cause economic and social damage as well as loss of human life.

“We declare to encourage the adoption of policies and measures to reduce water pollution, combat desertification, improve water quality and protect wetlands, rivers and the other source of fresh water,” the statement says.

The leaders from the countries at the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit also called for disaster-risk

reduction to be included in overall development plans and schemes in the years ahead.

At the opening of the conference, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra called for more cooperation in preventing natural disasters rather than taking action after disasters occur.

“We have experience that the cost of investment and planning to prevent natural disasters will be lower than the cost of addressing problems and recovery again and again,” she said. “Therefore, we should work together to promote water security by addressing the problems at its roots.”

Yingluck also recounted Thailand’s experience in massive floods in 2011 and the country’s efforts to change the crisis from simply a disaster into “a chance” to develop water management in order to pre-

vent future flooding.

Apichart Anukularmphai, the meeting’s spokesman, said the participants realized that water-related problems are still difficult to resolve.

“We also realize that political will is needed in resolving water problems... and another significant factor is budget,” he said.

In its response to the 2011 flooding, the Thai government has earmarked 350 billion baht (\$12 billion) in its Water Management Master Plan and is allowing Thai and foreign business groups to bid on the main projects, including floodways, dikes and water-retention areas.

Thailand was to host the Second Water Summit in 2011, but it was postponed due to the massive flooding that underlined the need for urgent action on water and related issues.

Kyodo News



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (C) lays a wreath to the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi, India, on 20 May, 2013. XINHUA

Moscow awaits US response for Putin’s letter to Obama

Moscow, 21 May—Russia is waiting for a response from US President Barack Obama over the letter his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin has sent, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday.

“Obama has sent a message to Putin. The Russian President has read it and he’ll send back his considerations over the key

problems of our relations, including anti-missile defence, strategic stability and all the factors which affect it,” Lavrov said in an interview published on the ministry’s website.

“We’ll wait a reaction on our answer,” he added.

The minister also said Putin and Obama are expected to meet on the sidelines of the G8 summit be-

fore the US president’s visit to Moscow.

“The dialogue has not been disappeared,” Lavrov said, referring to the Russia-US agreement to start the 2+2 (Foreign and Defence ministers) talks.

The two countries have already drafted a schedule of their contacts till the end of the year, he added.

Xinhua

Pakistan’s Nawaz Sharif says Taliban talks offer to be taken seriously

ISLAMABAD, 21 May—Pakistan’s Nawaz Sharif on Monday said Taliban’s offer for peace talks should be taken seriously as every issue cannot be solved through use of power and bullet, local media reported.

Nawaz Sharif said holding negotiations is the only way to effectively solve problems.

“We have lost several lives, our economy is deteriorating. If Taliban offers us an option to have dialogue, we should take it seriously. Why can’t we talk to the Taliban to make our country peaceful?”

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had offered “conditional dialogue” to the previous rul-

ing coalition in February but withdrew it after they did not receive a “positive” response.

The outlawed group said last week that they do not rule out a “ceasefire” if the new government “shows seriousness” to their dialogue offer.

TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said if the incoming government takes the Taliban talks offer seriously, his group will also come up with a positive response. When Taliban offered dialogue they had proposed the name of Nawaz Sharif and two other Pakistani leaders as guarantors for the success of the talks. However, none of the leaders agreed to be the guarantor.—*Xinhua*



Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) political party, addresses the party members in Lahore, Pakistan, on 20 May, 2013. Nawaz Sharif said Taliban’s offer for peace talks should be taken seriously as every issue cannot be solved through use of power and bullet, local media reported. XINHUA



People gather at the blast site in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, on 20 May, 2013. At least 11 people were injured when a generator at a shopping plaza exploded in main Saddar area of Peshawar on Monday, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo News. XINHUA

Hezbollah in big Syria battle, Obama “concerned”

AMMAN/BEIRUT, 21 May—Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas have fought their biggest battle yet for Syria’s beleaguered president, prompting international alarm that the civil war may spread and an urgent call for restraint from the United States.

About 30 Hezbollah fighters were killed on Sunday, Syrian activists said, along with 20 Syrian troops and militiamen loyal to President Bashar al-Assad during the fiercest fighting this year in the rebel stronghold of Qusair, near the Lebanon border.

That would be the highest daily loss for the Iranian-backed movement in Syria, highlighting how it is increasing its efforts to bolster Assad; it prompted US President Barack Obama to voice his concern to

his Lebanese counterpart, Michel Suleiman.

If confirmed, the Hezbollah losses reflect how Syria is becoming a proxy conflict between Shi’ite Iran and Arab states like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, which back Assad’s mostly Sunni enemies. Dozens of dead in sectarian bombings in Iraq on Monday and killings in the Lebanese city

of Tripoli compounded a sense of spreading regional confrontation.

Western powers and Russia back opposing sides in the cross-border Syrian free-for-all, which is also sucking in Israel — though Washington and its allies have fought shy of intervening militarily behind fractured and partly Islamist rebel forces.—*Reuters*



Boys walk along a damaged street filled with debris in Deir al-Zor on 19 May, 2013.—REUTERS

UN chief to visit African Great Lakes Region in support of peace deal implementation

UNITED NATIONS, 21 May—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, together with Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, will visit the Great Lakes Region of Africa this week, with the purpose of promoting the implementation of a crucial peace accord, a spokesperson told reporters here on Monday.

Eduardo del Buey, Ban’s deputy spokesperson, said at the daily briefing held here that Ban and Kim would visit three nations in the Great Lakes Region of Africa — the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda—after the UN Secretary General finishing his visit to Mozambique on Wednesday.

Mary Robinson, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, will join Ban and Kim in the visit.

The goal of the multiparty visit “is to support the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region,” he said.—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Former Nokia software team unveils its first smartphone



Sami Pienimäki, one of the founders of Jolla company, presents the new Jolla smartphone in Helsinki, on 20 May, 2013 in this photo taken by Lehtikuva. The phone uses Linux-based Sailfish operating system and it is compatible with Android applications.—REUTERS

HELSINKI, 21 May—A group of ex-Nokia software developers unveiled its first smartphone on Monday, aiming to prove their former employer wrong by making a success of a technology dropped by the Finnish mobile phone maker. Jolla was

founded by Nokia's former MeeGo software team that was shut down after the company decided to switch to Microsoft's Windows Phone software in 2011.

With just 70 employees and 11 million euros (\$14.11 million) in venture

financing, Jolla joins a handful of boutique operating systems such as Ubuntu which together have less than a one-percent presence in the mobile phone market. Start-ups such as Jolla face a tough task breaking into the smartphone market. Google's Android operating system and Apple's iOS together account for 92 percent of all shipments, according to data from industry research firm IDC.

Even Windows Phone and BlackBerry OS trail far behind the top two with a mere 3 percent share each. Jolla chairman Antti Saarnio said the Jolla's openness in allowing users to download Android apps would differentiate it from others. He said the dominance of the top two players wasn't necessarily permanent. "In the long run, if

someone brings fresh and new ideas, eventually, the market changes."

The new Jolla phone, priced at 399 euros (\$510), runs on the MeeGo-based Sailfish operating system and will also be compatible with Google's Android applications in a clear break from Nokia.

The phone comes with a 4.5-inch display and 8-megapixel camera. It will also be 4G-capable, depending on market. The Jolla will go on sale in the fourth quarter, the company said. The company said it planned to focus on the Asian market, as a rapid growth in the region's middle class is fuelling demand for smartphones. It also plans to raise 30 million euros via convertible bonds in June.

Reuters

M Everest ice cores to offer glimpse into climate change

BEIJING, 21 May—Chinese scientists have succeeded in obtaining three ice cores from Mt Qomolangma (Mt Everest), with aims to study climate change, an expedition leader said on Monday. During the expedition that lasted more than one month, scientists drilled the ice cores at a mountain pass near the East Rongbuk glacier, which covers the north collar of Mt Everest, said Kang Shichang.

The longest ice core measures 142 meters, the longest one ever obtained from the mountain, said Kang, who is also a research fellow at the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The ice cores will be used to study climate and environmental change, Kang said. Chinese scientists previously obtained ice cores at the same location in the late 1990s and early 2000s, respectively.

"The new cores will provide more detailed information regarding climate and environmental changes, providing new insight into global warming," Kang said. The expedition also found a recent escalation in the melting of the East Rongbuk glacier, with some ice towers on the edge of the glacier disappearing and some new ice crevasses developing further in comparison to what scientists saw in the region in the 1990s, according to Kang.

Xinhua

Microsoft to build Australian cloud computing centres



The Microsoft logo is seen on the wall of the company's branch in Prague on 17 March, 2013.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 21 May—Microsoft Corp is expanding its services for hosting and processing online data in Australia with the establishment of two new "cloud" computing data centers in the country. The world's biggest software company said on Tuesday it was expanding its Windows Azure

business to include a major new region in Australia. Data centres, renting out technology resources such as computing power and storage, will be established in the states of New South Wales and Victoria.

"These two locations will be geo-redundant, offering our customers the

ability to back up their data across two separate locations, both within Australia," Toby Bowers, Microsoft Australia's Server & Tools Group Lead said on company's blog site. "We know that providing disaster recovery, while ensuring data sovereignty goals are met, is critical to many of our customers."

Such cloud computing, pioneered by Amazon.com Inc, is a fast-growing business for Microsoft and has attracted other big tech names including Google Inc. Microsoft claims more than 200,000 Windows Azure customers, but the company does not break out the revenue from it.

Reuters

Russian retrieves space capsule, most creatures die

BEIJING, 21 May—Russian space officials announced that a capsule containing mice and lizards has returned to Earth, but most of them died during their time in space, according to media reports on Monday.

The Bion-M capsule, carrying 45 mice, 15 newts, snails, lizards, plants, microflora, and eight gerbils, landed softly in the Orenburg Region, about 1,200 km southeast of Moscow, but majority of the mice and newts failed to survive, while all of the gerbils perished.

The trip was to test the

effects of microgravity on living organisms' skeletons, nervous systems, muscles and hearts. It is part of a larger effort by Russia to remain one of the preeminent space powers. Russia's hope was that it would aid on the path to a manned mission to Mars.

The mission was praised by Russian media as something that no other country had done. It harked back to early flights when Laika, a stray dog from Moscow, was fired into orbit in 1957. She died within hours of reaching space.

Xinhua



Divers get close-up looks of marine animals in the Marine Life Park of Singapore's Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), on 21 May, 2013. RWS Marine Life Park debuts its Open Ocean Dive which offers certified divers the opportunity to get close with marine animals.—XINHUA

ESA confirms astronaut Timothy Peake to fly to Int'l Space Station in 2015

PARIS, 21 May—The European Space Agency (ESA) announced on Monday that astronaut Timothy Peake has been proposed to fly to the International Space Station for a six-month mission in 2015. "Today I am very happy to announce the assignment of Timothy Peake for a mission to the International Space Station," said Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA's Director General. Peake was assigned to join a crew of Expedition 46/47 for a mission of six months in 2015. He will be the first British citizen to live and work on the space station and it will be the eighth long-duration mission for an ESA astronaut.

Peake was former helicopter test pilot and Major in the British Army. In 2009, he was appointed as a British ambassador for science and space-based careers. He has worked with the British Space Agency in developing the country's

microgravity research programme. Since joining the European Astronaut Corps in 2009, Peake has received all kinds of necessary astronaut training to work on the space station, including a course of NASA's Extreme Environment Mission Operations, a testbed for space exploration technologies.

"I am delighted to be proposed for a long-duration mission to the International Space Station. This is another important mission for Europe and in particular a wonderful opportunity for European science, industry and education to benefit from microgravity research," said Peake. According to ESA, Peake's classmate ESA astronaut Luca Parmitano is preparing for launch to the orbital outpost on May 28. Peake's mission will follow those of ESA astronauts Alexander Gerst and Samantha Cristoforetti, both scheduled for launch in 2014.

Xinhua

Dish's Ergen eyes LightSquared spectrum

NEW YORK, 21 May—Charlie Ergen, the chairman of US satellite company Dish Network Corp (DISH.O), has offered to buy bankrupt broadband

company LightSquared Inc's wireless airwaves, a source close to Ergen told Reuters.

Ergen's offer for LightSquared spectrum is valued

at \$2 billion, Bloomberg reported citing people familiar with the bid. LightSquared, which declared bankruptcy in May 2012, was bankrolled by one of the hedge fund industry's most powerful figures, Philip Falcone.

Falcone's plans to introduce a new wireless network in the United States fell apart when the US Federal Communications Commission said it would revoke permissions as the new network would interfere with global positioning systems used by the military. Dish declined to comment and LightSquared could not be reached outside regular US business hours.

Reuters



The sign in the lobby of the corporate headquarters of Dish Network is seen in the Denver suburb of Englewood, Colorado on 6 April, 2011.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Yahoo buying Tumblr for \$1.1 billion, vows not to screw it up



Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer speaks at a news conference in New York on 20 May, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO/NEW YORK, 21 May—Yahoo Inc will buy blogging service Tumblr for \$1.1 billion cash, giving the Internet pioneer a much-needed social media platform to reach a younger generation of users and breathe new life into its ailing brand. The deal, announced on Monday, is a bold bet by Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer to revitalize the company by co-opting a Web property with strong visitor traffic but little revenue. The combination of

Yahoo and Tumblr creates an online powerhouse with roughly one billion users, which will draw in more advertisers and help Yahoo keep visitors on its properties for longer periods of time, Mayer told *Reuters* in an interview. “Tumblr in terms of users and traffic is an immediate growth story for us,” she said.

Analysts say Yahoo appeared to be overpaying for a business that has never posted a profit, makes a fraction of Yahoo’s sales, and may not contribute

significantly to revenue for years. But the company, rebuffed by the French government when it tried to pay \$1 billion for video site Dailymotion earlier this year, had to do something to plug a hole in its social media efforts. Yahoo made clear it was sensitive to concerns that it might damage Tumblr by making it less irreverent or more corporate. “Per the agreement and our promise not to screw it up, Tumblr will be independently operated as a separate business,” Yahoo said in a statement. The deal will make Tumblr founder and CEO David Karp, 26, a multimillionaire.

Tumblr is one of the Web’s most popular hubs of so-called user-generated content, drawing young people who use the platform to post pictures and text. It has more than 100 million blogs in its network, ranging from “White Men Wearing Google Glass”—a collection of photos poking fun at the early adopters of the wearable computing

devices—to housing-focused “The Worst Room.” Though Yahoo remains one of the Web’s most popular destinations, it has seen its revenue shrink in recent years as consumers and advertisers favor rivals such as Google Inc and Facebook Inc. The deal is expected to increase Yahoo’s audience by 50 percent.

The acquisition, which will use up about a fifth of Yahoo’s \$5.4 billion in cash and marketable securities, is the largest by far since Mayer took the reins in July with the goal of reversing a long decline in Yahoo’s business and Web traffic. RBC Capital Markets analyst Mark Mahaney called it a “long-shot/long-term investment” but one that fits into Mayer’s turnaround strategy. “(Yahoo’s) fundamentals have been subpar for numerous years, in part because of the company’s missing presence in Social and Mobile. Tumblr may help (Yahoo) develop that presence,” Mahaney said in a note.—*Reuters*

Sprint receives SoftBank waiver to consider Dish offer

TOKYO, 21 May—Sprint Nextel Corp said its Japanese suitor SoftBank Corp granted it a waiver allowing it to consider a \$25.5 billion rival bid by Dish Network Corp, as pressure mounts on SoftBank to sweeten its offer for the No 3 US wireless carrier. Sprint said its recommendation in favor of the SoftBank agreement had not changed, although some major Sprint shareholders including Paulson & Co and Omega Advisors have publicly said the Dish offer looks better than SoftBank’s deal.

SoftBank, which agreed last October to pay \$20.1 billion for a 70 percent stake in Sprint, said it was confident its bid would prevail. It also announced in a separate filing on Tuesday that it would issue 400 billion yen (\$3.9 billion) in bonds in June, the largest issuance ever by a non-fi-

nancial Japanese company, to help pay for the Sprint deal. Softbank President Masayoshi Son and Dish’s billionaire founder Charlie Ergen are fighting a public battle for control of Sprint after Dish offered to trump the Japanese firm’s bid last month. Son traveled to the United States this month to sell his offer to Sprint shareholders.

The waiver from SoftBank on various provisions of their merger agreement, filed in New York on Monday, permits Sprint and its representatives to furnish Dish with non-public information and to engage in negotiations on Dish’s offer. On 30 April, SoftBank waived some terms of its Sprint agreement so Sprint could seek more info from Dish but said at the time that the waiver did not allow Sprint to disclose non-public information or to negotiate with Dish.—*Reuters*



A woman walks past logos of Softbank Corp at its branch in Tokyo on 17 April, 2013. —REUTERS

Credit Suisse replaces Morgan Stanley as No 2 Asia prime broker

HONG KONG, 21 May—The Asian prime brokerage unit of Credit Suisse (CSGN.VX) has replaced Morgan Stanley (MS.N) as the second largest firm servicing the region’s \$148 billion hedge funds industry, a survey showed. The annual survey by industry tracker AsiaHedge, released this week, found that Goldman Sachs (GS.N) remains Asia’s top prime broker with 179 clients and total assets under management of \$24.6 billion.

Credit Suisse overtook Morgan Stanley by adding 14 new clients and \$2.4 billion in assets over the last year, a first for any prime broker in Asia, the survey showed. Prime brokers provide services such as clearing trades and lending money to hedge funds. The fiercely competitive indus-

try is going through a rough patch in Asia, where raising capital is becoming more difficult and many funds are shutting down. For prime brokers’ mandates and assets under management in Asia click: link.reuters.com/syd38t

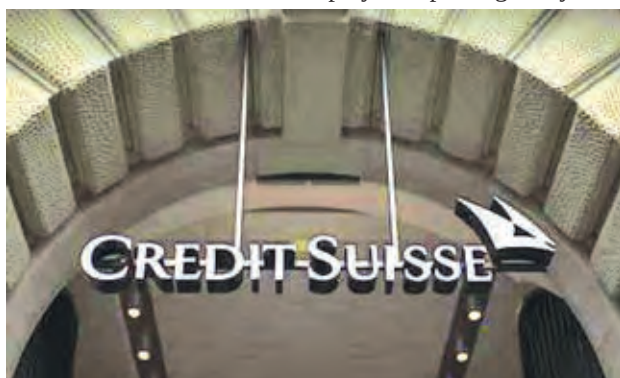
Most hedge funds do not disclose how they divide their business between

prime brokers, making any survey a rough estimate. A hedge fund may, for example, have five prime brokers but give 90 percent of its business to just one or two of them.

In Hong Kong and China, the biggest hedge fund centers in the region, Credit Suisse emerged as the top player, replacing last year’s

leader Deutsche Bank AG (DBKGn.DE). Overall in the region, Deutsche Bank and UBS AG (UBSN.VX) retained their No 4 and No 5 rank respectively, the survey showed, while Citigroup Inc (C.N) replaced Bank of America Corp (BAC.N) as No 6 prime broker in the region.

Reuters



The logo of Swiss bank Credit Suisse is seen on a building at Paradeplatz square in Zurich, on 13 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

UK first in EU to get Merck’s new Schmallerberg vaccine

LONDON, 21 May—British farmers will be the first in Europe to get a vaccine against Schmallerberg virus, a new livestock disease that hit the continent in 2011.

Britain’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said on Tuesday that MSD Animal Health, a unit of Merck & Co, had been issued a li-

cense for the new vaccine after an accelerated assessment to make it available this summer. As a result, farmers will be able to vaccinate sheep and cattle before most of them become pregnant, which is important as exposure to the virus can cause damage to fetuses.

Schmallerberg virus - named after the German

town where it was first detected - infected sheep and cows on at least 2,600 farms in eight EU countries in 2011. It is particularly harmful to the offspring of animals infected during early pregnancy, resulting in stillbirths and malformations such as brain deformities, twisted spines and locked joints.

Reuters

Pfizer halts study of lymphoma drug unlikely to help survival

NEW YORK, 21 May — Pfizer Inc, which has been on a hot streak with three recent approvals of cancer drugs, stumbled on Monday, saying it was halting a late-stage trial of a drug for aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma after independent monitors found it was not likely to improve survival. Pfizer said it would continue to study the experimental drug, inotuzumab ozogamicin, in other hematologic cancers.

“Hematologic cancers are a complex group of diseases, with more than 70 different types of lymphomas, leukemias or myelomas that require unique treatment options,” Mace Rothenberg, Pfizer’s senior vice president of clinical development and medical affairs for its oncology business unit, said in a statement. No new or unexpected safety problems were identified by the independent monitors, Pfizer said. Inotu-

zumab is not a particularly high-profile drug in Pfizer’s developmental pipeline, but had reached the final stage of human trials before the company would have applied for FDA approval. Analysts at Cowen & Co had forecast sales of \$100 million in 2016 for the drug.

The study tested inotuzumab in combination with Roche Holding’s Rituxan in patients with relapsed or refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma who

were not candidates for intensive high-dose chemotherapy. That combination was compared with patients who got either Rituxan and Teva’s Treanda or Rituxan and the chemotherapy drug, gemcitabine. During a planned interim analysis, an independent Data Monitoring Committee concluded that inotuzumab ozogamicin plus Rituxan would not improve overall survival compared with the other drug regimens.—*Reuters*



The entrance of Pfizer World headquarters in New York City, on 31 Aug, 2003.—REUTERS

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives former US Secretary of State, World Bank President



President U Thein Sein seen together with former US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—President U Thein Sein received former US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton at Four Seasons Hotel in Washington of the United States of America at 9.30 am yesterday.

The meeting focused on the Clinton Foundation's supply for sufficiency of drinking water in Myanmar, reducing maternal and child mortality rate, technical assistance for production and storage of agricultural prod-

ucts, power supply, applying of solar energy, supply of hospital equipment and medicines, as well as supports for reform process in the country.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein held discussions

with President of World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim at the same venue at 10.30 am.

During the meeting, they concentrated on maintenance of Ayeyawady River, generating of electricity, promoting

of socioeconomic status of rural people, and World Bank's financial assistance for construction of infrastructures in the country.

Also present at the calls together with President U

Thein Sein were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Than Htay and Ambassador U Than Swe.

MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with President of World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim.—MNA

2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar concluded

YANGON, 21 May—The 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar continued for the second day at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here today.

During the conference, the participants from news agencies and media

corporation discussed the topics: "The Business of Media", "Serving the public: How can media foster a more inclusive and participatory Society?", "the Role of Media in Good Governance" and "Filling the Gap: Journalism, Education

and Training".

Ms Rosa Maria Gonzalez, UNESCO CI Regional Adviser, U Thiha Saw, Chief Editor of the Open News Journal and Member of Myanmar Press Council, Senior Editor Daw Nan Lwin of the Kumudra

Journal, Dr Thida Tin, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department and U Tint Swe, Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television, replied the questions raised by attendees.—MNA

Myanmar National-level Leading Committee of PATROL meets

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—First meeting of Myanmar National-level Leading Committee of the Partnership Against Transnational-crime through Regional Organized Law-enforcement (PATROL) by Myanmar Police Force and UNODC, was held at Myanmar International Convention Center here yesterday.

It was attended by PATROL project officers from UNODC and senior officers from the Ministry of Sci-

ence and Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, General Administration Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Customs Department and Myanmar Police Force.

The meeting focused on opening of border liaison offices and training courses and provision of office equipment.

MNA

Seven culprits sentenced for killing monk, arson attack in Meiktila conflict

MEIKTILA, 21 May—Meiktila District Court and Meiktila Township Court sentenced seven criminals today for killing a monk and for arson attack to an education office during the conflict in Meiktila which erupted in 20 March.

Meiktila District Court heard the cases from 22 April to 20 May and sentenced Anawa (a) Myat Ko Ko to life imprisonment plus two two-year imprisonment with hard labour separately.

Myo Nyunt (a) Myo Nyunt Oo (a) Usaman, Myo Tun (a) Myo Tun Nyunt (a) So Lai Man and Pho Cho (a)

Ibrahim were sentenced to 10 years with hard labour plus two two-year imprisonment with hard labour separately.

Myo Win (a) Shashi and Barjay (a) Zaw Thet Naing got two years imprisonment with hard labour.

Meiktila Township Court today handed down 7-year sentence plus two two-year sentences separately to Nyi Nyi Naing (a) Yisut, two 7-year hard labour sentences separately to Pho Cho (a) Ibrahim and 2-year hard labour sentence each to Barjay (a) Zaw Thet Naing and Myo Tun (a) Myo Tun Nyunt (a) So Lai Man.—District IPRD

PRESS RELEASE

Conference demonstrates strong support for current media reforms in Myanmar

With nearly 300 participants the 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar on 20-21 May in Yangon brought together all relevant media stakeholders together in a joint push to further support the media reform process after a year with significant milestones.

YANGON, 21 May—Under the heading 'The Role of Media in Democratic Transitions: Successes, Challenges and the Way Forward', government officials, private and state owned media companies, professional journalists associations, academia, civil society and international organizations and a large number of media practitioners participated in the 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar.

The conference took place after a year of sig-

nificant change in Myanmar's media sector, with the abolishment of censorship, the drafting of new media laws, the establishment of an interim press council and the recent re-emergence of Myanmar's first private daily newspapers as some of the many milestones.

"This one year's journey of media development has shown the importance of committed ties between the Government, UNESCO, IMS, the interim press council, the local and international media institutions and civil so-

ciety. Our country's media reform cannot be fully accomplished without the active participation of all of you," said H.E. U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Information, at the opening of the conference.

This year's conference was organized by the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Media Development Thematic Working Group (MDTWG) in partnership with UNESCO and International Media Support (IMS), with the support of a wide range of development partners and international and national media groups. It covered topics such as media legislation and regulation, regional media reforms, media, peace and conflict, busi-

ness of media, media and good governance, and journalism training and education.

"Free media is the cornerstone of a democratic society. Independent journalism requires real independence from economic and political ownership; proper education and further training; and good and sound business plans and profitable companies that reinvest in journalism. We will continue to partner with Myanmar in its reform process towards truly independent and free media," said Danish Ambassador Mikael Winther, on behalf of the embassies of Denmark, Sweden and Norway as the key donors of the conference.

LOCAL NEWS

Agriculture

Mandalay grows shade trees on traffic islands

MANDALAY, 21 May—Parks and Playgrounds Department under Mandalay City Development Committee is speeding up greening tasks on major roads in Mandalay and its environs.

The department is growing shade trees on

traffic islands and on either side of the roads.

Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Moun, accompanied by Secretary U Ohn Maung, committee members, the joint secretary and the head of department, inspected the grow-

ing of shade trees on traffic islands in Chanmyathazi Township with the use of machinery on 16 May.

Head of the department U Soe Moe Thein reported on progress in growing of shade trees in the city.

Myanma Alinn



NyaungU farmers upbeat after early monsoon

NYAUNGU, 21 May—NyaungU Township is a township in which economy is based on agriculture.

Rains on early April or May is the invaluable ones for farmers in the region because it allows them to group sesame and beans and pulses early.

The farmers in the region cultivate six-month bean that can endurance even drought.

As rain poured on 15 May, the farmers started growing sesame and beans at full extend.

The beans could be harvested within three

months.

According to U Kyin Ngwe, a farmer from Kan Tharyar village in Nga-

thayauk Township, they could cultivate double-cropping pattern if the monsoon enters early.

As the monsoon enters early as they pray, they are all over the moon.

Myanma Alinn



Donor family poses for documentary photo in front of the car they donated.

Car donated for social services group

MANDALAY, 21 May—A donor family donated a Super Custom to Kyeizin Cetana social service group in Amarapura Township.

The group is providing humanitarian aids and leading philanthropic activities in villages in the township.

The incidents that delay of transport cost lives are now a thing of the past

thanks to the group.

The donation ceremony was held at Shwe Dahyoe monastery in Sadaw village on 19 May.

The donors said the donation was in memory of their parents. Village-tract administrator U Thein Shwe, on behalf of the group, spoke words of thanks.

Myanma Alinn

Free journalism English course opened



Victoria University College is providing first free-of-charge journalism English course to local journalists.

YANGON, 21 May—The first private university in Myanmar Victoria University College is providing English for Journalists free of charge course to local journalists at the lecture hall of the university in upper Pansodan street here as of 18 May.

The school is under management of principle Dr Nay Tun Naing and staffed by four local lecturers and two foreign teachers: one each from US and Ireland.

Lectures are being provided in both theory and practical.

Asked about the purpose of the course, lecturer U Thein Htut Hsan said, "The purpose of the training is to help Myanmar media men get mix up with international media sphere, obtain international experience and improve Myanmar media world."

Twenty five reporters and editors from local media outlets are attending the course that lasts three months.

Journalism certificates will be conferred on trainees on completion of the course.

Myanma Alinn

Traffic Accident

Two injured in accident at Nyaunglebin head-on collision



NYAUNGLEBIN, 21 May—Two trucks from different directions collided on Bogyoke road in Nyaunglebin in Bago Region on 18 May morning, injuring two on board.

Two injured persons—both from six-wheeled truck—are in stable conditions.

The six-wheeled truck was leaving Nyaunglebin for DaikU while the 12-wheeled truck bumped into it at about 6.30 am.

In the incident, driv-

er of the truck Ko Phone Ngwe and passenger U Tun Hlaing of DaikU were injured.

The 12-wheeled car which ran into the six-wheeled truck was damaged to the head.

After the accident, Nyaunglebin police station has opened a case against Zaw Min Latt, driver of the 12-wheeled truck which took wrong road and collided the smaller one.

Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein attends round-table discussion of ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers an address at the Office of US Chamber of Commerce in Washington.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May— President U Thein Sein attended a round-table discussion jointly organized by US-ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce held at the Office of US Chamber of Commerce in Washington of the United States of America at 5. 20 pm yesterday.

Also present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers, deputy ministers, Ambassador U Than Swe, departmental heads, Chairman of US-ASEAN Business Council Mr. Alexander C. Feldman, Vice-Chairman of US Chamber of Commerce Ms. Tami Overby, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell, Mr. James N. Suci of General Electric, Mr. John Keogh of ACE Co, Mr. Steve Biegun of Ford Co, Mr. Carolyn Brehm of P&G

Co., CEC members of the US-ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce and invited persons.

Next, President U Thein Sein enjoyed the dinner hosted by the US-ASEAN Business Council and US Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman of US-ASEAN Business Council and Mr. James N. Suci of General Electric and the US Ambassador to Myanmar extended greetings at the dinner.

President U Thein Sein said: I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the US Chamber of Commerce and the US-ASEAN Business Council for hosting this dinner.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you all that Myanmar is ready to work with the international investors as an equal partner.

The economic to contending teams.

Then, Union Minister U Tint Hsan opened men's individual 50 kilometer contest from the starting point and women's individual 30 kilometer event followed.

The prize awarding for first day was held near Uppatasanti Pagoda on Yazahtani Road and Union Minister U Soe Maung presented prizes to winners.

A total of 41 athletes including 18 women from six countries took part in the first day tourney. In women's individual record contest, NONTASIN Chanpeng from Thailand stood first, MOHAMMAD Mariana

potential of our country is a source of hope for Myanmar's people, and it is a responsibility for my government. We are committed to putting in place solid foundations for a market economy to thrive and an investment climate that makes a clear business case for companies from the United States and around the world.

We must move towards an economy that is equitable, that is fair and based on a level playing field, that develops our abundant natural wealth but in a way that protects our natural environment. To achieve all this we need maximum international support, including from the United States, to train and educate, share knowledge, trade and invest, and encourage others to do the same.

I would also like to take this time to discuss the steps my Government is taking to build investor confidence and promote responsible investment in Myanmar.

My office worked hand in hand with the legislative branch to promulgate the Foreign Direct Investment Law that meets international standards and ensure mutual benefits for investors and our citizens. We are currently working to implement procedures and processes that are more transparent, accountable, legitimate and predictable.

Myanmar Investment Commission formed under the FDI law is composed of Government Ministers, experts, and representatives from civil society organizations.

The FDI law is just one dimension in an integrated framework of political, economic, social and legal priorities that will determine the contours of Myanmar's investment regime. My Government is also forging ahead to reform and bring Myanmar's Arbitration System in line with the accepted international standards. We are in the process of entering into the

of Malaysia the second followed by Mu Mu Aye of Myanmar.

MNA

New York Convention.

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

In order to increase bilateral trade and investment with US firms in all sectors, we are already party to Trade Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) to give necessary insurance and financing for American SMEs to come and invest in Myanmar.

My country's strategic location in the region should also provide our international partners with ample business opportunities.

Our country of 60 million sits at the new crossroads of Asia. With China to our northeast, India and Bangladesh to our west, the other nations of ASEAN to our south and east, we border more than two billion people and the fastest growing markets in the world. Our country, once isolated not just by politics but by physical barriers, is now poised to break those barriers.

In the near future 2014-2015, there will be a new economic landscape in ASEAN. I would like to ask you all to seize these new opportunities for mutual benefit.

We want to lay the foundations for a robust middle class. For that to happen, we would like to invite American companies to come and invest in Myanmar. After that, the discussion came to an end with remarks by the Vice-Chairman of US Chamber of Commerce.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 22 May, 2013

Set in motion a system where students can be fit and healthy

All basic education schools under the Ministry of Education will be opening soon for 2012-2014 academic year. Parents, teachers and students are making preparations along with school enrollment activities to ensure a peaceful pursuit of education throughout the year, spending a lot of mental and physical strengths as well as financial strength. A student must be physically strong and morally upright to become an outstanding one who has a strong tradition of academic excellence.

A lack of personal hygiene can have certain social and health ramifications which can spur students to stay away from schools. Encouraging children to regularly wash their hands will directly impact the school communities and have a significant effect on the wider community since dirty hands are often to blame and infections have been tied to unsanitary conditions.

Many schools in rural areas are devoid of safe water supplies, especially in the dry season during which lakes and ponds run dry. Without adequate water and proper sanitation facilities, students are more likely to become ill and to be absent from school. And all schools are to place a high priority on sanitation and set in motion a system where students can be fit and healthy.

Drinking water systems in some schools lack water filtration, meaning the water may not be safe to partake. And some schools even lack sufficient water supplies for cleaning, which results in toilets become unsanitary and a threat to children's health.

One of the most important responsibilities of a modern society is to educate its young. As long as one's pursuit of knowledge is ongoing it can be said that one is undergoing the process of continuing education. Just as students' life is devoted to the quest not only for the truth but for certitude, they are constant learners who get set in the way to the pinnacle of their career.

Cycling Contest for Pre-SEA Games



NAY PYI TAW, 21 May— For success of the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar and cycling event, Pre-SEA Games Cycling Contest was held at Rose Roundabout on Yazahtani Road, here, this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Leading Committee for Holding 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung.

First, the participant teams took position at designated places and Union Ministers U Tint Hsan and U Soe Maung presented gifts and certificates of honours

NATIONAL

With the help of neighbours, the strength of people, with the help of American people, we will succeed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivered an address at Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington, D.C., of the USA at 4.15 pm LST on 20 May.

Present at the ceremony were the Union Ministers, the Deputy Ministers, and the departmental heads, the Chancellor of SAIS of Johns Hopkins, students and guests.

At the ceremony, the President said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a great pleasure for me to be here today and I am extremely grateful to Dean Vali Nasr for his kind invitation for me to speak at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies as part of my first visit to Washington.

I know that the ties between Johns Hopkins and SAIS in particular with Myanmar are more than half a century old. The Hopkins Yangon Center was established in 1954 as a leading educational and research institution in Asia and over the years dozens of Myanmar students have been educated at SAIS, including several current senior diplomats and a member of my own advisory council.

I hope very much that we will be able to reestablish the strong connections that once existed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here and I am especially pleased to be able to speak to you at this time on Myanmar's transition, its vision of the future, and its vision for the future partnership with the United States and the American people.

The past two years under my government have been a time of transformation in Myanmar. Military rule was ended, a new constitutional was put into effect and we have begun a series of political and economic reforms that we hope will build a strong democracy and a strong market-oriented economy. At the same time we are working to peacefully end the armed conflicts that have plagued our nation since independence in 1948. And we are trying hard to end

Myanmar's isolation, see the removal of all sanctions, and make the contributions we can to both regional and global security and development.

I believe what we are trying to achieve in Myanmar is quite unprecedented. We are transitioning from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one and from a centralized economy to one based on a free market. At the same time, we are engaged in a political dialogue process and national reconciliation. We are also reengaging with many governments and international institutions for the first time in decades, all under the burden of remaining economic sanctions.

We face tremendous challenges. We are a poor country. Many of our institutions must be adjusted, others entirely reformed. New ones must be created. Mentalities must change. We must move towards a state that sees itself first and foremost as the servant of the people. After decades of authoritarian rule this is no easy task. We must move towards an economy that is equitable, that is fair and based on a level playing field, that develops our abundant natural wealth but in a way that protects our natural environment. To achieve all this we need maximum international support, including from the United States, to train and educate, share knowledge, trade and invest, and encourage others to do the same.

Periods of transition are always fraught with risk. But I know my country and I know my people. I know how much people of all backgrounds want this transition to succeed. I know how much people want to see democracy take root, put behind decades of isolation, catch up with other Asian economies, end all violence and fighting. Everyone accepts that this is the direction we must take. Everyone understands the need for compromise, tolerance and patience. Yes, there may be spoilers; there may be those who see their interested threatened.

We have seen in recent months extremely tragic inter-communal violence. But I assure you that our commitment will not waiver. I am confident that we will find success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our transformation is not taking place in a vacuum. Asia is changing fast and a part of the world that was once a by-word for war and poverty is now entering perhaps its greatest period ever of peace and prosperity.

A new generation, free from the burdens of colonialism and ideological conflicts of the past, is taking charge. Perhaps more than anything else, Myanmar must fully join this historic evolution in Asia.

Our country of 60 million sits at the new crossroads of Asia. With China to our northeast, India and Bangladesh to our west, the other nations of ASEAN to our south and east, we border more than two billion people and the fastest growing markets in the world. Our country, once isolated not just by politics but by physical barriers, is now poised to break those barriers.

What is absolutely essential is that this new integration with the rest of Asia, this new de-isolation of Myanmar, is managed in a way that benefits the Myanmar people and does not lead to their exploitation. Creating the right institutions of economic governance will be absolutely critical.

We need as well the institutions that will help us cope with threads old and new and forge a new resilience. We are for example one of the countries in the world most at threat from natural disasters as well as from the rising sea levels that will accompany climate change.

We remember the devastation of Cyclone Nargis which killed more than 100,000 of my compatriots in less than 24 hours. During last week, the country was again under the threat from Cyclone Mahasen. Earthquakes may strike at anytime.

There is the risk of

pandemic diseases, a rising threat in Asia. As we work to end the old threats of armed conflict and inter-communal violence, we must also develop a new vision of national security and strategies necessary to ensure the Myanmar people's human security going forward.

We must recognize the important role of Myanmar Military during this democratization process. Under the past system, Military took charge of the nation's stability from security point of view. Now, we are in the process of reforming the Military for its role in the democratization and peace building processes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The politics of Myanmar is complex. We have literally dozens of different ethnic and religious communities. We have a history of armed conflict. Over the past two years we have welcomed the entry of the National League for Democracy under the leadership of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi into parliament following free and fair by-elections in 2012.

There are many other political parties and movements as well. We are also laying foundations for free and fair democratic elections in 2015. We have seen in recent years the emergence of hundreds of civil society organization, thousands of village-level associations, and a vibrant local media and social media.

As we move towards democracy, the challenge is to manage what is and should be an increasingly competitive political space in a way that strengthens democratic change and does not undermine its future success. We must manage expectations.

And though democracy means rivalry and competition, we must try to find ways to work together. We must nurture policy-based political parties. But at this critical juncture, we must also rise above partisan politics and set our aims towards a greater nation-building and state-building agenda.

A key part of that agenda will be to reach peace agreements with all non-state armed groups.



President U Thein Sein delivers an address at Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington, D.C., of the USA.—MNA

My government has reached ceasefires with ten non-state armed groups. I am confident we can soon reach a ceasefire with the remaining major non-state armed group, the Kachin Independence Organization and Army. But that is not enough.

Our goal cannot be less than sustainable peace. It will mean compromise. It will mean the further devolution of power to the state and regional levels. It will mean new agreements on resource sharing. We wish to do this in a way that includes all citizens. We want to include not only the armed groups, but also political parties and civil society from all ethnic communities in the political dialogues to come. Peace must be rooted in the broadest possible participation of public support.

And we must forge a new and more inclusive national identity. Myanmar people of all ethnic backgrounds and all faiths—Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and others—must feel part of this new national identity. We must end all forms of discrimination. And we must ensure not only that inter-communal violence is brought to a halt, but that all perpetrators are brought to justice.

As we all know, there is a balance between security imperatives and the basic rights and openness that are a part of a more democratic society. We ask your help and advice in finding the right balance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that first

Myanmar person to reach the shores of this great land was a student by the name of Maung Shaw Loo, who came from Mawlamyine in 1858. He studied at Bucknell in Pennsylvania and then went to medical school in Cleveland and even met President Andrew Jackson at the White House, before returning home to a long medical career.

The year before Maung Shaw Loo arrived in America, the Myanmar king Mindon wrote a letter to President Franklin Pierce and the year after to President James Buchanan, calling for trade and diplomatic ties between our countries. Our ties thus go back more than a hundred and fifty years.

I would like to begin a new era in Myanmar-US relations a new partnership between our governments and even more importantly a new friendship between our two peoples.

We hope for your help in making our transformation a success. We hope for help from your great universities and investment from your companies. US government, Congress and civil society organizations should give their support in line with evolving dynamics of current Myanmar politics in a transparent manner in order for our democratization process to succeed.

With the help of our neighbors, the strength of our people, and with the help of American people, I know we will succeed.

Thank you.

LOCAL NEWS

Ceremony to supply water from spring held



KALAY, 21 May—A ceremony for supply water from spring was held at Yeso village, Natchaung Village-tract in Kalay of upper Sagaing Region on 18 May. Sagaing Region Chin National Race Affairs Minister U No Htan Kap made a speech. Chairman of Yeso Village Waterworks Committee U Phun Ha Ye spoke words of thanks on behalf of villagers. The Chin National Race Affairs Minister, the deputy

Donations

Cash and kind provided to victims of relief camps in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 21 May—A ceremony to donate cash and relief aid to relief camps in Meiktila was held at the Yeiktha of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications on 18 May morning.

Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Mandalay Zone) donated K 7.0545 million for the victims of relief camps to Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Kyaw Moe.

The ceremony was also attended by Meiktila District Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe, Commander

of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Sit Nay Pin, Deputy Director of District Department of Relief and Resettlement U Sa Willy Sarant and Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Aye.

Silver Star Hotel family of Mandalay in person donated K 6.75 for 1350 victim families from five relief camps in Meiktila. The hotel donated K 13.8 million, one bag of rice, five water coolers, pots and clothes.—Kyemon



U Moe Kyaw Soe-Daw Thida family donated K 400,000 to Byamaso free clinic located on 62nd Street between 34th and 35th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 18 May. After accepting donation, Byamaso Social Service Association presents certificate of honour to wellwisher.—KYEMON

township administrator and the village in-charge cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

Executive Officer of Kalay Township Development Affairs Committee Assistant-Director U Lin Htut opened the tap to supply water to the local people.

The 3350 feet long water pipeline is funded by Township Development Affairs Committee.

Kyemon

Bull show held in Nyaunglebin

NYAUNGLEBIN, 21 May—Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department organized a bull show in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago District, Bago Region on 18 May.

It was attended by Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Soe Paing, head of Bago Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Than Win, Bago Region Livestock Federation Chairman Dr Zaw Naing Wing, departmental personnel, cattle owners and enthusiasts.

Dr Aung Than Win spoke on the occasion and

21 bulls from 12 villages within Nyaunglebin Township participated in the contest. The selection board presented five prizes including two consolation prizes. The bull contest is

the first of its kind in Bago Region and bull cart contest will be held in addition to head of township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Wai Phyo.—Kyemon



Traffic Congestion



Traffic lights have been installed near Yonshae Bus Stop at junction of Kyansittha and Yangon-Nyaungdon Roads in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon North District. Members of traffic police corps supervise tasks of traffic congestion daily to be free from traffic accidents.—KYEMON

Crime

Illegal commodities seized at junction of roads to Sittoung Bridges



Photo shows illegal commodities seized from truck.

WAW, 21 May—The mobile team-2 led by the director and party searched the vehicles that were loaded with illegal commodities at the strategic road junction of old and new Sittoung Bridges in Waw Township of Bago Region at 12.30 am on 17 May.

Vehicle with the numberplate of 8Hsa/5456 driven by Win Thein did not obey the search of the authorities and drove away. The personnel of the

mobile team caught it at Abya Bote Village between mile posts 75/6 and 75/7 and took it to the based area of the mobile team. Then, officials searched the vehicles and seized assorted cosmetics worth K 6.8 million, sewing machines, water pumps and detergent powder worth K 11.7 million, totally amounting to K 18,521,600.

Action is taken against over the illegal commodities.—Kyemon

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

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

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

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

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

MNA

REGIONAL

Fees, new incinerators, larger dump sites key to HK waste control

HONG KONG, 21 May—Hong Kong will cut 40 percent of its waste in 10 years by imposing garbage fees, building incinerators and extending the use of dump sites, according to a government blueprint on waste management unveiled on Monday.

The “Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022,” described as “ambitious but practical” by Environment Secretary Wong Kam-sing, sets targets for promoting resource conservation, reducing solid waste and investing in waste-to-energy infrastructure.

Of the 9,000 tons of solid waste Hong Kong produced in an average day in 2011, about 44 percent was food waste, followed by 22 percent paper waste and 19 percent plastic waste.

The aim is to cut the average daily per-capita waste disposal of 1.27 kilograms in 2011 to 1 kg by 2017 and 0.8 kg by 2022, Wong said.

The three landfills in use are expected to be full in

2015. Other than dumping waste and recycling, Hong Kong has ended burning waste since all old incinerators were closed in the 1990s.

“We believe that (incineration) is an indispensable component in our blueprint... an integral part,” Wong said.

But the incinerator planned to be built on an outlying island in Hong Kong’s southwest is on hold as a judicial review into opposition to it continues.

To deter waste production, the government launched a plastic bag levy in 2009 and under a waste-fee scheme to be imposed in 2016 at the earliest garbage disposal by households will be charged for, as is the case in Taipei and South Korea, to create an economic incentive for reducing waste, Wong said. Current operational costs for waste collection, transfer, treatment and landfill amount to HK\$1.4 billion (\$180 million) a year, the bureau’s figure show.

Kyodo News



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a 5-metre-long dog statue arriving at Inujima (Dog Island) in the Seto Inland Sea in the city of Okayama on 20 May, 2013. The bust of a prone dog will be set up at a house resembling a kennel as part of the Inujima “Art House Project.”—KYODO NEWS

Indonesia seeking more bilateral cooperation with New Zealand

JAKARTA, 21 May—Indonesia is seeking more bilateral cooperation, particularly in the trade and investment sector, with New Zealand that would eventually benefits the two economies, a senior Indonesian official said here on Monday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the New Zealand-Indonesia Business Forum here, Trade Deputy Minister Bayu Krisnamurti said that many business potentialities can be explored beyond trade that has been established well between the two economies.

“We should not only focus on trade because there

are many potentialities that we can explore to fulfill the needs of bigger market, ASEAN for instance,” Bayu said.

He said that Indonesia and New Zealand can carry out cooperation in geothermal power plant projects to meet increasing demand for electricity among ASEAN countries.

He added that New Zealand has profound expertise in developing geothermal power while Indonesia deposits enormous geothermal energy that is yet to be exploited to produce electricity.—Xinhua



People visit the 9th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province, on 19 May, 2013. The four-day event closed on Monday. The transaction volume in the first three days grew 15.85 percent year on year.—XINHUA

Ships rerouted to protect Ningaloo Reef in Australia

SYDNEY, 21 May—The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) on Tuesday announced the establishment of a recommended area for ships to help protect the world heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef from 1 June, 2013.

The Marine Notice will advise ships to keep at least two nautical miles from the edge of Ningaloo Reef at its narrowest part, and 8-12 nautical miles along the remainder of the Ningaloo Coast, to reduce the risk of shipping accidents and ship-sourced pollution.

AMSA Chief Executive Officer Graham Peachey said the new area to be avoided was approved in

late 2012 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized United Nations agency responsible for safe shipping. “The Ningaloo Coast lies along a major coastal shipping route and it is frequented by ships servicing Australia’s North West Shelf oil and gas industry,” said Peachey. “The coastline’s length and remoteness pose challenges to any incident response, so it is important we do what we can to protect the reef,” he added.

Home to some 500 species of fish, manta rays and turtles, plus 300 varieties of coral, Ningaloo Reef stretches across 5,000 square kilometres of ocean in northwest

Western Australia. It is one of the world’s largest fringing reefs, famous for reef diving and docile whale sharks. “The Ningaloo Coast is designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Sea Area (ESSA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity. This identifies the area for protection and maintenance of its biological diversity,” said Peachey. Peachey added that the ship routing measure would have minimal impact on shipping, adding a little over one nautical mile for ships traveling between Fremantle and north-west Australia to skirt further away from the reef edge.

Xinhua

Fire engulfs gov’t building in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 21 May—A major fire broke out on Monday at the state-owned National Buildings Construction Corporation building in the Indian capital, gutting the fourth floor completely, a senior police official said.

“The fire broke out early this morning in one room of the fourth floor, and then it engulfed all the rooms on the same floor. Some 20 fire tenders have been pressed into service and the fire is now under control even though white smoke has still been billowing out. There have been no reports of any casualty yet,” he said, on condition of anonymity. A probe has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire, the official added.—Xinhua

Farmers pick honeysuckle, a kind of herbal medicine, at a planting base in Liangjia Village of Binzhou City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 20 May, 2013. XINHUA



23 Cambodian garment workers injured in kiosk collapse

PHNOM PENH, 21 May—At least 23 workers at Top World garment factory, owned by Hong Kong investors, in the capital city’s Meanchey District were injured on Monday when a kiosk collapsed into lake in the factory’s complex, municipal police chief Chuon Sovan said. He said the kiosk, built in the lake, used to be the place where workers relax and have their daily lunch.

“It fell into the water

at noon time when workers had lunch,” he told reporters after the accident. “Some 23 workers were injured in the accident.”

Police said the collapse of the kiosk with concrete floor and iron zinc roof was probably due to old building that lacks solid foundations.

It was the second accident involving Cambodian garment workers in less than a week. On Thursday last week, there was a partial col-

lapse of a concrete ceiling in Wing Star Shoes, a Taiwanese-owned factory, in Kampong Speu Province, which left two workers dead and nine seriously injured.

Van Sou Ieng, president of the Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC), appealed on Friday to all factories in the country to focus on safety standards in order to avoid similar accidents in the future.—Xinhua

Abe to meet with Singaporean, Thai PMs this week

TOKYO, 21 May—Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will visit Japan from Tuesday and meet with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe the following day, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will also visit Japan between Wednesday and Saturday for talks with Abe during her stay, it added. Separately, Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario and Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith will visit from Wednesday and meet with their Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida during their trips, according to the Japanese ministry.

Abe and Lee are expected to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations that Japan is set to join soon and in which Singapore already participates. Lee, who is due to stay in Japan until Friday, is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech on Thursday at the International Conference on the Future of Asia, a two-day forum through Friday that will bring together political, business and academic leaders from the region.

Thailand’s Yingluck is also scheduled to attend the forum.—Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (120)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (120) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO. LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FU YANG SHUN VOY NO (108)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU YANG SHUN VOY NO (108) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO. LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NIA MUN NASIR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NIA MUN NASIR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING
CO. LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Surge in Chinese tourists drives new record in visitors to New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 21 May —A surge in Chinese tourists drove up the number of overseas visitors to New Zealand last month to a new record for April, the New Zealand government statistics agency announced on Tuesday.

Total visitor arrivals last month were up 3 percent from April last year to 200,600, exceeding the previous April record of 197,800 in 2011, according to Statistics New Zealand.

Visitor numbers increased despite the earlier timing of the Easter holiday, population statistics manager Andrea Blackburn said in a

statement.

"This year Easter fell in March, compared with early April last year. As a result, visitor arrivals this April were down in the first week of the month, but well up during the rest of the month," she said.

The number of visitors from China showed the biggest change, with 6,600 more arrivals, or 36 percent higher, than in April 2012, and the majority were holidaymakers. Last month's figure for Chinese visitors was five times higher than the 4,300 recorded 10 years ago in April 2003.

In the year to the end of April, 2.61 million overseas visitors arrived in New Zealand, unchanged from the April 2012 year, as falling visitor numbers from the United Kingdom, Malaysia, France and South Africa offset rises from China and Australia.

Tourism New Zealand Chief Executive Kevin Bowler said in a statement that the figures for April showed steady growth from the sector's core markets with holiday arrivals for the first four months of the year up 9.8 percent on the same period last year.—Xinhua

Jordan gets 200 million USD of US aid

AMMAN, 21 May—Jordan and the United States signed on Monday an agreement that granted the Arab kingdom an aid of 200 million US dollars, state-run Petra news agency reported.

Jordan's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Ibrahim Seif said the money will be used to support ventures in the fields of health, water and

education. He added that the aid came at a critical time as the country is facing an overwhelming influx of Syrian refugees. Seif, who reviewed challenges in hosting the refugees, said the grant will help reduce the pressure on the state budget induced by the refugee problem.

Also, Jordan and the United States are expected to sign a 360-million-dollar

assistance agreement in September.

According to official figures, Jordan now hosts more than 530,000 Syrian refugees who have fled the unrest in their country. Its government has repeatedly appealed the international community for help to deal with the increasing number of Syrians arriving in the country.—Xinhua



Grooms in traditional wedding dresses hold their swords during a group wedding ceremony in Sanaa, Yemen, on 20 May, 2013. A total of 200 couples attend a group wedding organized by the Yemeni government, all of whom are orphans growing up in government-run centres.—XINHUA



The Brooklyn Bridge is seen in New York, the United States, on 20 May, 2013. The Brooklyn Bridge, opened on 24 May, 1883, will celebrate its 130th birthday this week.—XINHUA

Loose security leads to Kidnapping of Egyptian soldiers in Sinai

CAIRO, 21 May—The kidnapping of seven Egyptian soldiers in Sinai and the excessive demands of kidnappers reflect deteriorating security and lack of development in the chaotic peninsula, Egyptian analysts said, stressing Sinai development an urgent need to combat extremists.

On Thursday, a group of militants, believed to be members of the hardline Jihadist group, abducted seven recruits from the police and the military in North Sinai's Green Valley, some 20 km away from the governorate's capital city Arish.

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi stressed on Sunday that there would be no dialogue with the kidnappers of Sinai soldiers and promised comprehensive development in Sinai as one of the means of combating growing extremism in the peninsula. "The kidnapping reflects worsening security conditions in Sinai and it negatively affects the reputation of the Egyptian police and military," said security expert General Sameh al-Waziri, who rejected any negotiations with kidnappers.

Waziri referred the growing extremism in Sinai to the lack of social and economic development. "Over 500,000 residents in Sinai are under poverty line, which makes them desperate and easily recruited in such extremist groups," he explained.

The ex-police official told Xinhua that Sinai should be given priority in development instead of the ongoing Suez Canal Corridor, warning that without construction and development in Sinai it would be "a resort for terrorism and a suitable land for extremism."

Waziri completely rejected negotiations with kidnappers to release the soldiers, stressing that police or army special forces are able to free the soldiers and teach Sinai extremists a lesson.

"I am against responding to the kidnappers' demands as it would harm the name of the police and the military alike and lead to more similar terrorist activities," Waziri, who worked for 26 years as a State Security Police officer, told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 24th May (Friday), Full Moon Day of Kason 2013, being Public Holiday, Under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Central Bank of Myanmar

Three die in explosion at Spanish military base

MADRID, 21 May—Three people were killed and two were seriously injured as the result of an explosion on Monday in the military base of Alvarez de Sotomayor in the locality of Viator, close to the city of Almeria in southeast Spain.

The base is home to a unit of the Spanish Legion and the explosion occurred at 14:20 local time (GMT 1220), although the cause has not yet been revealed.

The Spanish Military have confirmed the news, but have so far been unable to confirm the identities of the fatalities; beyond saying that they were non-commissioned officers and that all were experts in explosives.

The military added that the most serious of the two people injured has suffered an open fracture of their femur.

Sappers are often involved in clearing mines and explosives, as well as taking part in the construction of fortifications and work on communications infrastructures.

An investigation has been opened, while a team of 18 people is working to normalize the situation in the base.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Keanu Reeves makes director debut with modern Kung Fu film

CANNES, 21 May — He's played a science-fiction hero, policeman and even Hamlet. But now actor Keanu Reeves is taking on a new role — as director of a contemporary martial arts movie aimed at both Chinese and Western audiences.

Reeves has stepped behind the camera to make his directorial debut with "Man of Tai Chi", a trilingual film loosely based on the life of a stuntman, Tiger Chen, whom he befriended while working on the sci-fi "The Matrix" trilogy.

At the Cannes film festival to promote his new movie, due out later this year, Reeves said he knew he had always wanted to try directing and spent five years developing the script.

"It was also tied to getting older," Reeves, 48, who was long one of Hollywood's most glamorous action stars, told Reuters Television in an interview at a hotel on Cannes palm-lined waterfront.

He said the main character of the film, in which he also acts, is a stuntman and martial arts expert, struggling to maintain his

traditional values and beliefs against the pressures of modern society. This character is played by Chen. Reeves plays the villain who lures him into underground fighting and the promises of money, glamour and power.

The film, made in English, Cantonese and Mandarin and filmed in China and Hong Kong, is meant to appeal to both the huge market in China, where Reeves won fans with "Matrix" and for having a Chinese great-grandparent, and in Western countries.

Reuters



Actress Kwai Lun-mei (L), actor Chang Chen (2nd L) and Actress Qin Hailu (2nd R) attend a Press conference held for the premiere of movie Christmas Rose in Beijing, China, on 20 May, 2013. The movie is expected to be released in China on 24 May, 2013.—XINHUA

Week two of Cannes film festival gets off to explosive start

CANNES, 21 May — Japanese director Takashi Miike got the final week of the Cannes film festival off to an explosive start on Monday, with big budget cop thriller "Shield of Straw" a sharp contrast to the more intense, intimate movies screened so far. Typically for Cannes, where critical passions run high, both exuberant cheers and boos rang out after an

advance press screening of "Wara No Tate" ("Shield of Straw"), one of 20 entries vying for the top Palme d'Or prize awarded on Sunday. Miike, whose last appearance at the world's most important cinema showcase was in 2011, said the selection committee's decision to include his high-octane cop movie in the main lineup came as a shock. "When I learned this film was selected I was very surprised, I was really astonished," Miike

told reporters ahead of its official on Monday evening premiere. "If I got the Palme d'Or I'd be delighted of course," he said.

"But I don't really think this is a film made for the Palme d'Or. But I'm delighted to know that a rather different kind of film, another class of film is in the selection."

Reuters



Actor and director Keanu Reeves poses during a photocall on a front pier to present his film "Man of Tai Chi" at the 66th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 20 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Madhuri Dixit makes Lauren Gottlieb go weak in her knees

MUMBAI, 21

May — Ace dancer and actress Lauren Gottlieb, winner of third season of So You Can Think

You Can Dance, is jittery about performing in front of Bollywood dancing diva Madhuri Dixit on Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 6. Madhuri Dixit is co-judging the show with filmmaker Karan Johar and choreographer-director Remo Fernandes.

"I think it is good to be nervous. I am always nervous when I perform. It gives me that adrenaline rush. I think it will be extra nerve-racking to perform in front of Madhuri. She had been brought to my eyes last year. No one can compare to her," Lauren told. But at the same time, she feels that "both, in films and dancing, I feel I can relate to her. She just has a remarkable career and I think I can learn so much from her", she added.

Lauren con-

fesses that she would be unable to do justice to any of Madhuri's songs. The

Indian actress has dazzled everyone with her dance numbers Ek Do Teen, Chane ke khet mein and Dhak dhak karne laga. "I don't know if I can dance to one of her songs. I don't know if anyone can do justice as she does," she said. Starting her career in India with dance film, ABCD, Lauren is "excited to push myself to my limits" on the show starting 1 June.

"The person I am, I can compete to an extent. I can have fun with it, but at the end of the day I want everyone to do their best. I feel the only person who I can compete with is yourself. I am excited to push myself to my limits. I am a fan of all the artists. If anyone needs help, I will help and we will build that friendship," she said. The actress looks at Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa as a challenge. "It will be difficult. This will be a completely new way of dancing and moving. The music and culture of dancing here is so foreign to me. I want to try to pick it up," she said and added that she is trying to catch up previous season on YouTube.

PTI

Lauren Gottlieb, the winner of So You Think You Can Dance season 3 will perform on Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 6.—PTI



Director Takashi Miike poses during a photocall for the film "Wara No Tate" (Shield of Straw) at the 66th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 20 May, 2013. REUTERS



SPORTS

Brazil's stadiums ready for World Cup soccer warm-up in June

BRASILIA, 21 May—Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff took a swipe at the naysayers on Monday as she officially inaugurated the last of six stadiums that Brazil will use next month to host a warm-up for the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament. “The pessimists said the stadiums would not be ready in time, but we are showing them today that we can deliver high-quality stadiums,” Rousseff said in a speech in Recife before opening the 46,000-seat Arena Pernambuco outside the northeastern Brazilian city.

Rousseff said Brazil is fulfilling its commitments with global soccer body FIFA, whose secretary general Jerome Valcke last year angered Brazilians by saying the country needed a “kick up the backside” to get World Cup preparations moving. On Saturday, Rousseff kicked the first symbolic ball on the newly-

laid pitch of the brand new Mane Garrincha National Stadium in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia, where Brazil will face Japan in the first game of the eight-nation Confederations Cup on 15 June. At a cost 1.2 billion reais (\$590.1 million), the colonnaded stadium is the most expensive of the 12 that Brazil

is building for next year's 32-nation World Cup, and a prime candidate to become a white elephant in a city with no major soccer club. Yet some of its 309 toilets were not ready yet and flooded during a test game between two local teams that filled half the 71,000-seat stadium. Its big test will come next Sunday, 26

May, when two of Brazil's top teams—Flamengo and Santos—will fill the venue for the opening of the Brazilian national league.

“These six stadiums show the ability and determination we have building the six remaining stadiums,” Rousseff said on Saturday. Only two stadiums were completed in time for the December deadline originally set by FIFA, which takes over the first batch of stadiums on Tuesday.

FIFA has said it will not budge on the deadline for the second batch of stadiums due by the end of this year. The main problem will be the Sao Paulo stadium where the World Cup is due to kick off in June 2014. Builders threatened to halt construction because of a financing dispute that might throw Brazil's hosting of the World Cup into disarray and embarrass the government.—Reuters



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff (L) shows her autograph on a soccer ball as she stands beside Brasilia's Governor Agnelo Queiroz (R) during the inauguration of the National Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia on 18 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Lowe reunited with Hamilton at Mercedes

LONDON, 21 May—Lewis Hamilton will be reunited with Paddy Lowe sooner than expected after Mercedes announced on Monday that the former McLaren technical head was joining their Formula One team next month. Mercedes said in a statement that the Briton had been appointed

with team principal Ross Brawn, the man he could one day replace, who retains overall responsibility for technical and sporting matters. McLaren had already put Lowe on ‘gardening leave’, removing him from sensitive work, with Tim Goss being promoted to the role of technical director.



Mercedes Formula One Lewis Hamilton of Britain drives during the qualifying session at the Spanish F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo, near Barcelona on 11 May, 2013.—REUTERS

executive director (technical) and would start on 3 June—the week of the Canadian Grand Prix—after agreement was reached with McLaren for him to be released from the remaining seven months of his contract.

Lowe will work closely

They announced last week that they would switch from Mercedes engines to Honda in 2015. Lowe's arrival at Mercedes, who signed 2008 world champion Hamilton last year, had been flagged up since January when reports indicated that he was

being lined up as Brawn's replacement.

“I am delighted to welcome Paddy to the team and to begin working together. He has an excellent record of success in the sport and would be an asset to any of our rivals in the pit lane,” said Brawn. “It is no secret that every team is facing a significant balancing act between this year and next. But it is perhaps less obvious that we will also see major changes for the 2015 and 2016 seasons, as development progresses with the new generation of car design and Power Unit,” he added.

“To deliver in these circumstances, a successful team needs strength in depth. Paddy's arrival will further strengthen our organization and puts us in a strong position for the future.” The rules are changing significantly next year, with a new 1.6 liter turbocharged V6 engine with energy recovery systems replacing the current 2.4 liter V8 units.—Reuters

Scolari reveals talks with Barcelona over Neymar



Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 May—Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has admitted to holding talks with Barcelona about the future of Neymar.

The former Chelsea and Portugal boss revealed Monday he had advised Barcelona president Sandro Rosell to sign the 21-year-old striker this European summer.

“He is an example to follow as a sportsman,” Scolari said. “I have spoken to him (Rosell) about how he behaves on the pitch and

about his personality and he really is an example to follow.

“Barcelona are clearly leading the race for his signature and he would be a great signing for them. He would be an idol for the fans next season alongside Lionel Messi.”

Neymar, currently contracted to Brazilian club Santos until the 2014 World Cup, has also reportedly been sought by Real Madrid, Manchester United, Chelsea and Juventus.

Xinhua

San Francisco favoured to host 50th Super Bowl

MIAMI, 21 May—San Francisco is favoured to be named the host city for the 50th Super Bowl when National Football League (NFL) owners vote on Tuesday on the site of the 2016 championship game. The Californian city, home to the NFL's 49ers, is up against South Florida (Miami) while Houston will compete with the losing bid for the 2017 game, which will also be decided on Tuesday.

All the focus, however, is on the prestige of hosting the 50th anniversary game, which the NFL is promising to make the biggest and best finale ever.

The San Francisco Bay Area has hosted one Super Bowl, in 1985, while the Miami area has enjoyed the economic boost from hosting the NFL's championship game a record-tying 10 times, most recently in 2010. But that extra experience appears to be the only obvious advantage Miami has. The NFL has said for sev-

eral years that they wanted to see upgrades made to the 26-year-old Miami Gardens venue but a bid by Dolphins owner Stephen Ross to get state funding for a major redevelopment failed and the billionaire has made it clear he will not fund the changes alone. That setback has left the South Florida bid committee talking about a ‘Plan B’ with the existing stadium but they have been badly damaged by the dropping of the planned upgrade.

“Following the Miami Dolphins' failure to secure public funding for renovations ... San Francisco sits in the driver's seat,” Albert Breer wrote on the NFL website on Monday. While the South Florida bid is now left to focus on downtown events and beachside activities, San Francisco, in contrast, is proudly highlighting the state-of-the-art nature of their \$1.2 billion stadium in Santa Clara set to open next year.—Reuters



A fan rides a zip line as part of the Super Bowl XLVI festivities in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 30 Jan, 2012.

REUTERS

Jose Mourinho to leave Real Madrid at the end of the season

MADRID, 21 May—Jose Mourinho's three-year term as coach of Spanish BBVA Primera Liga club Real Madrid will end on 30 June, it was confirmed this Monday. Club President Florentino Perez confirmed the news at a Press conference held at 8pm local time in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium follow-

ing a meeting of the club's Board of Directors. Despite having a contract with the club until the end of June 2016, Mourinho will abandon the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium after winning just one Copa del Rey (2011), one League title (2012) and the Spanish Supercup at the start of the current campaign.

Perez said the club had “reached agreement with Mourinho to finalize our relationship,” and then thanked him for his three years in charge and his “dedication to Real Madrid, in which we have taken a leap forward in sporting terms.”

The announcement comes just three days after

Real Madrid were beaten 2-1 in by local rivals Atletico Madrid in the final of the Spanish Copa del Rey, which was held in Bernabeu on Friday night. It was the first time Atletico have defeated Real Madrid in 14 years and many blamed Mourinho's team selection on the defeat.

Xinhua



Jose Mourinho

GENERAL

Amputee sets record by climbing Qomolangma without prosthetic limbs

KATHMANDU, 21 May—Sudharshan Gautam, a Nepali-Canadian citizen, has become the first amputee to climb the Qomolangma, also known as Everest in the West, without the help of prosthetic limbs, Nepalese authorities said on Monday.

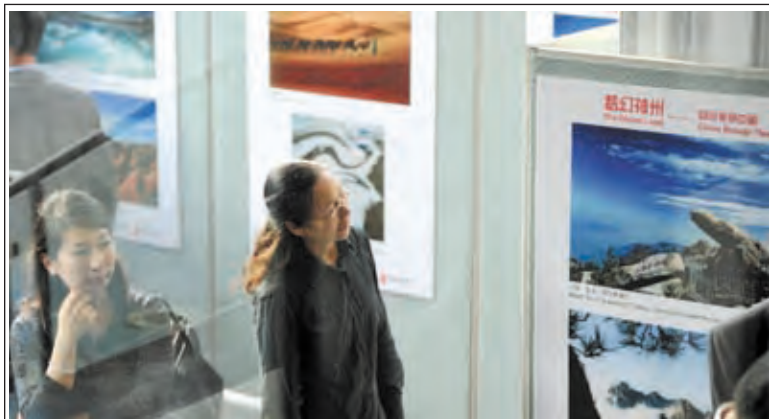
"We received the information that Gautam who has no hands climbed the Mt

Everest," Dipendra Paudel, a section official at Nepal's Mountain Department under Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, told *Xinhua*.

Gautam climbed the tallest mountain on Earth to spread the message that "disability is not inability." Gautam, who lost his hands at the age of 16, climbed Qomolangma without using prosthetic limbs. "The 'No Hands at the Top of the World' climb is intended to show the world that even people living with significant physical disabilities have outstanding abilities and immense capacities," Gautam wrote on his private blog before going to climb the Qomolangma.

Xinhua

Xinhua



A woman views pictures at a photo exhibition named "China Dream-Beautiful China" in New York, the United States, on 20 May, 2013. XINHUA

Maxvalu sets up supermarket operator in China's Suzhou

TOKYO, 21 May—Maxvalu Chubu Co, a supermarket chain operator based in Mie Prefecture, said Monday it has established a subsidiary in the Chinese city of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province to oversee the operations of Maxvalu supermarkets in China.

The subsidiary, Aeon Maxvalu (Jiangsu) Co, capitalized at 80 million yuan (about 1.28 billion yen), is 80 percent owned by Maxvalu Chubu with the remainder put up by Aeon (China) Co, Japanese retailer Aeon Co's regional headquarters in China.

Maxvalu Chubu, an

Aeon subsidiary that runs a network of supermarkets in four central Japanese prefectures including Aichi and Shiga, said it has remitted the capital to China after obtaining authorization from regulatory authorities in Suzhou to run the subsidiary.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-5-13 09:30 am ~ 23-5-13 09:30 am) MST

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| 6:25 am | 3:15 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 17. India Drama Series |
| 6:30 am | 4:00 pm |
| 3. Dance & Song of National Races | 18. News |
| 7:00 am | 4:25 pm |
| 5. News / Weather Report | 19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics) |
| 7:20 am | 5:00 pm |
| 6. Documentary | 20. News |
| 8:00 am | 5:35 pm |
| 6. News / International News | 21. Documentary |
| 8:25 am | 6:00 pm |
| 7. Sing A Song | 22. News / Weather Report |
| 9:00 am | 6:20 pm |
| 8. News / International News | 23. Shwe Yin Khone Than |
| 9:20 am | 7:00 pm |
| 9. How It's Works | 24. News |
| 10:00 am | 7:35 pm |
| 10. News | 25. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe |
| 10:15 am | 8:35 pm |
| 11. TV Drama Series | 28. People Talk |
| 11:00 pm | 8:45 pm |
| 12. Barkery World | 29. Early TV Melodies |
| 12:00 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 13. News/ International News/ Weather Report | 30. News |
| 12:25 pm | 31. My Mind Game My SEA Games |
| 2:00 pm | 32. Nostalgia to Myanmar Cultural Arts |
| 14. Myanmar Movies | |
| 15. Documentary | |

Drinking threatens road safety in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, 21 May—Drunk driving, over speeding, and driving in the wrong lane have been the most common causes of serious traffic accidents in Slovenia, a police survey said on Monday.

One third of the fatal road accidents in the country are linked to drinking, while one in ten traffic accidents is alcohol-related.

Most of the accidents involved drivers aged between 24 and 34 years old and take place late at night or early in the morning on the weekends, the survey showed.

More than 22,000 road accidents took place in Slovenia in 2012 with 978 people being injured.

Xinhua

S Africa to build wind farm in search for clean energy

CAPE TOWN, 21 May—In a further move in developing clean energy, South Africa will build a wind farm which will generate up to 100 MW of power, it was announced on Monday.

The 2.4-billion-rand (258-million-US-dollar) project will be undertaken by Eskom, the state-owned electricity utility, according to the Government Communication and Information System.

Eskom has got the li-

cense to build the wind farm from the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).

Located near Koeke-naap in the Western Cape, the wind farm is due to be in full commercial operation by the end of 2014. It has an expected operating life of 20 years, with average annual energy production of about 233,000 MWh, enough clean energy to power about 97,000 standard homes.

With the capacity to avoid nearly 4.7 million tonnes of carbon emissions over 20 years, the project is called a milestone for Eskom's move towards a cleaner energy mix.

The wind farm "is our first large-scale renewable energy project," said Eskom Chief Executive Brian Dames. "It demonstrates our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and to investing in a sustainable energy future." —*Xinhua*



Photo shows equipment at a shale gas production site in which Japanese trading house Sumitomo Corp has acquired a stake, at the Marcellus Shale Fields in the state of Pennsylvania in the eastern United States on 4 May, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Mexico adopts five-year plan for social, economic development

MEXICO CITY, 21 May—Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Monday presented a five-year plan, aimed at combating violence and improving administration.

"Mexico has the historic opportunity to launch a national transformation," Pena Nieto said at an event

to announce the plan, adding that for the first time, the government has devised a development plan that includes the periodic evaluation of its progress.

Before the presentation, Luis Videgaray, the secretary (Minister) of Finance and Public Credit, said the government had received

228,949 proposals through public consultations and used those ideas to elaborate the plan. The 2013-2018 National Development Plan outlines the government's five main goals, including fighting violence, improving administration, protecting citizen rights and boosting economy.—*Xinhua*



Photo taken in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward on 20 May, 2013, shows the new model of the Volkswagen Golf. Volkswagen Group Japan KK said the same day that it will launch the fully remodeled car on 25 June. KYODO NEWS

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 10th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party attended the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak (Fullmoon Day of Kason) at the UN Office in Bangkok this morning.

The Vice-President and party paid homage to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Somdet Phra, Chairman of the International Council for the United Nations Day of Vesak, at the VIP room of the UN Office building.

It was also attended by Rector Sayadaw of

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Dr. Phra Brahmapundit and members of the Sangha, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education of Thailand, ministers from Buddhist countries and guests.

First, the Rector Sayadaw of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University explained the theme of this year's United Nations Day of Vesak, "Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective". Next, the Chairman Sayadaw spoke on the occasion.

Then, the Rector

Sayadaw gave an account of the ceremony. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Education Mr.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham pays homage to Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara at the United Nations Day of Vesak.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party observe booths at 2nd ASEAN-Pacific Water Summit.—MNA



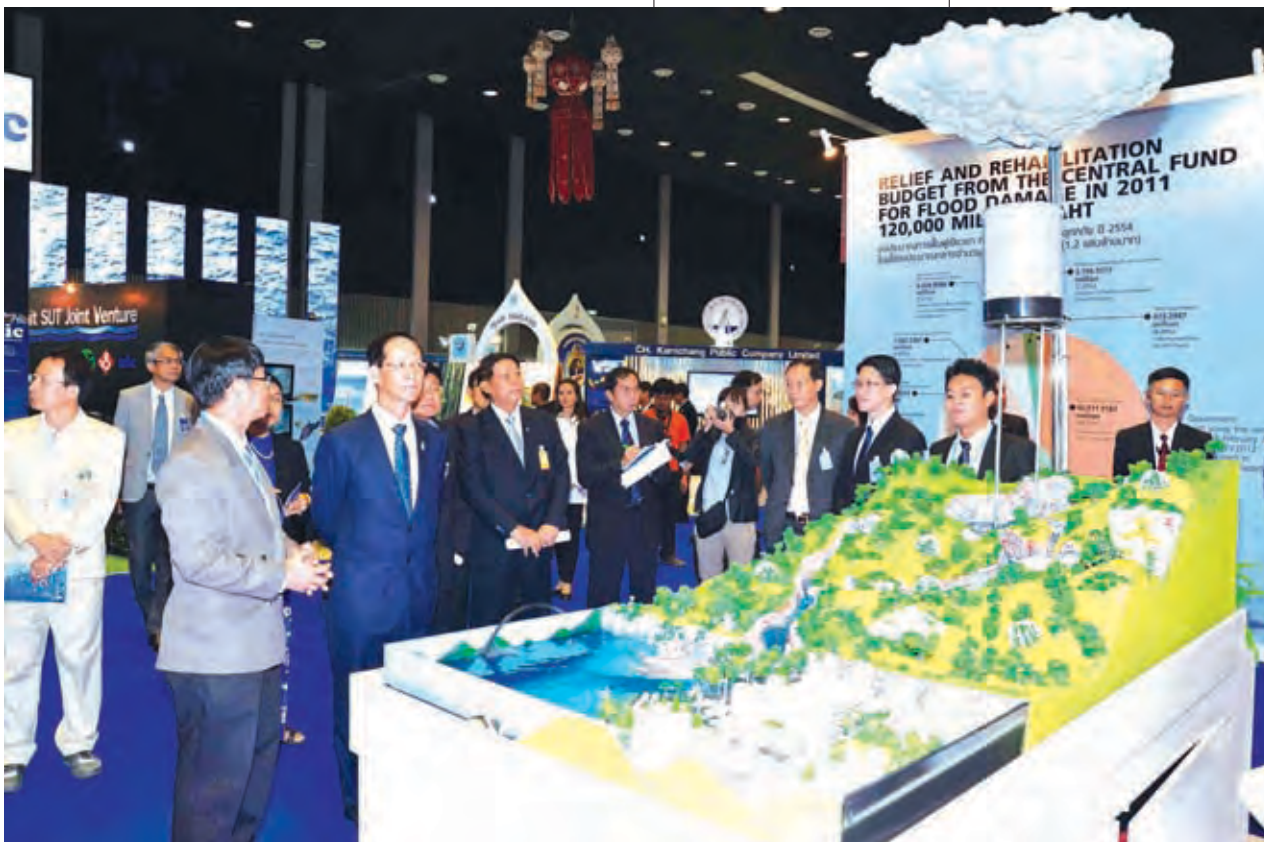
Pongthep Thepkanchana delivered an address and read out the messages sent by the world leaders.

Next, the Vice-President paid homage to Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara and monks from other countries.

In the afternoon session, Royal Consort to the Crown Prince of Thailand HRH Princess

Srirasm made a speech.

The ceremony which has been held annually since 2004 continues tomorrow. In the evening, the Vice-President met mission staff and their families at the residence of Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win and attended a dinner hosted by the family of Myanmar Ambassador.—MNA



UNOPS holds workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) workshop was held at Mingalar Thiri Hotel, here, at 9:30 am today. Mr Ricardo Vargas, Director of Sustainable Project Management

Practice Group gave talks on the occasion.

The workshop is aimed at strengthening the capacity of partners and personnel in project management skills. It was attended by 120 trainees from 12 different Ministries.—MNA

Ordinance No (1/2013) approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw voted unanimously to approve the Ordinance No (1/2013) issued on 22 March to declare the state of emergency in Meiktila during the special session of the Hluttaw today.

The motion was passed by 521 votes.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made resolution that the ordinance would take effect for 60 days as from the date it was approved by the Hluttaw.

Thirteen representatives discussed the motion today.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun constituency said that the declaration

of the ordinance is in conformity with the constitution and suggested that the provisions in times of emergency should be submitted to the Hluttaw within 60 days.

U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe constituency suggested that the ordinance should be extended 60 days more in Meiktila and its surrounding areas.

He also suggested the authorities concerned to take action in time when conflicts erupt in the future.

Daw Khin Wai Kyi of Yangon Region constituency No. 1 urged the Hluttaw called for taking the current peace and stability into account and relaxations

in some measures in the areas which are put under ordinance as the local people are experiencing difficulties in their socio-economy due to the effect of the ordinance.

U Tin Mya of Sagaing Region constituency No. 7 called for setting a suitable time frame for the ordinance so that the local people could not lose their rights and stressed the need to take effective measures by the local authorities in conformity with the constituency.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Kawhmu constituency stressed the need to be more cautious when ordinances are declared while the country is on the road to democracy.

She also suggested that the administrative authority should inform the local people about their effective measures in times of emergency for a return to normality.

She also stressed the

need for informing the representatives before an ordinance is declared and for reviewing the constitution to be able to carry out the measures effectively and as there is no judiciary sector in the declaration of the

ordinance.

During today's session, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarified use of new brooch for representatives. The special session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ended at 1.20 pm.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA