

President U Thein Sein meets US Senators

NAYPYI TAW, 22 May —President U Thein Sein on his first working visit to the United States of America met Senators Herry Reid, Mr. Mitt McConnell, Ben Cardin, Kelly Ayyotte and John McCain at Capitol Hill yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Than Htay and Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Than Swe.

The President conclude his visit and left the US on 21 May afternoon and arrived at Incheon Airport in Seoul of the Republic of Korea on 22 May evening.

During the President's visit, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Special



cial US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis signed Trade and Investment Framework Agreement-TIFA, a significant milestone between Myanmar and the US.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and party hold talks with US Senators at Capitol Hill.

MNA

Workshop on promoting education standard held

NAYPYI TAW, 22 May—A workshop on promoting education standard was held at No 3 Basic Education High School here today.

The workshop was opened with an address by Deputy Minister for

Education U Aye Kyu.

Participants of the workshop discussed the importance of teaching and learning, assessment and experiences during the workshop.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Special US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis sign Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).—MNA



ASEAN Highway-123 linking Dawei Deep Sea Port and Thailand

Minthamee Valley. It is located at Myanmar-Thai border and it shares border with Pun-

aron Village of Thailand. It is a designated place on the Myanmar side of the section for ASEAN

Highway (AH-123) that helps promote trade and communication sectors between Myanmar and



Photo shows Dawei Deep Sea Port section of ASEAN Highway-123.

Thailand.

The 141-kilometer ASEAN Highway-123 lies from Dawei to Minthamee Valley between Myanmar-Thai border. ASEAN-123 (AH-123) links ASEAN-112 (AH-112) that is 1145 kilometres long from Thaton to Kawthoung.

As Dawei Deep Sea Port is being implemented for development of the region, the 150 kilometres long highway section will be extended from Dawei to the deep sea port.

At present, an agreement has reached between Myanmar and Italian Thai People's Co of Thailand to construct the highway sec-

tions through BOT system.

The company has conducted feasibility studies and designs for the road section from Dawei to Minthamee Valley. More discussions follow.

On completion of ASEAN Highway-123 (AH-123), vehicles will have access to Bangkok, City of Thailand from Dawei Deep Sea Port of Myanmar via Chanapuri of Thai border through Minthamee Valley of Myanmar-Thai border.

A target has been set to complete the highway in 2015 so as to export

products from Dawei Deep Sea Port and Dawei Special Economic Zone to Thailand by car.

The ASEAN Highway-123 that will link ASEAN Highway-1, ASEAN Highway-2, ASEAN Highway-3, ASEAN Highway-14, ASEAN Highway-111 and ASEAN-112 in Myanmar contributes to development undertakings among Myanmar, Thailand, India and China.

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Manchester City and Yankees launch new MLS team



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Photo News



Photo shows an underground drain choked with rubbish at the corner of Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Maha Bandoola Street.



Photo shows electric power lines in a tangle threatening a possible danger of electric fire at the lower block of 43rd street in Botahtaung Township.



Photo shows Nann Thida jetty where undisciplined vendors occupy most area of the jetty. —KYEMON

Donation of Elite Tech Group of Companies for MGF

YANGON, 22 May—Elite Tech Group of Companies donated a vehicle, Toyota Hi Ace Super Custom, to Myanmar Golf Federation at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Insein Township, here, on 17 May. The donation is intended to assist MGF's efforts for achieving success in XXVII SEA Games.

It was attended by Patron Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), President U Tay Za, Vice-

Presidents U Aung Kyi, U Min Thein and U Zaw Min, General Secretary U Aung Hla Han and executives of Myanmar Golf Federation, responsible persons of Elite Tech Group of Companies and guests.

CEO U Chan Nyein Zaw of Elite Tech Group of Companies handed over documents related to the vehicle to Joint General Secretary U Myo Tun of MGF.—MNA

Crime

One dead, another hospitalized after knife fight

YANGON, 22 May—A man died of a single stab wound to a space between two ribs of the right side of his body while he was sent to hospital in Kayan Township on 12 May.

U Khin Win, 57, was stabbed to death in a knife fight with Zin Maung Tun, 23, at Nyaung Lan Lay Village in Kayan Township

at about 9 pm on that day.

Myo Chit Khaing, 23, son of the victim, informed the police of his father death. Kayan police station filed a lawsuit against Zin Maung Tun who was taken to Yangon Hospital where he is being listed in critical condition as U Khin Win stabbed him in the chest with a knife.—Kyemon

Man stabs himself twice after stabbing wife to death

YANGON, 22 May—A man stabbed his wife to death and turned blade on himself at a property in Namthu Village of Hopong Township at about 8.30 pm on 15 May.

Maung Yay (a) Thet Oo, 27, tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself twice shortly after making at his wife Ma

Mi Hon, 28, six stabs while they were picking the big quarrel.

He collapsed unconscious due to stab wounds and taken to Sao San Tun hospital. Hopon police station is investigating into the case.

Kyemon

Live rounds of ammunition, pistol found abandoned in garbage can

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Ma Thin Myat Soe, YCDC staff, discovered one magazine and 56 rounds of ammunition of M-16, 11 rounds of ammunition of Carbine, 9mm 22 rounds of ammunition, 13 rounds of ammunition of .38 revolver, one Spain-made pistol with No C-177374 and star trade mark on its body and one pistol bag in a garbage can at the corner of Bo Thura Street and Padaukbin Street

in East Zaygyi Ward of Kyimyindine Township in Yangon at about 4 pm on 20 May while she was carrying out sanitation works. The live rounds of ammunition, one pistol and its bag were kept in a plastic bag.

As she informed authorities concerned of her discovery, officials of Kyimyindine Township police station rushed there and confiscated them.

Kyemon



Search for missing passengers of sinking boat in Yangon River ongoing

YANGON, 22 May—A motorized boat, Aung Yadana Myint, capsized and sank near Shwetaungdan pontoon bridge No (1) in Seikkan Township, here, at about 5 am yesterday.

A total of 24 passengers — 11 men and 13 women — and cement bags, iron rods and other goods were on board the motorized boat plying from Yangon to Kungyangon Township while the boat capsized and sank at a place, 10 feet from the dock. The boat is assumed to have capsized and sank due to a raging torrent of the water.

Nine men and six women were rescued and one woman was found



dead. Search for missing passengers from the sinking

boat which is 36 feet in length, nine feet in width

and five feet in depth is ongoing.—Kyemon

Accident

WORLD

Austria says peacekeepers may quit Golan if EU arms rebels

VIENNA, 22 May—Austria may pull its peacekeeping troops from the Golan Heights, evacuating the UN buffer zone, its defence minister warned on Tuesday, as Syria and Israel exchanged fire across a long dormant frontline now inflamed by civil war.

Vienna's warning was aimed at Britain and other allies which want to help Syrian rebels by lifting an EU arms embargo — doing so, minister Gerald Klug told *Reuters*, would rob Austrian troops of their neutrality in a Syrian conflict that has already seen foreign peacekeepers come under fire and some even held hostage.

He stopped short of

Xi's Latin American tour to enhance cooperation

BEIJING, 22 May—China will take the opportunity of President Xi Jinping's upcoming visits to three Latin American nations to further increase political trust and consolidate friendship with them, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

Hong Lei's comments at a Press briefing came after Qin Gang, also a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, announced earlier Tuesday that Xi will pay state visits to Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and Mexico from 31 May to 6 June.

Hong said Xi's visits will also strengthen friendly cooperation with the whole Latin American area.

He said it will be Xi's first state visits to Latin America, and the first trip of a Chinese President to Trinidad and Tobago, also the English-speaking Latin American region. Trinidad and Tobago is an important country in the English-speaking Latin American region, as well as China's major partner of cooperation in that area.

As the only country having diplomatic relations with China in Central America, Costa Rica has maintained friendly cooperation with the Chinese side, Hong said.

Mexico is a significant emerging economy, which has built up a strategic cooperative partnership with China, Hong noted.

Xinhua

saying an end to the EU arms ban would automatically prompt the departure of the 380 Austrian soldiers. But their withdrawal after four decades keeping the peace since the 1973 Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur war would leave a huge hole in the already troubled, 1,000-strong UN force separating two of the world's biggest armies, which are technically still at war.

"My view is that if the arms embargo were not extended, then the impartiality of the peace mission could no longer be maintained," Klug said in an interview a day before EU leaders in Brussels will discuss an arms embargo



Austrian Defence Minister Gerald Klug speaks during an interview with Reuters in Vienna on 21 May, 2013. Austria may pull its peacekeepers from Golan Heights, dealing the UN buffer mission between Israel and Syria a potentially lethal blow, if the European Union decides to arm Syrian rebel's, Klug said on Thursday.

REUTERS

that expires on 1 June.

"Our mission would be additionally fraught and it would no doubt come to a new assessment of the situation." I cannot of course prejudge the discussions,"

he said of the negotiations within the European Union. "But without doubt there are several options in the political discussion, and withdrawal is one of these options."—*Reuters*

Obama meets undocumented youth, renews push for immigration overhaul

WASHINGTON, 22 May — US President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday met with "Dreamers," undocumented youth who were brought to the country as children, renewing the push to overhaul the country's immigration system. Obama and Biden on Tuesday morning met with young immigrants who received deferred action as well as family members of undocumented immigrants in the Oval Office of the White House. This is the White House' latest effort to move immigration reform legislation forward.

At the meeting, the president reiterated his commitment to passing a bipartisan, commonsense immigration reform bill this year. "He made clear that while the current bill is not perfect, it does represent an important step towards the broad principles that need to be part of any immigration

reform package," said the White House in a statement.

The White House said the meeting was "an important opportunity" for the President and the Vice President to meet with families "who are directly affected by our nation's broken immigration system." The "Dreamers" shared how their lives have been positively affected by the deferred action process and emphasized that they and their families need "a permanent solution" that will allow them to fully contribute to the country they call home, said the White House. The participants of Tuesday's meeting are currently visiting the capital to speak to their elected representatives as the Senate considers immigration reform legislation. The Senate bill, unveiled last month by a bipartisan group of Senators, dubbed as "Gang of Eight," is still pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. The bill has so far

received the most attention nationwide but is expected to meet even greater resistance if it gets the chance to reach the Senate floor. Even if it passes the Democrats-controlled Senate, the bill will still have a longer and tougher way to go in the Republicans-dominated House. Immigration system overhaul remains President Barack Obama's top legislative priority in his second term of presidency. Both the Senate bipartisan group's proposals and the president's own goals include giving an earned citizenship to 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the country, as well as awarding green cards to foreign high-skilled workers.—*Xinhua*



Rescuers work at the accident site where a road cave-in occurred in Huamao Industrial Park in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on 21 May, 2013. The accident occurred around 9:19 pm (1319 GMT) on 20 May. As of 4:30 pm (0830 GMT) on Tuesday, five bodies had been retrieved from a pit measuring three to four meters deep. Search and rescue efforts are under way.—XINHUA

EU mission seeks to rebuild Mali army after US faltered

KOULIKORO, 22 May—Under a blazing sun and the critical gaze of British and Irish instructors, a line of 11 Malian soldiers lie prone in the dust firing AK-47 rounds at targets, one-by-one.

"One out of 10 — not very good," Captain Ibrahim Soumassa, commander of the Malian unit, tells one of the men. "We're at 25 metres. When we're at 100, it'll be difficult."

A European Union training mission faces a considerable challenge as it seeks to succeed where years of US instruction failed by turning Mali's rag-tag army into a force capable of facing militants threat stretching across the Sahara.

Years of corruption and neglect led the army to a string of defeats against al-Qaeda-linked militants last year, leaving northern Mali under militants control and sparking a military coup by disgruntled officers in the capital, Bamako.

Only a lightning intervention in January by France — which warned that the al-Qaeda enclave posed a threat to Europe — dislodged the well-armed militants fighters from northern Mali's towns. Paris now plans to pull out most of its troops and hand over to a United Nations peacekeeping force.

But the EU overhaul of Mali's army — one battalion of 700 men at a time — is at the heart of long-term efforts to keep the nation's desert north free not only of militants but also of traffickers ferrying cocaine, contraband and illegal immigrants into Europe.

General Carter Ham, speaking in January before handing over leadership of the US military command in Africa, recognised the United States had failed during years of counter-terrorism training in Mali to pass on "values, ethics and military ethos".

Reuters



French soldiers, part of the European Union training mission in Mali, look on as Malian soldiers practise manning a checkpoint and arresting a suspect in Koulikoro on 17 May, 2013.—REUTERS

UN mulls excluding nuclear accidents from disaster prevention plan

GENEVA, 22 May—The United Nations is considering excluding measures to prevent a nuclear accident caused by earthquake and tsunami from a new framework on disaster risk reduction expected to be adopted at the next world conference in 2015, UN sources said on Tuesday.

A Japanese government official involved in drafting the new framework, which will be discussed at the UN-sponsored World Conference on Disaster Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai, northeastern Japan, said manmade disasters should be treated separately from natural calamities. But a member of nongovernmental organization criticized such

a move, saying the world body is avoiding the issue of nuclear disasters out of concern that antinuclear activists could exploit the discussion.

The international conference to be held in the Japanese city devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which triggered the Fukushima nuclear crisis, will focus on the new action plan, which will replace the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

The 10-year action plan aimed at making the world safer from natural hazards offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. It was agreed upon at the previous world conference in 2005

in Kobe, a western Japan port city hit by the Great Hanshin Earthquake in January 1995.

Drafting of the new framework for action began in March 2012, with the Geneva-based UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, which serves as the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the Japanese government playing a central role.

In Geneva, a three-day biennial meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which brings together stakeholders including governments, NGOs, international organizations and the private sector, started on Tuesday to talk about the new action plan.—*Kyodo News*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Is Sony un-Japanese enough to entertain change?

TOKYO, 22 May—Few foreign activist investors have made much headway in forcing change in Japan, where a conservative corporate culture favors long-standing ties with banks, business partners and workers rather than shareholders seeking value. Struggling electronics giant Sony Corp, though, with more foreign and fewer bank shareholders, may prove something of an exception. That's the hope, at least, of Californian billionaire Daniel Loeb, whose Third Point hedge fund has built up a more than 6 percent stake in Sony, making it the group's biggest stockholder.

Loeb wants CEO Kazuo Hirai to sell as much as

a fifth of the group's money-making entertainment arm—movies, TV and music—to free up cash to revive an electronics business that has been battered by competition from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics. He reckons the shake-up could increase Sony's market value by 60 percent. The target and timing of his polite hand-delivered overture are not accidental.

Sony earns two-thirds of its revenue overseas and, for corporate Japan, appears more westernized. Hirai, who spent most of his childhood in the United States, was picked by former CEO Howard Stringer, a Welshman, in part for his ability to be both a Japanese boss in Sony's domestic electronics hub and a west-

ern CEO in the US-centered entertainment business.

Also, investors are clamoring to get back into the world's third-biggest economy where Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's promise of deflation-busting policies has triggered a share bonanza. "He (Hirai) is very accessible to a western person," Loeb told Reuters in Tokyo the day after announcing that his hedge fund had built up a \$1.1 billion stake in Sony. "And we wouldn't be here if we didn't think there was a tailwind from the economic policies in Japan."

Sony shareholders will be able to gauge Hirai's response to Loeb's proposals when the CEO gives an update on his revival strategy—with a focus to date

on growing sales of smartphones, digital cameras and PlayStation game consoles—at a press briefing on Wednesday. The Nikkei Japanese daily newspaper reported that Sony was considering evaluating Loeb's proposal. Sony's US listed shares rose more than 9 percent.

While driving change in Japan can be tough—foreign activist investors are often stigmatized as asset stripping sharks—Loeb may be in the vanguard of a new wave of activism attracted by 'Abenomics'.

"Westernized companies are in the minority among large caps, for sure. Boards tend to focus on stakeholder management at the expense of shareholder value," said Oscar Veldhui-



A promoter (R) helps a visitor use Sony's head mounted display to try out new game software on Sony's PlayStation 3 game console at the Tokyo Game Show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, in this 20 Sept, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

zen, a London-based fund manager at The Children's Investment Fund Management (UK) LLP. "The background of activism is very negative as it used to be a sort of Mafioso involved with a very different type of activism involving a lot of violence."

A preoccupation by Japanese companies in the 1980s and 1990s to keep shareholder meetings benign created a niche for sokaiya—gangsters who extorted money by threatening to disrupt carefully orchestrated annual meetings.—Reuters

Amazon wins key cloud security clearance from government



A zoomed image of a computer screen showing the Amazon logo is seen in Vienna on 26 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 May—Amazon.com Inc has been given a security clearance by the US government that will make it easier for federal agencies to use its cloud computing services. Amazon Web Services, known as AWS, was certified

to operate as a cloud service provider for three years under the government's new FedRAMP programme. The accreditation covers all AWS data centres in the United States, the company said on Tuesday.

"This will cut the

cost and time for agencies to deploy our systems," said Teresa Carlson, vice president of Worldwide Public Sector at AWS. "It cuts costs for AWS too."

Amazon, the world's largest online retailer, has moved aggressively into the business of renting remote computing, storage and other IT services in recent years through AWS.

The business has been a hit with startups, but the company is now going after big corporations and government agencies, a much larger opportunity. However, these organizations are more demanding, especially on issues like security and regulatory compliance.

Last year, the US government launched FedRAMP to standardize and streamline security

assessments of cloud services. Before this programme, if a vendor wanted to sell IT services to a government agency it had to obtain authorization for each separate project, slowing down the process and making it more expensive.

Under FedRAMP, AWS will be able to get approved for a government agency once and then its services can be used many times on multiple projects by that agency. AWS said it received its three-year clearance through the Department of Health and Human Services. The certification covers this agency and all its operational divisions which include the US Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health.

Reuters

BenQ launches XL2411T 3D-ready LED gaming monitor for Rs 22,500

NEW DELHI, 22 May—BenQ has launched the XL2411T 3D-ready gaming monitor that targets users who play first-person shooting games for Rs.22,500. The 24-inch gaming monitor features a resolution of 1920x1080 pixels. It also claims to support 120Hz for NVIDIA's 3D Vision 2 technology to reduce lag. The company claims that the monitor's fast 1ms (milliseconds) GtG (grey-to-grey) response time enhances gaming experience with smoothly rendered fast-moving action and dramatic transitions without the effects of smearing or ghosting.

It offers a 1000:1 native contrast ratio, and 170/160 viewing angle capability.

The monitor also comes with Black eQualizer color technology to help improve picture detail in dark image. BenQ claims the Black eQualizer offers truer blacks for an "unprecedented level of control and visibility".

It features a D-sub (VGA) port, a DVI-DL (dual-link) port, an HDMI port and a headphone jack connector.

The monitor also offers settings for Display Mode and Smart Scaling allowing gamers to interchange between monitor screen sizes from 17-inch (4:3), 19-inch (4:3), 19-inch wide (16:10), 21.5-inch wide (16:9), 22-inch wide (16:10), 23-inch wide (16:9) to 24-inch wide (16:9).—PTI

Online takeout companies GrubHub and Seamless to merge operations

NEW YORK, 22 May—Two of the US's biggest online food delivery businesses said they are merging in a deal that they hope will drive more orders, in more cities, through their platforms.

GrubHub and Seamless, which allow consumers to easily order online from various restaurants, are part of a group of fast-growing businesses that standardize local services under a national umbrella. Think restaurant reservations, where OpenTable dominates, or car services, where privately held startups such as Uber are making significant inroads.

"Internet sites are able to aggregate local merchants,

and we're right in the sweet spot," said Matt Maloney, GrubHub chief executive, in a phone interview.

The services did not disclose financial terms of the deal, which is subject to regulatory approval. It is expected to close by August, the services' executives said.

Online takeout services allow consumers to browse hundreds of menus online, along with reviews by fellow diners, and then order from the service, which notifies the restaurant. The services store payment information, cutting back on the time it takes to order food. Restaurants like the services because they cut back on phone calls at peak times.

Last year, GrubHub and Seamless coordinated \$875 million in takeout sales, resulting in more than \$100 million in combined revenue, they said in a statement.

But the overall US takeout business is worth around \$69 billion annually, with most of those sales coming from diners picking up the phone and calling the restaurant. "Our number one competitor is the paper menu," Maloney said.

Both companies have attracted significant backing, including more than \$84 million for Chicago-based GrubHub from investors such as Benchmark Capital and Lightspeed Venture Partners.—Reuters

Mars One claims project "serious" on soaring doubts

THE HAGUE, 22 May—While more and more doubts are raised in China about the so-called one-way project "Mars One", the Dutch organization said on Tuesday in a statement its plan is "ambitious" and "serious." Mars One, a non-profit company, said it "is committed to landing the first human crew on Mars in 2023."

While claiming it has more than ten thousand



Chinese applicants by now, the company are receiving more and more doubts from China.

The company's statement Tuesday, trying to clarify doubts, further provided somewhat contradictory details. Saying on one hand that "there never are any guarantees on timelines of projects of this scale" and admitting the plan is "complex and ambitious," the statement alleged

at the same time that "it is feasible by putting together the technology that exists today, available from the booming global private space industry."

The company also claims in the statement Mars One as "a serious space mission" defying soaring Chinese doubts, which many believed to be a "hoax" or a "commercial fraud." Many experts said at a professional meeting held in US recently that there will be huge challenges both in technical and financial field. According to a recent poll, 71 percent of Americans believe that the dream to move on Mars could only come true in 2033.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Dollar firms before Bernanke, inflation dip hits sterling

LONDON, 22 May—The dollar firmed, gold fell and shares slipped off five-year highs on Tuesday as investors positioned for an update on the future of the US Federal Reserve's stimulus programme.

A slowdown in British inflation sent sterling to a 7-week low on the view it could give the Bank of England more leeway to support the UK economy, and the yen lost ground after a Japanese minister rowed back on remarks suggesting the currency had weakened enough.

The constant drip of global central bank stimulus during the financial crisis has pushed many financial markets to their highest levels in years, but in recent weeks Fed officials have started talking more openly about scaling back the bank's support.

That has made Wednesday's release of minutes from the central bank's last meeting and Fed chairman Ben Bernanke's testimony in Congress the main focus for markets waiting for the first signs of a clear shift change in attitude.

The usually dovish Chicago policymaker Charles Evans said on Monday that while the pickup in the US jobs market continued he was "open-minded" about slowing the bank's bond-buying, and mentioned the idea of simply halting it.

The dollar DXY was up 0.4 percent against a basket of major currencies at midday in Europe, comfortably below its recent three-year high. US stock futures pointed to steady open on Wall Street.

Economists expect Bernanke to deliver a steady message on the bank's policy when he speaks to Congress. But any hint that it plans to scale back its support could unsettle markets.

Reuters

New technique shows premature birth interrupts vital brain development



LONDON, 22 May—British researchers have used a novel form of MRI to identify crucial developmental processes in

the brain that are vulnerable to the effects of premature birth, according to a report published on Monday in the *Proceedings of the National*

Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

The study showed that disruption of these specific processes can have an impact on cognitive function. The

researchers said the new techniques developed here will enable them to explore how the disruption of key processes can also cause conditions such as autism, and will be used in future studies to test possible treatments to prevent brain damage.

Scientists from King's College London and Imperial College London used diffusion MRI — a type of imaging which looks at the natural diffusion of water — to observe the maturation of the cerebral cortex where much of the brain's computing power resides.

By analysing the diffusion of water in the cerebral cortex of 55

premature infants and 10 babies born at full term, they mapped the growing complexity and density of nerve cells across the whole of the cortex in the months before the normal time of birth.

They found that during this period maturation was most rapid in areas of the brain relating to social and emotional processing, decision making, working memory and visual-spatial processing. These functions are often impaired after premature birth, and cortical development was reduced in preterm compared to full term infants, with the greatest effect in the most premature infants.—Xinhua

Housing recovery boosts Home Depot results; outlook raised

MONROVIA, (California), 22 May—Home Depot Inc (HD.N) reported higher-than-expected quarterly results and raised its sales and profit outlook for the year as the world's largest home improvement chain benefited from a nascent recovery in the US housing market. The news on Tuesday boosted Home Depot shares by 3.9 percent to \$79.75 in premarket trading. A bubble in the US housing market was at the core of the 2007-2009

financial crisis. During the downturn, Home Depot's sales at established stores fell more than 20 percent in such markets as Florida and California. In recent quarters, the company has gotten a boost as housing markets have rebounded in regions where it has a heavy presence.

"In the first quarter, we saw less favourable weather compared to last year, but we continue to see benefit from a recovering housing

market that drove a stronger-than-expected start to the year for our business," Chief Executive Officer Frank Blake said.

Despite cooler-than-usual weather in many parts of the United States at the start of the spring selling season, Home Depot's sales rose 7.4 percent to \$19.12 billion in the first quarter ended on 5 May. That topped the analysts' average estimate of \$18.68 billion.

Better pricing and customer service have helped Home Depot take market share from smaller rival Lowe's Cos (LOW.N). The industry leader has also gained from tailoring its marketing to local areas, centralizing distribution centers and shifting more workers to jobs where they serve customers directly. Sales at Home Depot stores open at least a year rose 4.3 percent, including a 4.8 percent increase in the United States.—Reuters



The entrance to The Home Depot store is pictured in Monrovia, California on 13 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS



A Best Buy logo is seen at the company's store during Black Friday in San Francisco, California on 23 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Best Buy profit tops estimates, sales miss

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 May—Best Buy Co Inc reported weaker-than-expected quarterly sales on Tuesday and warned that a slew of investments to win back shoppers could squeeze profits in the near term.

The news overshadowed a better-than-expected profit from the world's largest consumer electronics chain in the first quarter and sent its shares down 4 percent in

premarket trading.

Net earnings from continuing operations fell to \$97 million, or 29 cents a share, from \$169 million, or 49 cents a share a year earlier. Excluding restructuring and other charges, it earned 32 cents a share, beating the analysts average estimate of 25 cents a share, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Reuters

Surgery offers mixed benefits for kids' sleep apnea

NEW YORK, 22 May—A new study has confirmed that removing the tonsils and adenoids of children with obstructive sleep apnea can reduce sleepiness and improve the quality of life, but putting off the surgery might not hurt either. The study is the first controlled test to compare the operation with so-called watchful waiting as a strategy for stopping childhood obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, where the structures in the back of the mouth can temporarily block breathing during

sleep. The findings, released on 21 May at an American Thoracic Society International Conference in Philadelphia, and appearing online in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that after seven months, surgery improved many gauges of everyday living.

"Improvements in emotional regulation, attention, organizational skills, reduced sleepiness, improved quality of life including socialization and physical and emotional wellbeing were quite large, larger than we anticipated,"

coauthor Dr Susan Redline of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston told *Reuters Health*. Yet when the children were formally tested, youngsters in both groups performed equally well, an indication that the sleep disturbance wasn't causing any measurable cognitive problems. "Where you objectively measure these cognitive tasks, children can do fairly well in that motivated and structured environment" whether or not they have surgery, she said. "It shows that over a 7-month

period of watchful waiting, cognition does not decline."

Nearly half the children who did not have the operation improved on their own, Redline said. About 500,000 such operations are done in the US each year, mostly to help children with apnea. It's the second most common pediatric surgical procedure after tubes in the ears, and costs about \$2,850, according to the Healthcare Blue Book. Redline and her colleagues took 464 children age 5 to 9 and randomly assigned them to surgery or observation at seven

academic sleep centres. Nearly half were overweight or obese. The children with the most severe apnea were excluded. Children with the surgery showed a large improvement on ratings of things such as impulsiveness, emotional control and quality of sleep that were assessed by parents and teachers. "It really was across-the-board improvement in everyday life" for surgery patients, Redline said. On the other hand, "almost half the children improved spontaneously over the 7-month period without surgery," she said.

Reuters

WORLD

World Bank boosts funds for Syria refugees, Africa

GENEVA, 22 May—The World Bank plans substantial new funds to help Jordan cope with the influx of refugees from the civil war in Syria, and hopes new funds for central Africa will cement a peace deal there, the bank's President Jim Yong Kim said on Tuesday.

"There will be significant amounts of new funding going to Jordan in the very near future to deal with this crisis," he said in an interview, after a speech at the UN World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Jordan is one of Syria's four immediate neighbours, along with Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, inundated with refugees fleeing the two-year-old conflict in Syria. Of more than 1.5 million refugees, almost

one-third are in Jordan.

The United Nations has warned the numbers could triple by the end of the year, but humanitarian agencies say Syria's neighbours are already shouldering a massive humanitarian burden, with many refugees camped with host families.

Jordan, which will be the venue for an international conference on Syria on Wednesday, has been turning away Syrian refugees for the past six days, aid workers said.

Kim said he was worried about the situation in the region and the World Bank stood ready to help. Jordan received a pledge of \$250 million from the World Bank in January 2012 to help it cope with the economic downturn and

the Syrian crisis, but King Abdullah asked Kim for more help two weeks ago.

"With Jordan, they are the first ones who have come and just asked me di-



Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, gestures during an interview with Reuters at the 66th World Health Assembly at the United Nations in Geneva on 21 May, 2013 file photo.
REUTERS

rectly for increased assistance and we've said yes," Kim said.

"So we are using all of our flexibilities to try to in-

crease our lending to them at very low rates so they will be able to respond to the humanitarian crisis."

Reuters

Syria, Israel exchange fire on Golan Heights

BEIRUT, 22 May—Syria said its troops destroyed an Israeli vehicle that crossed into its territory from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Tuesday and warned that any attempt to violate its sovereignty would meet "immediate and firm retaliation".

Israel said the incident took place on its side of the Golan ceasefire line, that the vehicle was damaged but not destroyed, none of its soldiers were hurt and they returned fire.

The clash highlighted the potential for renewed conflict along a frontline that has become increasingly fraught after nearly four decades of calm overseen by

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his father.

It also followed Israeli airstrikes near Damascus against suspected missile stockpiles two weeks ago, after which Syria threatened to retaliate. Assad is battling a two-year-old uprising in which rebel forces, including radical Islamists, have taken swathes of rural territory and attacked army posts near the Golan frontier. There are frequent reports of cross-border gunfire from Syria during clashes between army and rebel forces but Tuesday's incident was the first time since the start of the crisis that Syria's armed forces said they targeted Israel's military.

"Our noble armed forces destroyed an Israeli vehicle ... which entered from the occupied territories and crossed the ceasefire line," Syria's military leadership said in a statement broadcast on state media. The incident occurred at 1:10 am (11.10 pm British Time, on Monday), it said. Shortly afterwards, Israeli forces fired two rockets towards a Syrian position, without causing any casualties, Syria said.

The Israeli military's chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Benny Gantz, said the Israeli army vehicle had been patrolling on the Israeli side of a border fence when it came under repeated fire.

Reuters



Firefighters work to extinguish fire at a parking lot where five oil trucks caught fire in Jalalabad, capital city of eastern Afghan Province of Nangarhar on 20 May, 2013. At least one person was killed in the fire on Monday afternoon. Police officials ruled out involvement of militants in the incident.—XINHUA

Passenger plane makes safe emergency landing in Ukraine

KIEV, 22 May—A Russian ATR-42 turboprop passenger plane made an emergency landing early Tuesday at Donetsk Airport in eastern Ukraine without casualties, local authorities said.

The UTair airline-

operated plane, en route from Donetsk to Moscow, encountered a technical problem shortly after taking off, and made a safe emergency landing at 6.30 am local time (0330 GMT), the Donetsk Airport press service said. Passengers would

fly to Moscow by another plane, it said.

On mid-February, a plane bound for Donetsk from the southern city of Odessa with 52 people aboard crashed while landing at Donetsk airport, killing five people.—Xinhua

Britain asks EU to put Hezbollah armed wing on terror list

BRUSSELS, 22 May—Britain said on Tuesday it had asked the European Union to put Hezbollah's military arm on its list of terrorist organizations, urging Europe to respond robustly to evidence of the Islamist group's involvement in an attack that killed five Israelis.

Britain's request came after Bulgaria accused the Lebanese militant movement in February of carrying out a bomb attack on a bus in the Black Sea city of Burgas that killed the Israelis and their Bulgarian driver in July last year.

Britain also cited a four-year jail sentence handed down by a Cypriot court in March to a Hezbollah member accused of plotting to attack Israeli interests on the island.

be discussed in early June by a special EU working group but it is likely to be difficult for Britain to convince all EU member states to support the proposal and achieve the required unanimity.

"We are calling for Europe to respond collectively and robustly following the atrocious terrorist attack at Burgas Airport ... We firmly believe that an appropriate EU response would be to designate Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organisation," a spokesman for Britain's Foreign Office said.

Putting Hezbollah's military arm on the EU's terror list would make it harder for the group to operate in Europe and would help prevent "any future attacks by this terrorist organ-



A truck carries a bus, that was damaged in a bomb blast on Wednesday, outside Burgas Airport, about 400km (248miles) east of Sofia on 19 July, 2012.

REUTERS

There is growing concern in the West about Iranian-backed Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian conflict, although British sources denied this had prompted its request.

Britain's request will

ization on European soil," the spokesman said.

Britain's move came as Hezbollah guerrillas fought their biggest battle yet for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Reuters

Russia to strict migration control for social security

MOSCOW, 22 May—Russia needs a system to monitor and control the flow of migrant workers to secure social stability, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview released on Tuesday.

"We need to know who comes to us," Medvedev told the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, adding it is "sanitary-epidemiological, economic, as well as security issue." Admitting Russia needs "additional manpower," the prime minister noted that "all newcomers must respect our rules, our laws, traditions and have a good command of the Russian language."

In that case, the most important thing was to create a system that would make it possible to monitor the migration processes, which was being undertaken, he said.

Medvedev also insisted that the Russian economy is decent despite complicated global economic situation and obsolete structure of the national economy.

"Everything is more or less acceptable. Still we need growth of the better quality," Medvedev said, adding that his government considers the ways to heat the domestic consumption in order to avoid recession.

Xinhua

Japan, Georgia confirm Tokyo's commitment to cooperate with Tbilisi

TOKYO, 22 May—Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Georgian counterpart Maia Panjikidze confirmed on Tuesday Japan's commitment to continuing cooperation with the former Soviet republic through official development assistance, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

During a meeting in Tokyo, the two ministers also agreed on the importance of cooperating with each other at the United Nations and other international venues, while they briefed each other on their countries' foreign affairs developments. Kishida expressed Japan's readiness to work closely with Georgia within a multilateral framework involving Japan and four former Soviet republics, according to the ministry. The four are Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova, who together form a regional forum called GUAM.

Georgia sits in a strategic area in the Caucasus connecting Europe and Asia, providing a conduit for oil and natural gas produced in the Caspian Sea region. With energy-security needs in mind, Japan has provided development aid to the country over the years.—Kyodo News

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Region Chief Minister visits relief camps in Meiktila



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint visits relief camp of Water Resources Utilization Department in Meiktila Township and console the victims.

MANDALAY, 22 May—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Region Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Kyaw Moe, Region Planning and Economy Minister U Aung Zan and officials, visited relief camps in Meiktila on 17 May.

He cordially greeted those at the camps and attended to the needs.

The chief minister and party then proceeded to Central Institute of Transport and Communication in Meiktila which is giving refuge to 1814 victims from 463 households.

He inspected temporary

settlement there, consoled them and provided necessary aids.

The chief minister also visited relief camp of Water Resources Utilization Department which hosts 884 victims from 199 households, relief camp of Sasana Rekkhita monastery which hosts 663 victims of 203 households and the relief camp at the district sports ground where 1356 victims of 397 households are located.

He inspected cooking, providing necessary aids and healthcare.

He attended to the needs and comforted the victims.

Magway Region ANA invites entries for anti-narcotic contest

MAGWAY, 22 May—Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association in Magway Region met in Magway Region ANA office in Natmauk street Magway on 18 May afternoon and discussed invitation of manuscripts of the open literary contests organized by ANA (Central).

Chairman of Magway Region Anti-Narcotics Association retired Police Col Ye Myint said at the meeting that manuscripts for sixth open anti-narcotics awareness raising short story, article and poem contests organized by ANA (Central) were to be submitted by 7 June.

Secretary of Magway Region ANA Dr Myint Aung briefed on rules and

regulations of the contests.

The meeting assigned the short story scrutiny group, the article scrutiny group and poem scrutiny group. The Magway Region ANA invited manuscripts to be sent to Magway Township Writers Association Office not later than 31 May.

Myanma Alinn

As calm has been restored in Meiktila, the trading is getting going as usual.—Myanma Alinn

Bago prepares to prevent flood

BAGO, 22 May—Under guidance of Bago Region Government, Bago Township Development Affairs Committee has started digging the swallow Gaungsegyun canal which was a source of flood in Bago and Kawa Townships since 17 May.

Wards in low-laying areas in Bago and farmlands

Fire breaks out in Tamway Tsp

YANGON, 22 May—A fire broke out in Tamway Township in Yangon at 1.40 am on 19 May but it was put out by firefighters of Tamway fire brigade with three fire engines within 10 minutes.

The fire outbreak took place at Room (A), fourth floor, No (310) building in Banya Dala street in Kyaukmyaunggyi ward.

The fire was started by the overheated cable of the fridge in the dining room which was the only damage in the fire. The police has lodged a lawsuit against owner of the apartment U Kyaw Theinga.

Fifteen firefighters and 10 auxiliary firefighters put out the fire with the use of some 2000 gallons of water.

Myanma Alinn

in Kawa Township are inundated in every monsoon. The flood each year damaged crops.

The flood was also contributed by the swallow canal in Kyunthaya ward in Bago.

The canal which has the length of 1400 ft will be widened to 11 ft.

Myanma Alinn



Myanmar entrepreneurs leave for Thailand

YANGON, 22 May—At the invitation of Unilever Food Solution of Thailand,

a Myanmar delegation comprising restaurant owners, managers and chefs from regions and states, under the arrangements of Chairman U Nyan Lin, Vice-Chairmen U Sonny Aung Khin and U Khin Aung Tun and General Secretary U Kyaw Myat Moe and Joint Secretary U Nay Lin, left Yangon 21 May to attend THAIFEX Exhibition (World Food Asia 2013) in Maung Thong Thani of Thailand and observe safety of foods.—NLM



Technology

Yezagyo Township gets more 900 SIM cards in May

YEZAGYO, 22 May—Yezagyo Township in Magway Region received a share of 1500 CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards for second batch of the low-priced SIM card sale in May.

Township General Administration Department office accepted applications for purchase of SIM cards on 20 May.

SIM cards will be sold through public draw, according to the officials.

The township had received the share of 600 SIM cards in the previous month.

According to applicants, they are happy to learn the rise in number of selling SIM cards.

Myanma Alinn

Seminar on mobile technology held in Mandalay



A seminar on mobile technology which provided those present with practical experiences in progress.

MANDALAY, 22 May—A seminar on mobile technology was organized by Mobile University training school in Aungmyaythazan Township in Mandalay at 10 am on 19 May.

The ward administrator spoke words of thanks for organizing the seminar on applications of mobile.

Those present and journalists raised questions about computing, hardware, software, information network, Facebook and Gmail.

Some youths today are squandering their time and money by spending more time with mobiles and on line, U Zaw Ye, administrator of the training school, said.

He suggested the youths to learn higher mobile technologies from tech experts to make the most of it.

Lecturers Ko Set, Ko Phone and Ko Zaw Myo gave talks on software, hardware and up-to-date mobile technologies.

Myanma Alinn

Loans disbursed to members of cooperative society in NyaungU

NYAUNGU, 22 May—NyaungU Township No. 5 Trading Cooperative Limited provided capitals to members at the cooperative society office at 9 am on 16 May.

NyaungU Township Cooperative Department staff officer U Kyaw Than explained rules and regulations of micro-financing and purpose of granting capitals.

Managing Director of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Nay Tun Lin Shein and Chairman of the limited U Myint Aye discussed work plans.

A total of 143 members of cooperative societies in NyaungU received capitals of K 50,000 each, accounting for K 7.15 million in total. The term of the loan is ten months.

Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Swiss President of the Council of States

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a Swiss delegation led by President of the Council of States Mr. Filippo Lombardi at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

The meeting focused on further cementing friendships and bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Switzerland, as well as promoting amity

and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairpersons U Soe Tha and U Hla Myint Oo, Secretary U Maung Toe, Committee Member Daw Khin Saw Wai and officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with President of the Council of States Mr. Filippo Lombardi at Zabuthiri Hall at Hluttaw Complex.—MNA



C-in-C of Defence Services meets officers, other ranks in Magway



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially meets servicemen and their families at Magway Station.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the importance of the unity and strength for the Tatmadaw in carrying

out the defence duty and called for becoming a reliable one for the peoples as it comes from the people in meeting with senior officers, other ranks and their families at Magway

Station today. After the meeting, the Senior General went to the Military Hospital in Magway to where he comforted patients and gave foods and gifts them.

During the visit in

Magway, the Senior General and party also inspected regiments and units in Magway and called for planting shady trees at the regiments and units this rainy season.—MNA

Coordination meeting for private sector development held

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May— Ministry of

The opening ceremony of village library in progress in Taunggalay Village of Bilin Township.

Construction held a coordination meeting for private sector development, at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this afternoon.

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin discussed development of the private sector in road

and bridges works of Public Works under the Ministry and low-cost housing projects being implemented by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

After that, Deputy Minister U Soe Tint called for transparency in the

reform process and public interests.

The Managing Director, the Director-General, BOT companies and contractors also discussed roads and bridges construction and construction of housing projects.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 May, 2013

Our future in colour

In black and white inky papers with foul odour that we used to smell good lies our past, present and future. We read our first-ever ABCs in our lifetime in these texts. The rare mis-coloured illustrations in these readers are nothing more attractive than black and white pictures for a five-year old because none has nothing attractive to gaze over. But we did gaze. We gazed into them with the love of letters. Flipping through our textbooks looking for such-and-such was kind of luxury for a starter who had virtually nothing more of his own than those gray papers.

But it is totally different with the kids today. They have quite a lot of things all more interesting than those grays papers. They would find polar bears on TV more interesting than all illustrations in their textbook. The characters in electronic games will be more friendly and interactive for them. Can we say it wrong that they spend less time with the books?

Children by nature has all the creativity, interests and energies. It is simple, honest and innocent logic that they would skip what they find boring. Rather than forcing them to stick to their textbooks, we should instead try to prepare more interesting textbooks with colours, better paper and better illustration. It would surely be somewhat costly. But it is worth spending money to lure our kids back to their school books and to instill the love of books in general. If not, we will see our next generations being glued to screens and scrolling up and down the web feeds as if the taste of text is unknown to them.

The first-ever colour textbooks are expected to be distributed to primary schoolchildren this academic year. We have to wait and see how good it is. You may find it difficult to accept the idea that elementary textbooks are much important for a generation. Maybe there are things more important than those readers, but it will surely be only a few.

Taunggalay Village in Bilin Tsp gets library

BILIN, 22 May— A library was opened in Taunggalay Village in Daukyap Village-tract in Bilin Township on 20 May.

During the opening ceremony, Information and Public Relations Department contributed 70 periodicals

and local people cash to the trust-fund of the library.

The government has injected K 1 million while local people over K 0.6 million to the library which is 24 ft long, 14 ft wide and 12 ft high.

Kyemon



NATIONAL

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw receives President of the Council of States of Switzerland

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by President of the Council of States Mr Filippo Lombardi of Switzerland at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon and discussed parliamentary affairs between the two countries.

Also present at the call together with the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw

were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairpersons U Zaw Myint Pe, U Thein Win, U Aung Tun, U San Tun, U Nyunt Tin, U Aung Nyein, Daw Khin Waing Kyi, U Nay Win Tun and Col Maung Maung Htoo and responsible persons from the Hluttaw Office.

The visiting delegation was accompanied by the Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Swiss President of the Council of States Mr Filippo Lombardi and party.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan discuss religious matters

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint held talks with Rev. Joeinasuno, Jodoshinshu Hongwanji-Hi FUJEI of Buddhist Federation of Japan at his office, here, this afternoon.

During the discussions, Rev. Joeinasuno said that there was no ministry of religious affairs in Japan;

he wanted to know religious matters practicing in Myanmar; Japanese faith in religion became weak though the country has enjoyed economic development; he believed that the ministry of religious affairs was important for making people's mind to become mild; and he expressed that both countries should exchange

of Buddhist literature.

The Union Minister for his part said that there were two International Theravada Buddhist Missionary Universities and over 5,000 monastic education schools in Myanmar and promotion and propagation of Sasana were being mainly carried out in Myanmar, Buddhist cultural schools were being run all corner

of the country and each and every village had monastery and Sayadaws would guide villagers. The Union Minister also pointed out that there could be language barriers in learning but Myanmar could conduct free-study as courses are being conducted both English and Pali, for those pursuing Theravada Buddhist literature.

MNA

Mawlamyine University opens three-storey buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Opening of the three-storey buildings of Mawlamyine University was held at the university yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Ba Shwe formally opened the buildings.

The Union Minister and the chief minister made speeches. After visiting integrated research farm of Marine Science Department of the University, he attended the seminar-2013 on national education promotion (higher education sector). Resource persons presented the papers. The seminar continues till 24 May.—MNA

Press freedom is a foundation for democratic society, plays a role in democratic transition

The 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar was held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon on 20 and 21 May. Representatives from international media organizations, news agencies and reporters and editors at home participated in the conference. Following is the interview we conducted at the conference.

U Thiha Saw (Chief Editor of the Open News Journal) member of Myanmar Press Council (Temporary)

The first conference was held last year at the time when the censorship still took effect, private newspapers did not take shape and the media law was still in draft. During the first conference, an official of the Ministry of Information told us that the ministry would abolish the censorship board and would allow to publish private-owned newspapers. We all hoped that all those visions would do come true within a year and all happened within

a year as the ministry had said. These are good signs. The visions we had last year took shape today.

There happened changes during the duration between the two conferences. For example, the media law was in draft form when the first conference was held, and later, the press council emerged. What the progress today is we can discuss media law drafted of the Ministry of Information and the another one drafted by the press council on the table.

During this second conference, we will discuss what and how we should do for the future of the media sector of Myanmar.

Press freedom is important for media. Media men want to get freedom. Media is a barometer for a democracy, and if there is media freedom in Myanmar, we can say that the country is on the right track to a democracy. The more media freedom in a country, the more achievements the country got in its reform processes. I assume that this conference plays an important role in

bringing media freedom to Myanmar.

U Ko Ko Aung BBC (Myanmar Program)

We noticed that the government is making efforts for ensuring transparency and participation of the people in it. The government welcomes the voice of the people, and in this point, the government's willing to allow the media men press freedom is another direction. Meanwhile, the media men are worried whether the government continue to control the media. Anyway, the conference on media development has helped the both sides understand and clear what they confused in the past.

Regarding the reform of the media sector, the government must take the security of the country and interests of the peoples into account while it is considering to relax restrictions in conformity with the democratic norms. Media men are worried whether the government would control the media when they have freedom in their reporting and coverage. But, we can

find the answer during the conference.

I think that the government's reform of the media has taken place in the print media than other media. As far as I know, there is a few who controls broadcasting media while there are many who control the print media. When I gather news in the country, there are few newsmen who collect news for radio, except for TV. There should be many platforms for the media sector. The Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television told us that this vision would do come true soon and we hope so.

It is found that young journalists of Myanmar are working hard and it was also the young generation who worked for the media during the time before the country was opening up. Bogyoke Aung San took over an editor's chair since his student life. Professionalism could be realized learning experiences but there may be weak points, he expressed his views.

U Aye Chan Naing Director (DVB)

In an interview with

Director U Aye Chan Naing of DVB, he expressed his views about the conference.

I knew remarkably the points said by Information Minister that state-owned media will be transformed into an independent one as Public Service Media. I noticed this pledge that Public Service Media which is free from the control of the government and market will be realized. In fact, the State media is owned by the people. It is good to create a public-owned independent media.

I agreed with most points in the recently-issued Public Service Media draft law. What the important thing is that it should not be a Media Watchdog. The point I don't like is that the board that is responsible for issuing license have an authority to abolish the license it had issued. I heard that this point will be amended. According to my point of view, license is not needed for print media,

but registration process is needed. It seems license can be abolished since the start of license application. It is required for broadcasting media to apply for license as there is frequency limit in radio and TV broadcastings. Permission for establishment of radio and TV stations is not allowed to everyone. It will be necessary to enact laws to grant permission. But no restrictions are needed in print media. Everyone should be granted permission to publish newspapers, journals and magazines.

It is an unexpected one among other reforms of the government. There are a lot of changes which are encouraging us in the time of the new government. Reform processes are very fast. But reforms should reach grass roots. It is required to take much time, but I am very encouraged by the progress.

(To be continued)

LOCAL NEWS

Workshop on Disabilities and Rights of Disabled kicks off



MAGWAY, 22 May—The Workshop on Disabilities and Rights of Disabled, jointly organized by Social Welfare Department and the Leprosy Mission Myanmar, was opened at the hall of Pre-

Primary School in Magway yesterday morning, with an address by Magway Region Minister for Social Affairs U Aung Kyaw Min.

Head of Region Social Welfare Department Daw

Khin Khin Pyone explained rehabilitation of the disabled persons. Daw Zin Mar Win of the Leprosy Mission Myanmar explained the root cause of conducting the workshop.

The workshop attended by regional level departmental personnel will run two days.—Kyemon

CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards sold in Myinmu for second batch



MYINMU, 22 May—There are 4868 applicants in Myinmu Township to buy CDMA 800 SIM cards.

A total of 1500 CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards were sold—175 for monks, 412 for governmental staff and 913 for local people through lots for the second time at Shwe Pyi Thit hall in

Myinmu on 19 May.

Another applicant will be sold there depending on more allotted SIM cards.

On 24 April, a total of 1090 low-cost SIM cards were sold for the first time.

Those who get the SIM cards are to pay for the items cash down on 20 to 23 May.—Kyemon

OTTWIN, 22 May—Bawa Aphawmon Library was put into service in Khindan Village of Kywegan Village-tract in Ottwin Township of Bago Region on 18 May morning.

Head of Bago Region Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Nyunt, Township Administrator U Kyaw Shwe and village-tract administrator U Myo Zaw Oo formally opened the library.

The head of Region IPRD and the township administrator made speeches on the occasion.

The one-storey library, 24 feet long and 14 feet wide brick noggin structure, was built at a cost of K 1 million by the State and K 1.2 million by the local people.

Kyemon

Ottwin Township gets rural library in Khindan Village



WAO members make field trips

SAGAING, 22 May—Chairman of Sagaing District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Thin Thin Cho, members of

District and Township WAOs and members of Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held the discussions on rural

development in Kongyi Village of Sagaing on 18 May.

They visited Pre-Primary School in Sadaung Village and Home for the Aged in Ywahtaung where they fed soy milk to 14 grandpas and 32 grandmas.

Kyemon

Health Care Services

Padaung rural people enjoy free health care services

PADAUNG, 22 May—Under the arrangements of Bago Region government, a specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Tint Shoon of Pyay General Hospital, under the supervision of Padaung Township Administrator U Win Zaw Htwe, made a field trip to the station hospital in Okshitpin Village-tract of Padaung Township on 19 May morning.

The specialist team provided free health care services to about 1500 local people from the villages in the area of the station hospital and provided

medicines to them.

Local people thanked the specialists for their free medical treatment on the field trip.—Kyemon



Mandalay Region Health Care Subcommittee meets

MANDALAY, 22 May—A coordination meeting of Health Care Subcommittee under Mandalay Region Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee took place at the meeting

hall of Mandalay Region Health Department on 18 May. Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing delivered an opening speech on the occasion. Chairman of Health Care Subcommittee head of Region Health Department Dr Moe Swe and committee members reported on natural disaster preparedness measures, health care and sector-wise matters.

After that, the Region Social Affairs Minister and subcommittee members inspected relief aids at Region Red Cross Society Relief Warehouse.

Kyemon

Accident

One dead, two injured in Insein car accident

YANGON, 22 May—One people was dead and two injured in a car accident at No.14 ward of Shwepyitha Township on 18 May.

The car hit U Hla Myint who was walking and a trishaw while driver Ye Tun

Aung aged 23, was driving the car with excessive speed.

Victim U Hla Myint who got wounds to head was dead while he was on the way to Insein hospital.

Trishaw driver and two passengers sustained minor injuries.—Kyemon

Seven got injured in light truck and 22-wheeled truck accident



TOUNGGOO, 22 May—No 48/4321 a 22-wheeled truck heading Monywa to Yangon on Yangon-Mandalay Old Road driven by Aung Phyoo, 26, (son of U Myint Zaw) in Aung San Ward of Insein Township hit Town Ace Light Truck 8 Hsa/4434 in front of Wah food stall between milepost 186/5-6 in Kaytumadi Myothit of Toungoo Township at 1 pm on 16 May. The light truck was driven by Tin Win, 36, (son of U Maung), 11-Ward in Shwepyitha Township

returning from Pyin Oo Lwin to Yangon with pilgrims.

Due to the accident, seven passengers from Yangon including driver Tin Win on board the light truck got injured seriously and they were rushed to Toungoo General Hospital.

Moreover, three Chinese made motorcycles which are stationary near the restaurant and the light truck were damaged. IP Kyaw Lin opened a file at Kaytumadi Myothit Police Station.—Kyemon

REGIONAL

Japan to recommend documents at Kyoto temple as UNESCO heritage

TOKYO, 22 May—Japan will recommend a set of old documents at a Kyoto Buddhist temple for UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology said on Tuesday.

Japan plans to file a letter of recommendation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization by March 2014. An advisory body to the UNESCO register will study the letter to decide whether to include the documents, ministry officials said.

Japan hopes the documents can be included in the register in 2015.

The documents, called the Toji hyakugomonjo and designated as a national treasure, have passed down to the Toji in Kyoto's Mi-

nami Ward and are currently owned by the Kyoto prefectural government.

They comprise about 25,000 documents from the Nara period (710-794) to the Edo period (1603-1866), and are mainly minutes of discussions on the management of the temple. They also include descriptions of the lives of ordinary people in various areas across the country as the temple was able to exercise its strong influence to collect such information.

In 2012, the Japanese government recommended an autograph diary written by Fujiwara Michinaga (966-1028) who served as dajo-daijin or chancellor of the realm, and a set of documents and materials that cover the progress of talks between Japan and Europe

during the Edo period.

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova will decide whether to include the two in the register after examinations by the advisory body scheduled for June this year, the officials said.

The Memory of the World programme aims to preserve historical archives and other precious items around the world. Among the items already on its roster are the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen issued during the French Revolution in the late 18th century and the diary of Anne Frank from World War II. In 2011, a collection of annotated paintings and diaries of Japanese artist Sakubei Yamamoto (1892-1984) depicting the condition of coal mines was put on the register.—Kyodo News

Freeport Indonesia says death toll rises to 28 after tunnel accident

JAKARTA, 22 May—The death toll from a tunnel collapse at the world's second largest copper mine run by Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc's Indonesian unit was raised to 28 on Wednesday as rescuers gave up hope of finding any more survivors.

Arizona-based Freeport closed the remote Papua mine on Wednesday last week, a day after a training tunnel away from its main operations fell in on 38 workers. Ten workers were rescued, but the search for the seven still listed as missing has now turned into an attempt to retrieve their bodies.

"We continue to grieve with the families even as we close this grim chapter," Freeport Indonesia President Director Rozik Soetjipto said

in a statement.

"There is still much to do for us to provide the best care and support for the injured and the families of the bereaved."

Although Indonesia's mining sector has a poor safety record, last week's tunnel accident is one of the country's worst-ever mining disasters, industry officials said.

Soetjipto said on Saturday that once the rescue efforts were finished the company would launch an investigation with the help of international experts and Indonesian government officials.

Freeport emergency response teams, who are work-

ing around the clock to try to recover the remains of the dead, have been hampered by narrow tunnels and loose rock at the site, Wednesday's statement said.

It made no mention of the investigation or the current suspension of mining operations. A union leader last week demanded that Freeport keep the mine closed while the cause of the accident was investigated.

The incident's impact on global copper supply has so far been limited as the Grasberg mine keeps stockpiles in reserve in case of disruptions, but that would change if any investigation and closure drags on.

Reuters



Workers tie materials onto the back of a yak on Mount Qomolangma (Mount Everest), southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 19 May, 2013. Xia Jianfeng, a member of a commercial climbing team who suffered from cerebral edema on the altitude of 8,650 metres, was rescued to the base camp on 19 May. The successful rescue made a miracle as it took place in such high altitude of the mountain. As increasingly more people come to climb the world's highest mountain in recent years, the rescue system here is also rapidly improved for the safety of climbers.—XINHUA

China's bird flu outbreak cost \$6.5 billion

GENEVA, 22 May—The H7N9 virus appears to have been brought under control in China largely due to restrictions at bird markets, but caused some \$6.5 billion (4.2 billion pounds) in losses to the economy, UN experts said on Tuesday.

Health authorities worldwide must be on the

lookout to detect the virus, the experts said, which could still develop the ability to spread easily among humans and cause a deadly influenza pandemic.

The new bird flu virus is known to have infected 130 people in mainland China since emerging in March, including 36 who died, but

no cases have been detected since early May, Health Minister Li Bin told a meeting of the World Health Organization. One case was found in Taipei in April, making a total of 131.

"The immediate outbreak has been controlled, but it is also unlikely that virus has simply disappeared. We believe we need go another autumn/winter/spring season to know," said Keiji Fukuda, WHO assistant director-general for health security. "We also have high concern over the potential, I stress the potential, to gain the ability to sustain transmissibility."

There was no evidence of sustained spread among people and "most cases probably resulted from infected

poultry or perhaps contamination related to live poultry markets," Fukuda said. Li said local Chinese authorities had shut down live poultry markets "temporarily or permanently as needed" to control the source of outbreaks in 10 provinces. It standardised methods of transporting poultry to reduce spread among birds. China's government had spent 600 million RMB or \$97 million to support healthy development of the poultry industry, Li said. "In view of the present situation, H7N9 is preventable and controllable. There has been no qualitative change in the epidemic. Cases are sporadic and there has been no genetic mutation (of the virus)," she said.

Reuters



An employee works at a poultry farm on the outskirts of Shanghai 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Vietnam to join multilateral military exercise in Brunei

HANOI, 22 May—A team of 16 Vietnamese sappers and military medical officers will take part in a multilateral military exercise in Brunei in June, with the participation of 18 countries.

The duties of the Vietnamese team will be to search for and rescue victims trapped under the debris of collapsed houses, local *Tuoi Tre* (the Youth) news reported, quoting the National Committee for Search and Rescue as saying on Tuesday.

Scheduled to last from 17 to 20 June, it is the first-ever multilateral military exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster re-

lief and military medicine within the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).

Lieutenant General Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Vietnam People Army and Vice Chairman of the Committee, on Monday inspected a training session of the team that will join the event.

Khue underlined that the coming exercise in Brunei will promote relations and cooperation among armies of ASEAN-member nations, and asked the team to perform well in the exercise in Brunei.

Xinhua

Cambodian, Thai state-owned broadcasters ink cooperation deal

PHNOM PENH, 22 May—The National Television of Cambodia and the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand (MCOT) on Tuesday signed a television cooperation agreement, focusing on the exchange of TV programmes and information.

The deal was inked between director general of the National Television of Cambodia Kem Gunawadh and MCOT's director general Anek Perm Vongsent under the presence of Cambodia's Minister of Information Khieu Kanharith.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Khieu Kanharith

said under the agreement, both sides would exchange techniques and experiences as well as information.

He said that it was very important to exchange information. As the border conflict between the two countries has not been solved, both sides must broadcast only factual information and must avoid any provocative news. Anek Perm Vongsent said MCOT was pleased to cooperate with Cambodia in television sector, saying that under the deal, peoples of the two countries could get to know each other better via daily TV programme exchange.—Xinhua

Seismic diagnoses required for hospitals, dept stores

TOKYO, 22 May—Japan's parliament enacted on Wednesday a bill that requires large facilities, such as hospitals and department stores, to undergo seismic diagnoses equivalent to those mandated for structures built before the enhanced quake-resistance standards were in-

troduced in 1981.

These facilities must complete the diagnoses by the end of 2015. Their operators will be slapped with penalties up to 1 million yen if they refuse to follow the legislation, which revises the Act for Promotion of Renovation for Earthquake-Resistant Structures.

The infrastructure ministry has in its sights hospitals and department stores with total floor space of more than 5,000 square metres, as well as smaller facilities used by children and elderly people for whom evacuating premises may be challenging.

While the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is considering releasing the diagnosis results following a moratorium period, accommodation facility operators are raising concerns that they will lose customers if the outcomes are announced before their seismic strengthening works are complete.—Kyodo News



Photo shows the 634-metre-tall Tokyo Skytree in the Japanese capital, on 22 May, 2013, the first anniversary of the opening of the world's tallest broadcast tower. KYODO NEWS



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**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Office of Yangon Port will be closed on the 24th MAY 2013 (Fullmoon Day of KASON), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (169)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (169) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 5 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**Chris Brown getting close to
Topshop heiress?**

BEIJING, 22 May—Chris Brown is said to be getting close to Chloe Green—the Topshop heiress whose father is being sued by Chris' ex-girlfriend Rihanna father after his high street store sold unauthorised t-shirts using her image. Chris Brown is reportedly getting close to Topshop heiress Chloe Green. The rapper has been spending more time with the shoe designer—despite his ex-girlfriend apparently Rihanna suing her father Sir Philip Green's British high street store for selling t-shirts using her image without permission.

Chloe - who recently split from Marc Anthony - has been spotted with Chris, 24, more frequently since his relationship with the 'Stay' singer came to

an end—something an insider claims Rihanna will "definitely" know about. A source told the *Daily Mirror* newspaper: "Chloe met Chris last year when he serenaded her at her dad's 60th birthday party. She was always a big fan and thinks he's really hot."

"After he split with Rihanna and she split from Marc, they've been spending more time together and having a lot of fun. "It's early days, but they've not been shy about being seen out at the same places ... It's the sort of thing Rihanna keeps an eye on, and she's definitely aware of Chloe being on the scene." The singer is reportedly suing the chain - who offered a £3,500 settlement — for £3.5 million.

Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV EASTERN SAPHIRE VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EASTERN SAPHIRE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SHIPPING DIVISION
TRAMPER TEAM**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV TANBINH 39 VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TANBINH 39 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 TANBINH CO LTD**
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**Asif Kapadia to direct World
War I love story**

LOS ANGELES, 22 May — Indian-origin filmmaker Asif Kapadia will direct epic love story on first World War Ali And Nino. The film is based on the novel by Kurban Said that was published in 1937, reported Deadline. Christopher Hampton has adapted the novel by the same name for the screen.

It is set in Azerbaijan where Ali Khan Shirvan-shir, the male descendant of a royal Muslim family, falls in love with Nino Kipiani, a beautiful, Christian, Georgian princess. PeaPie's Kris Thykier will be producing the film. Lelya Aliyeva is the executive producer.

Kapadia's 2001 film *The Warrior* won the

**Kumamon mascot to visit France in July to
lure visitors to Kumamoto**

KUMAMOTO, (Japan), 22 May — "Kumamon," the official black bear mascot representing Kumamoto Prefecture, will visit France in July to take part in the Japan Expo as part of efforts to lure visitors to the southwestern Japanese prefecture, local officials said on Monday.

Kumamon, one of the most popular regional promotional mascots in Japan, will be making its European debut at the festival, which introduces Japanese culture and entertainment, scheduled for 4-7 July in the suburbs of Paris, the



officials said.

The mascot is scheduled to dance to Kumamon songs on stage and help promote Kumamoto at a booth to be jointly op-

File photo taken in March 2013 in the town of Mashiki, Kumamoto Prefecture, shows "Kumamon," the official black bear mascot of the southwestern Japanese prefecture. Kumamon will visit France in July to take part in the Japan Expo as part of efforts to lure visitors to the prefecture, local officials said on 20 May, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

erated by the Kumamoto prefectural and city governments, they said. Kumamon has so far visited Asian countries such as China and South Korea.—Kyodo News

**Ministry of Finance and Revenue
Internal Revenue Department
Commercial Tax Directorate****Reminder to Taxpayers to File Annual Returns**

1. This is to remind that economic enterprises of the Union Government, State- owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, which have taxable sale proceeds or receipts from services in the 2012-2013 fiscal year(1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013) are required under the Commercial Tax Law, to fill up, sign and file annual returns together with annual financial reports to respective Township Revenue Offices or the Companies Circle Tax Office in person or by registered mail. Taxpayers are also reminded to claim acknowledgement receipts from respective offices in the case of filing the returns in person.
2. For the Cooperative and Private Sectors, Commercial Tax is not assessed if the total sale proceeds or total receipts from services does not exceed each of the following amounts
 - (a) in the case of the goods mentioned in Schedule 2 to Schedule 6 of the Commercial Tax Law, which are produced within the country, the total sale proceeds of Kyat 10 million in a fiscal year.
 - (b) in the case of the services mentioned in Schedule 7 of the Commercial Tax Law, the total receipts of Kyat 10 million in a fiscal year.
3. **The Last Date of Filing the Returns** is 30 June 2013 (Returns may be filed to respective offices until 1800 hours of 1st July 2013 as 30 June 2013 is a public holiday.)
4. **Penalty for failure to file returns-** For failure to file annual returns within the stipulated period without sufficient cause, a fine equivalent to ten per cent of the additional tax payable after the final assessment of tax.
5. **Return forms** will be provided free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office.
6. **Inquiries** may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office or the Tax Service Unit, which is situated at No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Kyaw Kyaw
Director
Commercial Tax Directorate



**Indian-origin filmmaker
Asif Kapadia**

BAFTA award in the Best British Film category. He is also due to direct an untitled documentary on the life of late singer Amy Winehouse.

PTI

**Will Smith
asks son
not to have
girlfriend**

LOS ANGELES, 22 May — Superstar Will Smith's son Jaden reveals his father gave him the best advice of not having any girlfriend.

The father-son-duo will be sharing the screen space in new film 'After Earth' and Jaden, 14, said his father also gives him many acting advices, reported E!online.

"Probably the best advice he's ever given me is, 'Don't have a girlfriend,'" Jaden said.

PTI



Superstar Will Smith'

SPORTS

Kagawa confident Japan will qualify with win over Australia

NARITA, (Japan), 22 May—Shinji Kagawa threw down the gauntlet to Australia ahead of next month's World Cup qualifier, saying Japan will punch their ticket to Brazil with victory over the Socceroos. Japan can qualify for next year's World Cup with a draw against Australia on 4 June at Saitama, but Kagawa made it clear winning is the only option for the Asian champions.

"Winning is a must — it should be a given," Kagawa said on Tuesday at Narita Airport, upon returning to Japan from his first season at Manchester United. "It will be great to qualify for the World Cup at home in front of all our fans," he said. Kagawa looked back on United's championship season, Sir Alex Ferguson's last as manager, but was not satisfied from an individual standpoint. He was hoping to score at least 10 goals — the former Dortmund man finished with six, including a 2 March hat-trick against Norwich City — but missed almost two months with a left-knee injury.



Shinji Kagawa

Kagawa admitted he felt pressed by the weight of expectations of playing at Old Trafford for one of the best managers of all time in world football. "The team may have won the championship, but it wasn't my season," Kagawa said. "I certainly felt the pressure and difficulty that goes hand in hand with playing for a big club." "You're always expected to perform and I did a lot of thinking, day in, day out. There were times when I doubted myself, lost confidence but in the end, I felt that I could make it here," he said. Kagawa said the turning point for him was the Norwich game.

"The three goals against Norwich weren't by luck, but by design," he said. "After that, my teammates started passing me the ball more." "In this business, you need to be like Rooney or Van Persie and prove yourself if you want the ball. I want to be a player like them, which means I need results." Kagawa said he would approach next season with confidence as David Moyes takes over from Ferguson. "There will be competition for places under the new manager. I don't know what kind of team we'll have next season, but I want to do well," he said.—Kyodo News

Toyota president, teammates 2nd in class at German endurance race



Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda

NAGOYA, 22 May — Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda took the steering wheel in the Nurburgring 24-hour endurance race through Monday in western Germany, with his team finishing second in its class, the automaker said. Toyoda was teamed with three professional drivers, racing the Lexus

LF-A in the 10-car SP8 class in the village of Nurburg, 80 kilometres south of Cologne. They finished 37th overall in a field of 175 cars.

"In a race, a trivial flaw tends to bring about a serious consequence, unless your machine is a really good car," Toyoda said in a message broadcast online. "This experience helped fine-tune my sensibilities necessary to develop good cars." He suggested he would apply the lessons learnt during the race to the development of automobiles down the track.

The leading Japanese automaker also entered two "86" sports cars, but the

president, whose penchant for competitive racing distinguishes him from most of his counterparts, did not drive them.

He previously took part in the race in 2007 and 2009 when he was vice president. The Nurburgring Circuit is renowned for the 300-metre change in elevation from its lowest to highest points.

Kyodo News

Sumo: Kisenosato up to career-best 10-0 at summer basho

TOKYO, 22 May—Kisenosato improved to 10-0 for the first time in his career with victory over fellow ozeki Kotooshu at the Summer Grand Sumo Tournament on Tuesday. Kisenosato is aiming to become the first Japanese since Tochiazuma in 2006 to win a title.

Yokozuna Hakuho kept up with ease, outclassing Goeido (5-5) with a quick tug of the sekiwake's arm to maintain his perfect record two-thirds of the way through

the basho. Ozeki Kakuryu trails the two leaders at 9-1, successfully bouncing back from his first loss of the tournament a day earlier by dismissing third-ranked maegashira Aran (4-6).

A pack of three, including yokozuna Harumafuji who ran over No 5 Shohozan in a heartbeat, stands at 8-2. Eighth-ranked Tokitenku picked up his eighth win by default after No 12 Kyokushuho (5-5) withdrew.

Kyodo News

McGinley raises Ryder Cup picks from two to three

VIRGINIA WATER, 22 May—Europe's Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley has announced he will have three wildcard selections for next year's match against the United States in Scotland. It is an increase from the two picks his predecessor Jose Maria Olazabal had in 2012.

McGinley told a news conference on Tuesday he had made the change in order to "give myself a little bit of extra flexibility". The nine automatic selections for the 12-man team will come from the top four players in the European order of merit points list and the leading five in the world rankings. "Hopefully this will ensure I have the right players to face the examination paper that Gleneagles will set out next September," McGinley said ahead of this week's PGA Championship at Wentworth.

"You only need to look at the record books to see we haven't done too badly of late so I didn't see the need to make sweeping changes." Europe staged a remarkable last-day fight-back to win the 2012 edition by 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2. McGinley's opposite number, Tom Watson, has reduced the number of his wildcard picks from four to three.

Reuters



Paul McGinley of Ireland smiles near the Ryder Cup during a news conference after being named the European Ryder Cup captain at the St Regis in Saadiyat Islands in Abu Dhabi on 15 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Ferguson named manager of year



LONDON, 22 May—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was named the Premier League manager of the year and accepted the award from the League Manager Association on Monday.

Ferguson, 71, announced his retirement last week after 27 years at the helm transforming United into a great team with a record of 20 top-flight league titles.

His 1500th and last match in charge of United was a stunning 5-5 draw at West Brom on Sunday.

Xinhua

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson

San Francisco and Houston awarded 2016 and 2017 Super Bowls

NEW YORK, 22 May—San Francisco and Houston were chosen on Tuesday as host cities for the 2016 and 2017 Super Bowls after National Football League (NFL) team owners voted for the two ahead of Miami. The

San Francisco Bay Area will host the 50th Super Bowl in early 2016 at Levi's Stadium, the brand new home of the 49ers, which is still under construction. Then Houston will stage the 51st edition of the sport's championship game in early 2017 at Reliant Stadium, the home of the Texans. Miami, which had already hosted the Super Bowl a record-tying 10 times, was the odd city out in a three-way contest.

The South Florida bid was doomed after Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross was unable to secure enough state funding to redevelop the team's 26-year-old stadium. "(Tuesday's) decision doesn't dampen our enthusiasm to pursue Super Bowls in the future, since we are steadfast in our belief that those games are good for the South Florida community," Ross said in a statement. The only previous time the Super Bowl was played in the Bay Area was in 1985, when the

49ers beat the Miami Dolphins at Stanford Stadium. The 49ers, one of the NFL's most successful teams, won the last of their five championships in January 1995 but made the Super Bowl last season, losing to the Baltimore Ravens in New Orleans.

The northern California city is in the midst of a golden period in sport with the San Francisco Giants winning the Major League Baseball World Series two of the last three seasons. The city's spectacular Bay is the host site for this year's America's Cup yachting series while the space-age Levi's Stadium is being built in Santa Clara, just south of San Francisco.

Reuters



Fans react during the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game between the New York Giants and New England Patriots in Indianapolis, Indiana on 5 Feb, 2012.

REUTERS

GENERAL



Farmers harvest blueberries in the fields in Jianshan Village, the Yongchuan District of Chongqing, southwest China, on 21 May, 2013. Blueberry production in the village reached 10, 000 kilograms in 2012, bringing a production value of more than 2 million yuan (320,000 dollars).—XINHUA

Hunger, poverty rates in Egypt up sharply over past three years

UNITED NATIONS, 22 May—Poverty and food insecurity have risen significantly in Egypt over the past three years, deputy UN spokesman Eduardo del Buey told reporters here on Tuesday, citing a joint report by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Egyptian government.

“A joint report by the World Food Programme and the country’s government found that nearly 14 million Egyptians — or 17 percent of the population — suffered from food insecurity in 2011, compared to 14 percent in

2009,” del Buey said at a daily news briefing.

“Data also shows that between 2009 and 2011, some 15 percent of the population moved into poverty,” he said. “This increase in food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty rates has not happened overnight, during this year or even during the past year,” said WFP Egypt Representative and Country Director GianPietro Bordinon.

“People’s inability to have adequate and nutritious food is largely attributed to rising poverty rates and a

succession of crises from 2005 — including the avian influenza epidemic in 2006, the food, fuel and financial crises of 2007-09 and a challenging macroeconomic context in recent years,” Bordinon said.

The joint report also showed the poorest families spend more than half of their average households on food and often buy less expensive, less nutritious food.

Malnutrition is up, with 31 percent of children under five years of age stunted, up from 23 percent in 2005, the report said.—Xinhua

Manchester City and Yankees launch new MLS team

MIAMI, 22 May—The New York Yankees and Premier League club Manchester City have formed a Major League Soccer (MLS) team to play in New York City from 2015, aiming to win over America’s largest sports market to the global game. City, owned by Sheikh Mansour of Abu Dhabi, will be the majority partner in New York City Football Club with the biggest name in baseball, the Yankees, as a minority partner active in running the team.

The ownership group will pay a \$100 million franchise fee. New York City has been without a top professional soccer team since the demise in the mid-1980s of the old Cosmos, which featured soccer greats like Brazil’s Pele and Germany’s Franz Beckenbauer. While the New York Red Bulls are based in Harrison, New Jersey, MLS has long coveted a chance to get inside the five boroughs of



the city itself.

“This is another big day for soccer in America,” MLS commissioner Don Garber told Reuters. “We have worked for quite some time on trying to finalize a deal to bring the 20th MLS team to New York City. Two of the biggest, most prestigious and

clearly most respected sports organizations in the world are joining together to own this team,” he added. MLS has steadily grown since its formation in 1996 with successful, well-supported teams in city’s such as Los Angeles and Seattle. But it has failed to attract large

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-5-13 09:30 am ~ 24-5-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Youth & Education (Technology Boosts Nation’s Prestige)
- * News
- * Road to the 27th Sea Games (Table Tennis)
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Myanmar TV

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 16. News |
| 6:30 am | 3:15 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 17. Documentary |
| 6:40 am | 4:00 pm |
| 3. Dance & Song of National Races | 18. News |
| 7:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 5. News / Weather Report | 19. Myanmar Language |
| 7:20 am | 4:30 pm |
| 6. People Talk | 20. Dance & Song of National Races |
| 8:00 am | 4:45 pm |
| 6. News / International News | 21. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Myanmar) |
| 8:25 am | 5:00 pm |
| 7. My Mind Game My SEA Games | 22. News |
| 9:00 am | 5:15 pm |
| 8. News / International News | 22. Instrumental Music |
| 9:30 am | 5:25 pm |
| 9. How It’s Works | 23. India Dram Series |
| 10:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 10. News | 24. News / Weather Report |
| 10:15 am | 7:00 pm |
| 11. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than | 25. News |
| 11:00 pm | 7:15 pm |
| 12. Sing & Enjoy | 26. TV Drama Series |
| 12:00 pm | 8:50 pm |
| 13. News/ International News/ Weather Report | 27. Present Songs |
| 12:25 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 14. Myanmar Video | 28. News |
| 2:15 pm | 29. Four Sacred Place’ by Sidagu Sayadaw |
| 15. Documentary | 30. TV Drama Series |
| | 31. CLEVER |

Brazilian company discovers oil near Namibian coast

WINDHOEK, 22 May—The Brazilian petroleum company HRT announced here on Tuesday that it had discovered oil near the western coast of Namibia.

The HRT president Joe Paul told the media in the presence of Prime Minister Hage Geingob at the State House that the discovery was made within the Walvis Basin where the company has dug its first well Wingat-1.

“HRT has begun drilling, particularly in this well, in the quest to find conclusive results on whether or not there is oil off the Namibian coast. Thus, we can say now that we have found an active petroleum system in Namibia. We found source rocks,” he said at the Press conference.

HRT has been exploring for oil off the coast of Namibia since March this year.

Paul further said

that the source rocks are rich in organic carbon and well within the oil-generating window, meaning that they will be able to generate oil or gas if heated sufficiently.

However, he said that although the company spent 810 million Namibian dollars (84.7 million US Dollars), the discovery is not yet economically viable and that HRT would still drill a second well Murombe about 15 km from Wingat-1 in two weeks’ time.

Mines and Energy Minister Isak Katali who was also present during the announcement was quick to point out that this discovery would not mean that oil prices will go down any time soon, because there are many stages involved such as the quality and quantity of the oil.

Xinhua

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 2nd day of 10th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak



Rector Sayadaw of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Thailand presents a Buddha statue to Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the second day of 10th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak (Fullmoon Day of Kason), at the UN office in Bangkok of Thailand this morning.

Monks made wish for the world peace. Rector Sayadaw of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Dr Phra Brahmapundit delivered an opening speech. Afterwards, UNESCO executive secretary Dr Noeleen Heyzer addressed on behalf of United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon.

The Deputy Director of Thai-based UNESCO read out the message sent by the UNESCO Director-General.

Afterwards, the Minister of Prime Minister Office of Thailand delivered a

speech on behalf of the Thai Prime Minister.

In his speech, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said: It's a great honour, and a blessing for me, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, to address this august gathering, at the Tenth International Vesak Celebrations, marking the thrice-sacred day for the Buddhists.

It's because this sacred day is the most significant and meritorious, not only for Myanmar people, but for the Buddhist, from all over the world. I bring with me, the best wishes of my government, and of the Buddhist people of Myanmar to this assembly: Happy Vesak to you all.

It's been 14 years since the United Nations General Assembly, in its 54th Session, held on the 15th December 1999, unanimously passed,

as its Resolution No.115, which reads: "International Recognition of the Day of Vesak at UN, and other UN Offices".

Vesak, which is also known as Buddha Day, has since gained an international

recognition and has brought together, **Theravada, Mahayana** and **Vajrayana** schools of Buddhism, and united us in the way we remember the Buddha, and his holy teachings of peace, tolerance and overcoming of selfish desires.

The Buddha may no longer be with us, but the sublime Dhamma, he unreservedly bequeathed to humanity, is still very much in existence, and in its pristine purity today.

Although this is my first participation in this United Nations Recognized Day of Vesak, I must say, I am personally very grateful to the world Buddhist communities, the government and sangha of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand, for organizing **Vesak** at a global level like this, with international conferences for most of the past ten years.

The theme of the International **Vesak** Day Conference for this year is: **Education and Global Citizenship: A Buddhist Perspective**.

This is a very appropriate topic for both scholars and leaders of the Bud-

dhist world, to contemplate on when we make efforts to remember the Buddha. This is because not only the world, always needs a vision for a global citizenship, but the teaching of the Buddha itself, focuses on letting go of self, or overcoming selfish ego: "**atta**," or, to put in a positive term, on being connected with universal suffering: "**(dukkha)**", and universal truth, which means the Buddha's teaching emphasizes, on being connected with all fellow human beings, regardless of their color, gender, belief and social status.

Vesak Day is celebrated every year in Myanmar on the Full Moon Day, in May, which is known in Myanmar as Kason Full Moon Day. **Kason** is the second month for Myanmar, which is in the month of May. It is a public holiday. People pack meditation centres, pagodas and monasteries, trying to recollect the Buddha's teachings, through meditation, recitation of the Holy Scriptures, or through generosity.

Myanmar Buddhists also make a point to wa-

ter the Bodhi Tree, under which the Buddha obtained enlightenment, as a symbol of honouring the Buddha's enlightenment. Therefore, in Myanmar, Vesak Day is also called "Kason Watering Festival".

I believe the Buddhist communities and the whole world will benefit from the discussion on this year's theme: *Education and Global Citizenship*. I wish the conference every success. And, once again, Happy Vesak to you all, from Myanmar.

After that, those present posed for documentary photo. The rector Sayadaw of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University presented a Buddha statue to the Vice-President.

The Vice-President and party left Suvarnabhumi International Airport by Myanma Airways International and arrived back in Yangon at 8 pm today. The Vice-President and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and officials.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Swiss President of the Council of States



Vice-President U Nyan Tun and party pose for documentary photo with Swiss President of the Council of States Mr Filippo Lombardi and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by President of the Council of States Mr Filippo Lom-

bardi at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin

Yaw, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu and officials.

They focused on job opportunities in Myanmar, food sufficiency, peace making, investment of

Swiss entrepreneurs in businesses in Myanmar and cooperation in political, economic, social, health and reform processes in nation-building tasks.

MNA

Ambassador Thura U Thet Oo Maung concurrently accredited to Turkey

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Thura U Thet Oo Maung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Turkey.—MNA