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Consecration of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda held

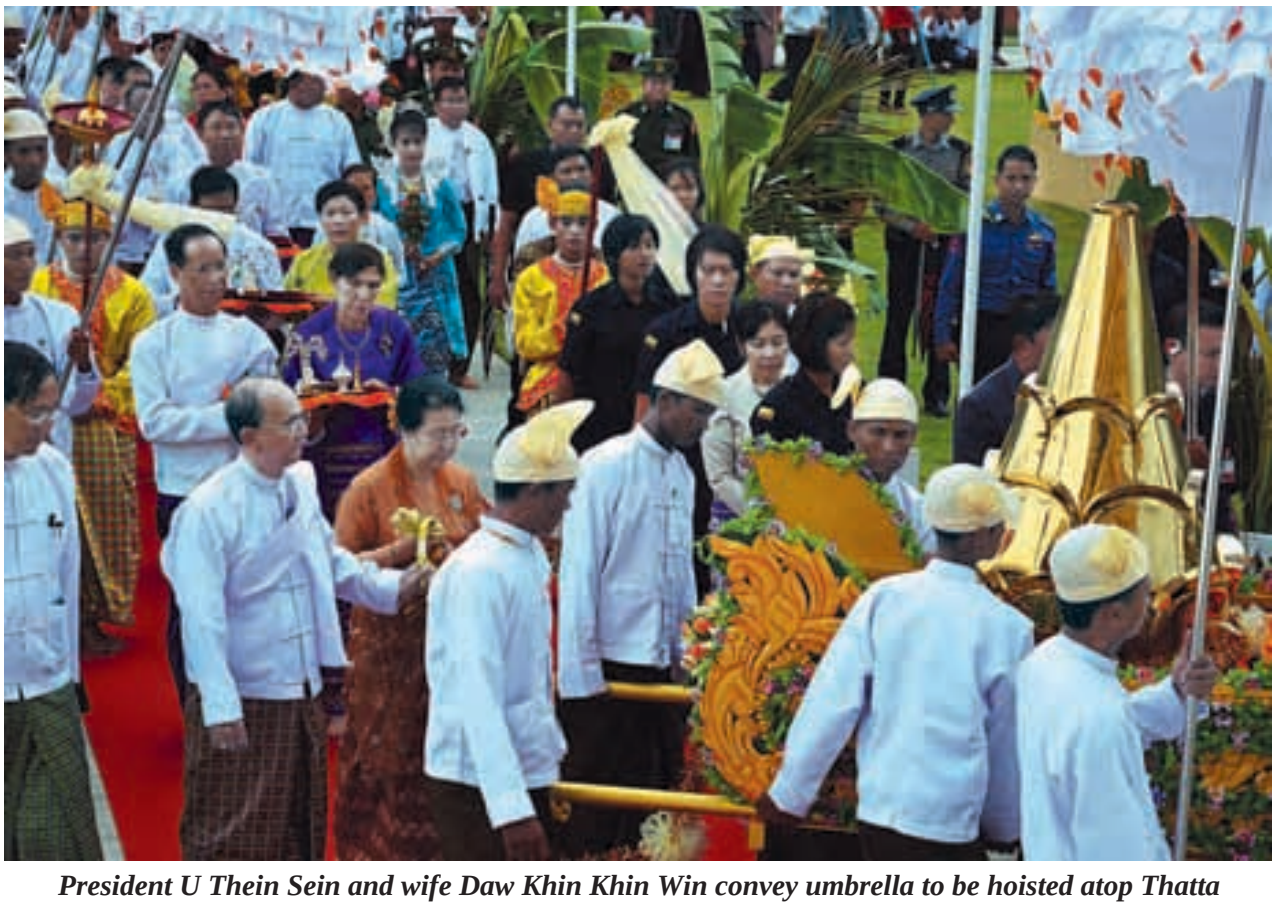
President U Thein Sein and party attend consecration ceremony of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Kason.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended consecration of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda on Udayayanthi Hillock, here, this morning.

The congregation led by the President received Nine Precepts from Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Bhamo Monastery Abbot from Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara-bhivamsa.

The Sayadaws then cited Sutta and Paritta, followed by President U Thein Sein offering religious objects to be enshrined in Maha Bodhi Pagoda and offertories to the Bhamo Sayadaw.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offered religious objects and offertories. Next, the Union ministers and personnel presented offertories to members of the Sangha.



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win convey umbrella to be hoisted atop Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda.—MNA

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presented offertories to Nun Dr Mollini, followed by the congregation sharing merits gained.

Secretary of SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Chaukhtetgyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

The congregation led by the President and wife hoisted the relics, golden umbrella, diamond orb, religious flag and Shwekyar robe atop the pagoda.

Next, the President and wife performed rituals of golden and

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LOCAL NEWS

CRIME

Four arrested in attempted taxi robbery

YANGON, 24 May— A taxi driver managed to escape from an armed robbery thanks to duty-conscious passers-by near Phayar street bus-stop in Hlinethaya Township on 22 May.

Ko Kyaw Win Zan, taxi driver, had fallen victim to the robbery while giving a taxi service to four unknown young men who hired his taxi to go Theingyizay market from Tadapyu bus-stop in the township at about 9 pm on that day. According to the driver, one of them on the front seat threatened putting a knife on his neck and asked for money.

A man on the back seat took his mobile phone on the dashboard and threatened that he would be killed if their demand for money were not met. So he jumped off the car and shouted for help. Passers-by rushed and tried to arrest the four suspects. Chit Ko Ko (a) La Yeik, 19, of ward-7 in Hlinethaya Township was captured by duty-conscious persons, but three others went away from the scene.

It is learnt that three others—Pyae Phyo Wai, 21, Thet Naing, 27, and Aung Moe Sat, 21—were arrested by a patrol of Hlinethaya police station.

Kyemon

DEVELOPMENT

Upgrading of wooden bridge into suspension facility ongoing in Indaw Township

MAWLU, 24 May— Laytan village-to-village wooden bridge is being upgraded into a suspension one under the supervision of the village monastery Sayadaw at Bago village in Mawlu village-district in Indaw Township of Katha District, Sagaing Region.

The 18-year-old wooden bridge will be upgraded into the 300 feet long and 4.3 feet wide steel suspension bridge with the contribution of K 4 million by Sayadaw U Dhammasami of Washington D.C of the US. Upon completion, the suspension bridge will benefit members of Sangha, students and villagers from 20 villages.

Kyemon

MYANMA RAILWAYS

Upper-class carriage of commuter trains draws interest of railway users

YANGON, 24 May— As a first step towards upgrading of commuter trains of Myanma Railways, Train Nos. (Ka), (Kha), (Za), (Hsa) and (Tha) each, among all commuter trains, had one upper-class carriage since 17 April (Myanmar New Year Day). The carriages once used as ordinary-class coaches for express trains were upgraded as upper-class ones for commuter trains.

Five ceiling fans each were installed at upper-class carriages with fiber seats. For ensuring passengers' satisfaction, vendors and donation collectors are not allowed to get into the coaches. Two tickets collectors, one coach in-charge and one policeman are assigned duties in every upper-class carriage. Upper-class train fare is K 200 per head for single ticket while ordinary-class fare is K 100 per head for return ticket. Upper-class carriages are caught into the interest of passengers.

Passengers suggested that it would be better if basin and drinking water were available in the carriage. They called for the right to use locked toilet in the carriage. "Toilets are locked as no permission is granted by superiors. It is hard not for us but for passengers as nature call connot be answered in the train. It is a difficulty of taking train service for local and foreign passengers", a ticket collector said.

Regarding to measures being taken for upgrading of commuter trains, train users stressed the need to take punitive actions against un-disciplined passengers, saying that passenger trains must be ones for passengers, not for goods. Nonetheless, railway users welcome the steps of Myanma Railways for improvement in commuter train services and availability of upper-class carriage in commuter trains.—*Kyemon*

ACCIDENT

Loaded train collides with trailer at railway crossing in Yedashe Township

NAYPYITAW, 24 May— A collision between a train and a trailer occurred at a railway crossing between mile post Nos (211/3) of Yangon-Mandalay road and (201/8-9) of Yangon-Mandalay railroad near Myohlazay ward-1 in Yedashe Township of Bago Region on 22 May.

The 934-down Mandalay-Yangon train carrying timber logs crashed into the trailer driven by Than Zaw, 25, of Hsat Thay north ward in the township while the latter was crossing the rail tracks at about 7.45 am on that day.

The crash caused damage to the front part of the trailer, but no one was injury. Trailer driver Than Zaw was charged with reckless driving by Myohla police station.—*Kyemon*

Truck rollover accident on downward path of Muse-Lashio-Mandalay Union Highway

MUSE, 24 May— A rollover accident happened to two trucks carrying gravels on a slope of Muse-Lashio-Mandalay Union Highway near Tonkham Village of Muse District in Shan State recently while a truck crashed into the back of another truck before it as the driver of the latter truck lost control.

"No one was injured. Here is full of slops. The slop near Tonkham village is two miles long leading down to a fuel station at the top of Namtkhun Village, an entrance to Muse. Rollover accidents of loaded trucks are frequent here. Muse urbanization project generates more traffic on the road section. It is required to build a detour for the loaded trucks to avoid the slop," says a local.

The accident-prone road section is between Mongyu 105th-Mile trade zone and Muse Township. The road section has seen frequently a line of trucks, motorbikes and other vehicles carrying goods that causes traffic congestion.

Kyemon

FIRE

Pyinmana sees two fires in single day

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May— A house fire said to have started from overheated electric wire occurred at a house in Yan Aung ward-2 of Pyinmana Township, here, at about 12.40 pm yesterday. Likewise, one more fire broke out in Chayhlyansu ward in Pyinmana Township, here, at about 4 pm on that day. The fire is assumed to have started from static electricity during fuel delivery.

Fire crew of the township attended the two fire outbreaks in cooperation with local people.—*Kyemon*

WORLD

Obama shifts US from 'perpetual war-footing,' limits drone strikes

WASHINGTON, 24 May — President Barack Obama on Thursday shifted the United States away from a "boundless global war on terror," restricting deadly drone strikes abroad and signalling that America's long struggle against al-Qaeda will one day end.

In a major policy speech, Obama narrowed the scope of the US targeted-killing campaign against al-Qaeda and its allies and took new steps toward closing the Guantanamo Bay military prison—controversial elements of the US counterterrorism fight that have drawn condemnation at home and abroad. "Our nation is still threatened by terrorists," Obama said at Washington's National Defence University. "We must recognize however, that the threat has shifted and evolved from the one that came to our shores on 9/11." After launching costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States is tiring of conflict.

While combating terrorism is still a high priority for the White House, polls show by large margins that Americans' main concerns are the economy and healthcare.

*US President Barack Obama makes a point about his administration's counter-terrorism policy at the National Defence University at Fort McNair in Washington, on 23 May, 2013.—*REUTERS

Faced with criticism about civilian casualties in attacks by unmanned aerial vehicles, Obama said the United States would only use those drone strikes when a threat was "continuing and imminent," a nuanced change from the previous policy of launching strikes against a significant threat.

Under new presidential guidance signed by Obama on Wednesday, the Defense Department will also take the lead in launching lethal drones, as opposed to the current practice of the CIA taking charge. That would subject drone operations to more scrutiny from Congress and might lead to the Pentagon taking over drone operations in Yemen, but not in Pakistan, where the CIA is likely to continue to run the programme.

With al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden killed in a US raid in 2011, a number of the group's top members taken out in drone strikes, and the US military role in Afghanistan winding down, Obama made clear it was time for a policy shift. "Beyond Afghanistan, we must define our effort not as a boundless 'global war on terror' but rather as a series of persistent, targeted efforts to dismantle specific networks of violent extremists that threaten America," Obama said.—*Reuters*

Chinese premier arrives in Switzerland for first trip to Europe

ZURICH, (Switzerland), 24 May—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived here Thursday evening for an official visit to Switzerland, his first trip to Europe since he took office in March.

"The choice of Switzerland as the first destination for my first European trip since I became Chinese premier means that I hope to strengthen bilateral high-level exchanges, achieve new breakthroughs in mutually beneficial cooperation, enhance understanding and friendship between the two peoples and promote the long-term healthy and stable development of our friendly relations," Li said in a written statement upon his arrival.

He noted that Switzerland is among the first Western countries to establish diplomatic ties with China and an important European partner of China in economic, technological and financial cooperation.

Li said he expected to meet with the Swiss leaders and friends from all walks of life during his visit, carry out deep exchanges on issues of common concern and listen to opinions on the development of bilateral ties.

"I believe this visit will lift China-Switzerland relations to a new stage," said Li. Li is scheduled to meet with President of the Swiss Confederation Ueli Maurer, Vice President Didier Burkhalter and Head of Federal Department of Economic Affairs Johann Schneider-Ammann. The two countries are expected to sign a series of agreements to strengthen cooperation in various areas. On the eve of his visit, Li published a signed article in *Neue Zuricher Zeitung*, a German-language Swiss daily, highlighting the importance China attaches to its relations with Switzerland."Switzerland is the first European destination on the list of countries I will visit after becoming China's premier.

In Chinese culture, being 'first' always carries symbolic meaning," Li said in the article.

He pointed out that a free trade agreement (FTA) to be reached between the two countries will bring about more opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

"With the advent of FTA, Switzerland will become the first country in continental Europe and the first of the world's top 20 economies to reach an FTA with China, the implications of which will be significant," Li wrote.

Xinhua

*Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L, front) is welcomed by Swiss Vice President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, upon his arrival in Zurich, Switzerland, on 23 May, 2013. Li Keqiang arrived here on Thursday evening for an official visit to Switzerland. —*XINHUA

Iran seeks to speed up nuclear activity

VIENNA, 24 May—Iran is trying to accelerate its uranium enrichment programme, a UN nuclear report showed, but experts said it was unclear when Teheran's new machines could start operating and how efficiently they would work.

The Islamic state's progress in introducing next-generation centrifuges is closely watched in the West and Israel as it would enable Teheran to speed up accumulation of material that could be used to build atomic bombs. Iran denies any such aim.

Iran has tried for years to develop centrifuges more advanced than the erratic 1970s-vintage IR-1 machines it now runs, but deploying new models has been dogged by technical hurdles and difficulty in obtaining parts abroad.

It is now pressing ahead with installing a more efficient version known as the IR-2m at its main enrichment plant near the central town of Natanz, according to the report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It has also put in place another centrifuge type, the IR-5, for the first time at a research and development facility at Natanz, joining five others being tested there, the report issued to member states late on Wednesday said.

The rapid installation of one of them, the IR-2m, at a Natanz production unit since it started earlier this year indicates that Iran can make such equipment, at least to some extent, despite tightening sanctions on the country.

Critics say Iran is trying to achieve the capability to make atomic arms. Iran denies this, saying it needs nuclear power for energy generation and medical purposes and that it is Israel's reputed nuclear arsenal that threatens regional peace.—*Reuters*

*Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (C) visits the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility, 350 km (217 miles) south of Teheran, on 8 April, 2008.—*REUTERS

US slaps new sanctions on Iran over weapon programmes

WASHINGTON, 24 May — The US government on Thursday slapped new sanctions on Iran's 20 individuals and entities for their involvement in Teheran's nuclear and missile programmes.

In a written statement, the Department of Treasury accused these individuals and entities of "moving supplies and providing essential services to Iran's clandestine nuclear and weapons programmes."

The Treasury said that the new measures are designed to increase pressure on Teheran by tightening sanctions against Iran's energy sector and exposing its key proliferation related networks. The targeted individuals included "Seifollah Jashnsaz, Chairman of Naftiran Intertrade Company (NICO) and director of Hong Kong Intertrade Company and Petro Suisse Intertrade Company SA, as well as five individuals holding other leadership positions in Iran's energy sector who have been involved in Iranian attempts to evade international sanctions," according to the Treasury.

Americans are banned from doing business with the entities and individuals being targeted, and their assets under US jurisdiction are frozen.—*Xinhua*

Japan defence guidelines may not be clear about SDF equipment

TOKYO, 24 May—Japan may not reveal details about the kind and amount of equipment to be acquired for its Self-Defence Forces in new defense guidelines defining the country's longer-term defense policy, government sources said on Thursday.

The possibility stems from uncertainty over the course of the national debate on whether Japan should lift its self-imposed ban on collective self-defence, as the outcome of the debate could change defence budget priorities.

Japanese defence guidelines normally include specific data in an appendix on SDF equipment such as the number of tanks, destroyers and fighter planes, and the Finance Ministry uses the list when allocating a budget.

The new guidelines could become an exception, as the Finance Ministry has proposed that the Defence Ministry first obtain Cabinet approval of the guidelines without an attached appendix before the end of the year, and then decide on the specifics of SDF equipment to be secured, the sources said.

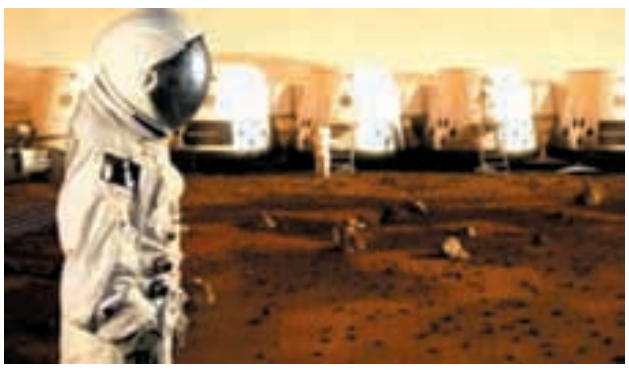
By doing so, the Defence Ministry will be able to reflect discussions on collective self-defence and new guidelines for bilateral defense cooperation between Tokyo and Washington, according to the sources. The Defence Ministry is also being urged to explain why each item is necessary, rather than simply presenting numbers on a list, often called the country's "shopping list."

A final decision has yet to be made, and a Defence Ministry official sounded negative about excluding the list from the new guidelines because doing so would compromise transparency.

In February, the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe resumed discussions on whether Japan should be able to exercise the right to collective self-defence, a term meaning coming to the defense of an ally under armed attack.—*Kyodo News*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mars One claims project "serious" on soaring doubts



THE HAGUE, 24 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*

Sony to assess spin-off plan; cuts targets for cameras, smartphones

TOKYO, 24 May—Sony Corp cut its sales targets for digital cameras, smartphones and tablets by 13-17 percent for the year to end-March 2015, but said there were "encouraging" signs of a revival in its electronics business.

CEO Kazuo Hirai told a Press briefing on Wednesday that Sony would assess a proposal from its biggest shareholder, billionaire Daniel Loeb's Third Point LLC hedge fund, that the group should sell up to a fifth of its music and movies business, which includes artists such as Adele and hit franchises like "Spider-Man". Loeb argues a partial spin-off of Sony Entertainment would free up cash to help the struggling electronics division and could boost Sony's stock price by 60 percent.

Third Point's "proposal is one that affects a core part of Sony's business and the direction of our management, so the Sony board will give it thorough consideration before replying to Mr. Loeb," Hirai said.

Sony has relied on entertainment and insurance profits to offset losses from TVs and other consumer devices. Sony shares charged to their highest in more than 2 years on Wednesday after the Nikkei newspaper said Sony's board would consider evaluating Loeb's proposal. The stock closed up 5.9 percent at 2,290 yen.

Sony trimmed its 2014-15 camera sales target to 1.3 trillion yen ($12.7 billion) and now expects smartphone and tablet sales of 1.5 trillion yen.

"While there are encouraging signs of change, the revival of our electronics business remains our task," Hirai said, pointing to strong demand for Sony's new Xperia smartphone and mirrorless interchangeable lens cameras. He said Sony was keeping to its strategy to revive the struggling business around cameras and mobile and PlayStation gaming devices.—*Reuters*

Sony Corp's President and Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai speaks during the Sony Corporate Strategy Meeting at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 22 May, 2013. REUTERS

PayPal to increase marketing this year for offline push

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 May—PayPal, the online payment operation owned by eBay Inc, will increase marketing spending to support its push into physical stores, President David Marcus said on Tuesday.

"You'll start seeing us amping marketing up later this year," Marcus said in an interview with *Reuters.*

PayPal is trying to become a common way of paying in physical stores, a much larger market than its online roots. The company expects to be in 2 million merchant locations by the end of 2013 and it is working on ways to persuade consumers to use PayPal rather than their usual credit and debit cards.

Customers would use PayPal via smartphone app. In addition, shoppers at the checkout counter can use PayPal by typing in a mobile phone number and a four-digit PIN that has to be set up online beforehand into the merchant's system. They can also use a PayPal card that links to their account.

"Swiping a card in a store is not hard," Marcus said during a meeting earlier on Tuesday with reporters at PayPal's headquarters in San Jose, California. "We really have to bring a lot of value to consumers to change that behavior." Marketing will be a big part of this push. PayPal has already run several online video ads starring movie actor Jeff Goldblum to promote its payment service.

EBay ran a big TV ad campaign in 2011 which helped revive its online marketplace. EBay waited to fix consumer problems with the marketplace before it spent heavily on such marketing and PayPal's Marcus is taking a similar approach now with the expansion into stores. "We want to make sure we have enough density of consumer experiences before we do a lot of marketing," Marcus explained.

Reuters

***PayPal President David Marcus speaks during a news conference in Tokyo on 9 May, 2012.*—REUTERS**

Intel CEO shakes up units, creates 'new devices' group

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 May—Intel Corp's new chief executive, Brian Krzanich, has launched a sweeping company reorganization and created a unit aimed at growing its market share in mobile technology.

The shakeup, announced internally just days after the 30-year veteran took the helm, places most of the main product groups of the world's top chipmaker directly under the CEO's supervision and hands its sprawling global manufacturing operation to new president Renee James, said a source close to the company, who declined to be identified.

Details of the reorganization were outlined in an internal memo sent to employees on Monday. It was described to *Reuters* by a company source and details of the reorganization, which is effective immediately, were confirmed by spokesman Chuck Mulloy on Tuesday.

"As your CEO I am committed to making quick, informed decisions. I am committed to being bolder, moving faster, and accepting that this means changes will be made knowing that we will listen, learn and then make adjustments in order to keep pace with a rapidly changing industry," Krzanich said in the email, according to the source.

"Our business faces significant challenges, and we simply must continue to execute while finalizing our future strategy," he reportedly wrote. Krzanich officially took over as CEO last week and said that under his leadership, the top chipmaker will be more responsive to customers in an intensified focus on the fast-growing smartphone and tablet market where it lags rivals.

Reuters

***Intel Chief Operating Officer Brian Krzanich is seen during an interview with Reuters at Intel headquarters in Santa Clara, California on 13 March, 2012.*—REUTERS**

Microsoft unveils Xbox One with Spielberg, Activision tie-up

***Yusuf Mehdi, senior vice president of Microsoft's Interactive Entertainment Business, discusses the Xbox One uses for television viewing during a Press event in Redmond, Washington on 21 May, 2013.*—REUTERS**

REDMOND, (Washington), 24 May—Microsoft Corp unveiled the "Xbox One" on Tuesday, its first new gaming console in eight years, and its strongest push so far to dominate consumers' living rooms with an array of exclusive media content. The Xbox One took four years to develop and will be the launchpad for a "Halo" live-action video series produced by Steven Spielberg.

It will be sold worldwide "later this year," games unit chief Don Mattrick told reporters at an event at the software company's campus near Seattle, without providing details on timing or pricing. The device will also be the first platform to release the next installment in Activision Blizzard Inc's blockbuster shooter franchise, "Call of Duty".

Microsoft hopes its third-generation Xbox console will attract video game fans who are increasingly sampling games on mobile devices, while also becoming a hub for living room entertainment.

The new device interacts with a television, responds to voice and gesture commands, includes group video calling on Skype, 15 exclusive game titles and original programming content.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Airbus reports three A330-300s order from Oman Air

Sultanate of Oman's state-run flag carrier Oman Air

Paris, 24 May—European aircraft manufacturer Airbus said on Wednesday it has won a new order of three *A330-300s* from the Sultanate of Oman's state-run flag carrier Oman Air.

The new order will join an existing fleet of seven *A330-300s* at the carrier as "the winning combination of efficiency, reliability and comfort provided by the *A330* continues to delight customers and passengers worldwide and will do so for many years to come," Airbus said.

The newly ordered aircraft would be operated on long haul routes and can comfortably seat close to 300 passengers, the statement added.

"This additional order will allow us to continue our strategy of growth with an aircraft we know to be both reliable and profitable, and in addition offering the highest levels of passenger comfort," said Wayne Pearce, CEO of Oman Air.

For the January-April period, Airbus's deliveries totaled 202 aircraft, 10 percent more compared to the same period last year, according to Airbus data.

Xinhua

Gold falls ahead of Bernanke's congressional testimony

Chicago, 24 May—Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange fell on Tuesday as investors remained prudent ahead of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's congressional testimony on the US economic outlook scheduled for Wednesday.

The most active gold contract for June delivery fell 6.5 dollars, or 0.47 percent, to settle at 1,377.6 dollars per ounce.

Bernanke on Wednesday will testify about the US economic outlook, while the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will release minutes of its most recent policy meeting. Investors believe that Bernanke may soon put an end to the Fed's monetary stimulus.

Also on Tuesday, St Louis Fed President James Bullard urged the central bank to continue with its present bond-buying program and adjust the rate of purchases in view of incoming data on growth and inflation. New York Fed President William Dudley said that he was not sure about the way the Fed should adjust the size of its bond-purchase programme.

The US dollar turned stronger against the Japanese yen on Tuesday, which also dampened gold. The yen has devaluated more than 30 percent in the past six months.

Continued outflows from gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) further undermined the gold market. According to data from IndexUniverse, SPDR Gold Trust is now the fourth largest US- listed ETF as of Monday, with assets under management at 44.91 billion dollars. It was the second largest US-listed ETF with assets under management at 72 billion dollars at the end of last year.

Silver for July delivery lost 12.7 cents, or 0.56 percent, to close at 22.455 dollars per ounce. Platinum for July delivery also plummeted 26.2 dollars, or 1.76 percent, to close at 1,458.4 dollars per ounce.

Xinhua

Toll Brothers profit rises 46 percent

A vacant lot owned by Toll Brothers is shown for sale in a housing development in Broomfield, Colorado on 12 Aug, 2009.
Reuters

New York, 24 May—Toll Brothers Inc (TOL.N) posted a 46 percent rise in quarterly profit as the largest US luxury homebuilder sold more homes at higher prices, indicating that the housing recovery is spreading across the industry.

Record-low interest rates and rising rents have encouraged people to buy homes. Ground-breaking to build new homes in the United States rose 7 percent in March to the highest level since June 2008.

Toll said its quarterly orders were the highest in seven years. New orders, a key indicator for builders who do not recognize revenue until they close on a home, rose 36 percent to 1,753 homes.

The value of the orders jumped 57 percent to $1.19 billion.

"Buyers who have been on the sidelines for six years are jumping in," Chief Executive Douglas Yearley said in a statement.

Toll Brothers, which targets high earners, said its average selling price increased 3.6 percent in the second quarter to $577,000 per home compared with a year earlier.

Net income rose to $24.7 million, or 14 cents per share, from $16.9 million, or 10 cents per share, a year earlier. The profit included a pretax gain of $13.2 million.—*Reuters*

Los Angeles voters OK move to curtail medical marijuana outlets

Los Angeles, 24 May—Voters strongly supported a ballot measure to sharply curtail the number of medical marijuana dispensaries permitted to operate in Los Angeles while boosting taxes on the sale of pot for health reasons, election returns early on Wednesday showed.

The proposal appeared headed for passage. Returns showed 63 percent of voters supporting it compared with 37 percent opposed, after tabulation of more than 40 percent of ballots cast at polling stations on Tuesday, and all of the mail-in ballots received as of last Friday.

Two rival measures seemed likely to be defeated, with "no" votes far surpassing "yes" votes for each. At least 800 storefront medical cannabis shops are estimated to be operating in Los Angeles, more than in any other US city, and some residents have complained that the dispensaries are a blight on their neighbourhoods.

A man stands in front of a medical marijuana dispensary in Los Angeles, California, on 24 July, 2012.
Reuters

Proposition D, placed on Tuesday's ballot by the City Council, would cap the number of dispensaries allowed to remain open at 135, said Rigo Valdez, director of organizing for the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, a union that supports the measure.

The UFCW has sought to expand its reach into the state-sanctioned marijuana industry by organizing dispensary workers. Many of the shops permitted to stay in business under the Proposition D already have union ties, according to the UFCW.

Despite the prospect of greater city controls, campaign officials say many medical marijuana dispensaries have joined the push for local regulation in an effort to gain legitimacy and stave off a potential federal crackdown.—*Reuters*

US government taps GlaxoSmithKline for new antibiotics

London, 24 May—The US government has signed an antibiotics development deal worth up to $200 million with GlaxoSmithKline to tackle the dual threats of drug resistance and bioterrorism. The collaboration, the first of its kind between Washington and a drug company, will allow funding to move around GSK's antibiotics portfolio rather than focusing on a single drug candidate.

The rise of antibiotic resistance is causing alarm among governments worldwide, leading to warnings from officials such as England's chief medical officer Sally Davies that the issue is a "ticking time bomb" threatening public health.

Thomas Frieden, director of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, recently called for an urgent fight-back against "nightmare bacteria".

The collaboration between GSK and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services, will study potential new drugs to treat conventional pathogens and those that might be developed as bioterrorism weapons. Britain's biggest drugmaker said on Wednesday it would receive $40 million for an initial 18 months and up to a total of $200 million if the agreement is renewed over five years.

The problem of antibiotic resistance and the rise of so-called "superbugs" that cannot be treated with traditional medicines has been growing for years, but drug companies have been reluctant to invest in new medicines because of poor returns. Patients tend to take antibiotics for only a short period, prices are traditionally low and any new antibiotics are likely to be reserved for serious infections - once again minimizing the sales opportunity.

David Payne, head of GSK's antibacterial discovery unit, said public-private partnerships, like the one with BARDA, were a key part to solving the problem.

GSK is one of relatively few large pharmaceutical companies still pursuing research into new antibiotics.

Reuters

Signage is pictured on the company headquarters of GlaxoSmithKline in west London on 21 July, 2008. GlaxoSmithKline announce their half yearly results on Wednesday on 23 July.—Reuters

UK regulator says satisfied with Lloyds, RBS capital plans

London, 24 May—Britain's financial regulator said it had finalized capital requirements for Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L) and Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L) and was comfortable with their plans.

The Prudential Regulation Authority said it would release more information when it had concluded discussions with all banks, including, where necessary, if banks need to take steps to meet any shortfalls. Lloyds and RBS each said on Wednesday they did not need to issue more equity, and would meet extra capital needs by selling assets and through retained earnings and restructuring plans that are underway.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Congo has chance for peace, UN ready to enforce — Ban

A UN peacekeeper escorts UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim (R) during their joint trip to Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo's war-torn east, on 23 May, 2013. REUTERS

GOMA, 24 May—Eastern Congo has the best chance in years to secure a lasting peace but the United Nations stands ready to pacify the region by force if need be, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday.

Fighting that erupted on Monday near Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's largest city, has killed at least 20 people and ended an uneasy six-month calm between the army and fighters from the M23 rebel group.

"We have the best chance in many years to bring peace, stability and development to this country and this region," Ban said on a visit to Goma with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim.

A day earlier, the bank announced it would provide $1 billion to help finance health and education services, hydro-electric projects and cross-border trade aimed at fostering development and peace in the conflict-ridden Great Lakes region. Ban has said the money is contingent on countries in the region honouring a peace deal brokered by the United Nations in February to try to end two decades of conflict in eastern Congo.

This week's fighting was the first since November, when M23 troops routed the army and briefly seized Goma, despite the presence of thousands of UN peacekeepers.

Reuters

Kerry meets Israelis, Palestinians in bid to revive talks

JERUSALEM, 24 May—US Secretary of State John Kerry held separate talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials on Thursday and acknowledged there was considerable scepticism that the two sides would resume peace negotiations.

There were no signs of any breakthrough as Kerry visited Israel for the fourth time in his four months in office to try to revive a peace process that has been moribund for more than two years.

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations broke down in late 2010 in a dispute over Israeli construction of Jewish settlements on occupied West Bank land that the Palestinians want as part of their future state.

"I know this region well enough to know that there is scepticism. In some quarters there is cynicism and there are reasons for it. There have been bitter years of disappointment," Kerry said as he and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posed for pictures.

"It is our hope that by being methodical, careful, patient, but detailed and tenacious, that we can lay out a path ahead that can conceivably surprise people but certainly exhaust the possibilities of peace."

Kerry met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for lunch in the West Bank city of Ramallah and returned to Jerusalem to see Shimon Peres, who holds Israel's largely ceremonial post of president. He will have breakfast on Friday with Netanyahu.

Before their meeting on Thursday morning, Netanyahu said he wanted to restart peace talks.

"It's something I hope the Palestinians want as well and we ought to be successful for a simple reason—when there's a will, we'll find a way," Netanyahu said.—*Reuters*

Israeli Prime Minster Benjamin Netanyahu (R) shows a present given to him by US Secretary of State John Kerry in Jerusalem on 23 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Stores shut, schools close amid curfew by Rio drug dealers

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May—Drug traffickers in Rio de Janeiro ordered shops closed in one of its biggest slums early Thursday, defying efforts to restore order to the city's vast shantytowns and renewing safety concerns in Brazil as it prepares to host the World Cup and Olympics.

Shops were shuttered and more than 5,400 children were turned away from school on Thursday morning after traffickers, shouting from motorcycles, ordered a curfew following a shootout with police late Wednesday that killed a drug dealer.

City and state authorities said they suspended classes at four schools and six day-care centres as a precaution.

Such scenes used to be common in Rio, Brazil's second-biggest city and a metropolitan area that is home to nearly 12 million people. But the city has made huge efforts to weed out criminal gangs that long ruled the favelas, as the slums are known, before next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Although Thursday's events were limited to the area around the Complexo do Alemao, a huge series of shanties between the city centre and its international airport, they came as Brazil is grappling with a resurgence of crime in other cities, too.

In Sao Paulo, the country's biggest city and business capital, authorities are struggling with a crack epidemic and turf wars between police and criminal gangs.

Police officers stand guard as people walk past closed shops at the Complexo do Alemao slum in Rio de Janeiro on 23 May, 2013. REUTERS

"This is a war, a 24-hour struggle, across the entire country," Geraldo Alckmin, the governor of the state of Sao Paulo, said in a televised interview on Wednesday. His comments came as the state unveiled a series of measures, including new technology and pay incentives, for Sao Paulo police to meet ambitious new targets in crime reduction.—*Reuters*

Diet OKs citizen numbering to improve management on welfare, tax, others

TOKYO, 24 May—Japan's parliament enacted a bill on Friday to introduce a system that will allocate every citizen an individual number to more efficiently manage income, social security and tax information, although concerns remain over the potential for abuse of personal data.

The House of Councillors voted for the bill following approval earlier this month by the House of Representatives.

With the system, to be introduced in January 2016, the government will assign a "my number" to each individual starting around the fall of 2015 to integrate their financial information.

This is expected to help public offices collect such information more accurately and ensure a fair and simple system to provide welfare benefits and tax credits to citizens.

Recipients of these benefits are currently required to go through complex procedures such as submitting a variety of documents to separate offices.—*Kyodo News*

UN aid chief says Sudanese rebels obstructing aid deal

KHARTOUM, 24 May—Sudanese insurgents are obstructing a deal to deliver much-needed aid into areas under their control in two Sudanese states where almost a million people have been forced from their homes, the UN aid chief said on Thursday.

The United Nations has been trying to get aid into South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, where Sudan's army has been fighting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) for almost two years.

Both states are in Khartoum-ruled Sudan, from which the new nation of South Sudan broke away in 2011 under a peace deal which ended decades of civil war. South Sudan adjoins both South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Hundreds of thousands of SPLM-North supporters who sided with the south during the long armed conflict were left on the Sudan side of the border after South Sudan's secession and now complain of marginalisation. In August, the UN helped broker a deal with Khartoum and the SPLM-North to allow, via Sudanese soil, food into rebel-held areas in both states, where aid groups have warned of famine. While the UN in the past often accused Sudan of restricting access of aid workers to both states, UN humanitarian aid chief Valerie Amos has now criticised the SPLM-North.

"The government of Sudan have said very clearly that they are committed to implementation of that agreement," Amos said after meeting President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in Khartoum.—*Reuters*

Ecuador confirms Russian rocket remains hit its satellite

QUITO, 24 May—The Ecuadorian Space Civil Agency (EXA) said on Thursday that Ecuador's first satellite "*Pegaso*" put into orbit last April was hit by the remains of a Russian rocket launched into space in 1985.

"The US Space Command confirmed it WAS NOT A DIRECT COLLISION! ," Ronnie Nader, EXA's Director and creator of the satellite, said on Twitter.

The event occurred on early Thursday morning, wrote Nader. "The real state of Pegaso will be confirmed tomorrow (Friday). We know it was not a direct collision, but a lateral collision with particles."

Nader said "Pegaso might be damaged or be in an uncontrolled rotation, but since it is still in orbit we hope its mission can continue."—*Xinhua*

LOCAL NEWS

BUSINESS

Myanmar, Chinese businessmen meet

YANGON, 24 May— Vice-President Mr Zhu Xiaojin of CCPIT Sichuan led a economic mission comprising Chinese businessmen from 40 Chinese firms to Myanmar.

They will hold business meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs.

The business consultation to discuss mutual cooperation deals was held in Traders Hotel in Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon at 9 am yesterday.

Myanma Alinn

Japanese company seeks car export to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May— Autohub Co Ltd of Japan and Ministry of Commerce held talks yesterday over importing cars from Japan.

During the meeting with the Japanese delegation led by Mr Hirashima Toshio, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint stressed the need for inspecting quality of vehicles which are to be exported to Myanmar.

Autohub Co Lt can cooperate with the ministry as it has been providing services including inspection, shipping and door to door services, said Mr Hirashima Toshio.

MNA

Magway District marks International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

MAGWAY, 24 May— Magway District held the 16th Painting, Cartoon, Poster and Computer Painting Contest in commemoration of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Magway Education College of Magway Region on 18-19 May.

Students from basic education schools in Magway, Yenangyoung, Chauk, Taungdwingyi, Natmauk and Myothit Townships in Magway District participated in the contest.

Myanma Alinn

Farming rights certificates presented in Kalay

KALAY, 24 May—Farming rights certificates were presented to farmers in Sakhangyi village in Kalay Township in Sagaing Region on 15 May.

The chairman of farmland management committee presented farming rights certificates to farmers at the ceremony to present farming rights certificates at Sakhangyi village-tract administrator office.

A total of 438 certificates were presented to farmers by the secretary of the farmland management committee.

A total of 32751 farmers will receive 40087 certificates to operate farmlands.

Myanma Alinn

Circular road built in Shwezigon Pagoda

NYAUNGU, 24 May— To east traffic jam at the eastern archway of famous Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan, the Pagoda Board of Trustees built a circular road.

The road encircling the pagoda will ease difficulties of cars visiting the pagoda to park in the east arch which had the only parking lot.

There were so many visitors in summer school holiday period that there were no enough parking lots for all cars, h a local said.

The reduced traffic would afford some convenience to pilgrims, the source said.

Myanma Alinn

FIRE

Fire breaks out in Bago

BAGO, 24 May—A fire broke out in Taung Hteik Pan Pwint restaurant in Bago Shwemawdaw Pagoda street at 4.15 pm on 21 May.

The fire was ignited by wire shock in store of the restaurant.

No. 1 Bago Police Station filed a lawsuit against U Kyaw Win, owner of the restaurant.

Myanma Alinn

Fire engines rush to put out fire in a restaurant in Bago's Shwemawdaw Pagoda street.

CITIZENSHIP

CSCs issued in Kalay

KALAY, 24 May— Immigration and National Registration Department in Kalay Township in upper Sagaing Region issued Citizenship Scrutiny Cards to the people at Basic Education Post-Primary School on 21 May within one day.

The field trip was led by staff officer U Thein Zaw of Kalay Township Immigration and National Registration Department for eligible citizens above 10 and 18.

MyanmaAlin n

CSCs granted in Mongyai

MONGYAI, 24 May— Immigration and National Registration Department in Mongyai Township in Lashio District on 8 May issued Citizenship Scrutiny Cards at a primary school in Nangmo village-tract in Mongyai Township.

The ceremony was attended by Mongyai Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Sai Thiha Kyaw, townselders, staff officer U Win Oo of Mongyai Township Immigration and National Registration Department.

The staff officer presented CSCs to 80 eligible citizens.

Myanma Alinn

Dorm opened in Meiktila Nursing Training School

MEIKTILA, 24 May—A two-storey dormitory was opened in Meiktila Nursing Training School on 21 May.

The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Director-General of Medical Sciences De-partment Dr Tin Tin Aye and Director Daw Nwe Nwe Khin.

The dorm that could accommodate 150 trainees has dining hall and kitchen.

The construction of the building cost K 229.8 million and the fund was alloted in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The trainees had to rent dorms outside the school previously.

The dorm will be under the management of lecturers of the school, according to principal Daw Mar Mar Aye.

The Ministry of Health would continue to build more dorms in nursing schools under the Medical Science Department.

Myanma Alinn

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Free healthcare provided by traditional medicines team

Free healthcare is provided to local people in Cheyardaw village in Monywa Township.

MONYWA, 24 May— Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners team led by traditional medicines practitioner U Aung Soe of Monywa Traditional Medicine Hospital provided free healthcare to villagers in Cheyardaw village basic education primary school in Kyawtmin village-tract in Myinmu Township on 18 May, under arrangement of Head of Region Traditional Medicine Department U Kyaw Swe and Medical Superintendent of Traditional Medicine Hospital U Nay Aung.

The field trip was aimed at disseminating traditional medicines knowledge among the public and the use of herbal medicines.

They gave talks on dos and don'ts for healthy living in the hot summer.

They provided treatment to 157 patients.

The field trip is very effective because it coincides with the time the rural people needs more health knowledge, a villager said.—*Myanma Alinn*

Free eye treatments provided in Muse

MUSE, 24 May—Health Department, New Star Light Construction Company and Cherry Myitta Foundation provided free treatment and surgery to eye patients in Muse District in northern Shan State at Shwe Thamin Monastery from 19 to 23 May. Ophthalmologists provided free treatment to 1500 patients.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn, Shan State Hluttaw Representatives U Sai Tin Oo and U Kain Mai, Muse District Deputy Commissioner U Kaung San Oo and departmental officials, and officials of donor companies and Cherry Myitta Foundation distributed drinking water and food to the eye patients at the monastery.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 May, 2013

English Language Proficiency

From kindergarten to college and even to graduate school, we have studied English, the global language, both reading and writing though not all the four skills. We began to know the ABC and then studied grammar and patterns in curricular textbooks during the academic period of at least up to 12 years. But, the question is are we really familiar with it?

Burmese is our own language and of course no one else would value and cherish it if we fail to do so. The extinction of a language means the fall of the people who speak it, and vice versa, otherwise, Chinese would not become the most-widely spoken language after English.

English, we have studied for more than a decade at school, and so it is quite logical to jump to the conclusion that we are somewhat familiar with it. Unfortunately, when it comes to utilization of it, the reverse is true for most of us. This in part is attributed to long-standing parrot fashion teaching and learning methods entrenched in schools and even in colleges.

For most of us, we need not to master English because it is not the language we speak daily though widely considered as the second language here. But, what's happening is there have been criticisms about the writing of our English newspaper being too complicated for native English to understand, shedding light on room for improvement in our professionalism.

What's worse is even post-graduate and research students hire Myanmar-English translators, not their own brains, to write up and submit their theses. Internationally, those doing post-graduate degrees are supposed to have certain level of English proficiency and be able to write theses in English on their own. This situation is rather rife, but fortunately not pervasive.

We are rejoining with our fellow global countries and in a nascent catch-up process and we are hosting XXVII SEA Games in December this year and ASEAN Summit throughout 2014, which means that we have to meet a lot of people. Both the upper and lower echelons of the administration will have to handle the problem of language barrier then. What would be the consequences of misinterpretation or simply missing the point? It is not about anti-nationalism or anti-patriotism, it is about a medium, a tool, and a need to contact with the outside world.

Myanmar-China anti-human trafficking talks

YANGON, 24 May— High-ranking officials of Myanmar and China held anti-human trafficking talks at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel on 21 May in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.

The meeting is the sixth in its series, with discussions between Police Colonel Win Naing Tun of anti-human trafficking corps and Myanmar and Chinese senior officials.

MNA

NATIONAL

Consecration of Thatta Thattaha ...

(from page 1)

silver showers in commemoration of the successful completion of the ceremony. The cash donated by the well-wishers go to the permanent fund for the pagoda.

Members of the Sangha led by the SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw then administered the consecration. The President and party then looked round the photo booth of the pagoda at Gandakuti Chamber and poured water to Bo trees.

The disciples led by the President then offered meals to the Sayadaws. In the evening, Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Ñanissara gave religious talks at Sasana Beikman at Thatta Thattaha Sasana Beikman.

On 25 and 26 May, Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Sayadaw will give religious talks and Myawady Anyeint will perform entertainments on 27 and 28 May.

MNA

***President U Thein Sein offers religious objects to be enshrined at the pagoda to Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw.*—MNA**

President U Thein Sein and party visit documentary photo booth of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda.

MNA

Youth Liaison officers course No. 3 (Yangon) concludes

YANGON, 24 May— Course No. 3 (Yangon) for youth who are going to act as Liaison officers in the XXVII SEA Games was concluded at Pyidaungsu Hall of the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) in Tamway Township, here, today.

On the occasion, Deputy Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports U Ohn Myint Oo delivered a concluding address. And then he also presented completion certificates to the trainees and awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the paper reading session.

MNA

Talk on Natural Resources: Blessing or Curse? held

YANGON, 23 May—The talk on "Natural Resources: Blessing or Curse?" jointly conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and The Asia Foundation, the United States of America which headquarter is located in San Francisco was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon at 9 am yesterday, with the opening remarks by Deputy Director-General U Myint Lwin of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry.

On this occasion, Director of studies at The Peterson Institute for International Economics and Senior Fellow at the East-West Centre Dr Marcus Noland delivered the talk on "Natural Resources: Blessing or Curse?"

Present were officials from Yangon Region Govern-ment, invitees from Governmental Organizations, members of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and representatives from Foreign Embassies in Yangon as well as professors and students from invited Universities.

MNA

Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda, magnificent image of Nay Pyi Taw

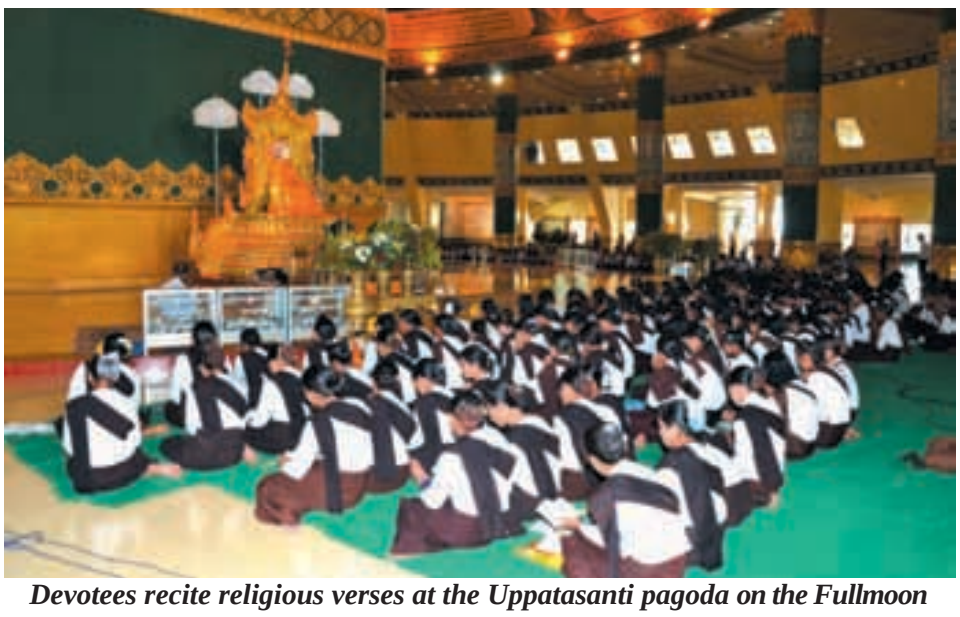
Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda. **(News on page 1)**—MNA

Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw packed with devotees on Fullmoon Day of Kason

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May— Bo trees in Nay Pyi Taw were watered today to mark Buddha day which falls on the Fullmoon Day of Kason today.

A congregation led by Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, deputy ministers U Soe Win and Dr Maung Maung Htay, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and departmental officials poured water on the Bo trees in the compound of the Uppatasanti Pagoda here.

All the pagodas in Zabuthiri Township and Pyinmana are packed with Buddhist devotees reciting religious verses, doing meditation and pouring water on Bo trees.—*MNA*



Devotees recite religious verses at the Uppatasanti pagoda on the Fullmoon Day of Kason.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer meals to members of Sangha at opening ceremony of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda.
(News on page 1)—MNA

Myanmar delegation visits Centres of Excellence in western coastal areas of US

NAYPYITAW, 24 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo visited Centres of Excellence in western coastal areas in the United States of America from 12 to 22 May.

During the visits to the University of California Irvine (UCI), University of Calfornia Los Angeles (UCLA), Stanford University, University of California Berkeley (UCB), Orange County Business Council and Facebook Centre, the delegation held talks with officials of the universities over potentials for cooperation with Myanmar universities.

During the meetings, the Union minister discussed with them cooperating in teaching and research sectors to upgrade Yangon Technological University, Mandalay Technological University, Yangon University of Computer Studies and Mandalay University of Computer Studies.—*MNA*

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo visits Centres of Excellence in western coastal areas in US.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Nation-building endeavours

Kyaiklat Pagoda Creek Bridge reopened

PYAPON, 24 May— Kyaiklat Pagoda Creek Bridge on Pyapon-Yangon Highway in Kyaiklat Township, Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region on 7 May was reopened as its repair works had been finished.

Photo shows newly-built Kyaiklat Pagoda Creek Bridge.

From 18 January to 30 April, the bridge's repair works were carried out with the fund of K 33.6 million allocated for 2012-2013 FY of the township development affairs committee.

The bridge is 50 feet long, 20 feet wide and 14 high and RC type.

It can withstand 16 tons of load.

Thanks to the bridge, locals are enjoying fruitful results.

Kyemon

Beigon Bridge being rebuilt

BEIGON, 24 May— Nanthaelein inter-village bridge across Nanthaelein Creek in Beigon Ward of Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region is being upgraded under the aegis of the Beigon Village Monastery Abbot and community elders of the village.

The currently 130 feet long and 6.5 feet wide and 18 feet high bridge will be rebuilt as 132 feet long, 12 feet wide and 18 feet high one with the donated fund of travelers and locals. The reconstruction cost is estimated to be K 15 million.—*Kyemon*

ACCIDENT

One dead, 23 injured as car overturns on Myotha-Myingyan Road

MANDALAY, 24 May— A truck carrying 24 road workers, driven by Naing Linn, 24, of Aung Myay Aye Ward of Madaya, overturned between Mileposts 428/2 and 428/3 on Myotha-Myingyan Road near Nawarat Village of Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region, on 20 May morning.

Due to serious injuries, Ywathit Villager Kyaw Myo aged 27 died on the spot in the accident. Another 23 persons—12 men and 11 women—on board were injured.

Myotha Police Station filed a lawsuit against reckless driver Naing Linn.

Kyemon

CRIME

Ownerless cows seized in Phayagyi

PHAYAGYI, 24 May—In response to a tip-off, police seized 56 ownerless cows in Phayagyi Village, Bago Township on 20 May.

Having received the tip-off from the informants that two vehicles were unloading cows near Sethmukwet Pitch in Phayagyi Village, police rushed to the scene to find 56 bulls ownerless, tied to trees at the end of the pitch. The police are waiting further instructions from Bago Region government with regard to the case.

Kyemon

YEDASHE, 24 May— Farmers within the irrigation area of Swa Creek Dam in Yedashe Township in Bago Region have hired thresher from GWS Company to be able complete harvesting ahead of monsoon, drawing interest from other local farmers.

Framers have to work against the time harvesting over 20000 acres of summer paddy. The rent for a thresher is K 40000 per day, less than over K 10000 in comparison with hiring workers. With a thresher, over 10 acres can be threshed a day.

"We need to complete in time as the monsoon is coming. Using thresher may have some wastages, but the wastages can be much bigger if the farms got caught in the rain, Many farmers have ordered for a hire and two more threshers are expected to arrive today. Farmers are greatly interested in using threshers as they can save the time and labour," said a thresher operator from the company.

Kyemon

World Malaria Day 2013 observed

KAWTHOUNG, 24 May—World Malaria Day 2013 was observed in Kawthoung yesterday with the attendance of Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, Dr Suriaguharat of Public Health Office from Thailand, personnel of district health department, medic-in-charge of Kawthoung Cap-Malaria Projerct and members, NGOs and locals.

Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, Dr Suriaguharat and head of district health department Dr Daw San San Thi formally opened the observation and spoke on the occasion.

Health care personnel presented mosquito nets and sport shirts to the guests and locals. The event is aimed at exchange of public health care information between Myanmar and Thailand, setting the quality of health care service delivery on a par, promoting the health awareness of people at border regions, monitoring malaria, and promoting health care service system.

Kyemon

Cash donated to Beigon Monastery

INDAW, 24 May—Donors U Min Naing-Daw Thida Kyaw and family donated K 5 million to Nansiaung Beigon Vilage Monastery in Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region on 22 May.—*Kyemon*

HRD

Band course organized

MYAINGTHAYA, 24 May—Free band course was conducted at Basic Education High School (Branch) in Myinethaya Village in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State on 24 April.

U Tun Shwe, the course instructor gave lessons on drum beating and a total of 110 trainees did the course which lasted for a month and two days.

The concluding of the course will be held at the sports ground of the school on 26 May.—*Kyemon*

Japan, India to announce 71 b yen loan for subway in Mumbai

TOKYO, 24 May—Japanese and Indian leaders are set to announce next Wednesday a 71 billion yen loan from Tokyo for subway construction in the western Indian city of Mumbai, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said on Thursday.

During a meeting in Tokyo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh are also expected to reach an agreement on advancing talks for a civil nuclear cooperation pact between the two countries.

The two leaders are also expected to discuss, among other issues, a possible visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to India by the end of this year and the promotion of joint maritime training between Japanese and Indian forces.

Mumbai is a gigantic city of 12 million and serves as the financial and commercial center of India. It suffers from serious traffic jams.

The Indian leader is scheduled to visit Tokyo on 27 to 30 May. The trip to Japan will be his fifth as prime minister.

Singh had planned to visit Japan last November for a summit with then Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, but the visit was postponed at the last minute because of Noda's decision to dissolve the House of Representatives.—*Kyodo News*

***A tourist rides an attraction using Shweeb, a futuristic transportation system, at an amusement park in Rotorua, New Zealand, in April 2013. Google Inc. selected Shweeb in 2010 as among projects to invest in as ideas for change.*—KYODO NEWS**

Great Wall in NW China needs more protection

XI'AN, 24 May—According to a Chinese saying, "One who fails to reach the Great Wall is not a hero." If the opposite is true, there's no questioning how Fu Kaishun stacks up.

Fu, 66, a retired civil servant who is fascinated with the Great Wall, decided to walk the 100-kilometre stretch of the Great Wall located in Fugu County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, starting in 2010.

With just a crutch and a backpack, Fu has walked back and forth along the section of the Great Wall several times to record wear and tear on watchtowers and fortresses, as well as other natural and man-made damage.

"I don't have any other thoughts, but I just want to leave some research materials for later generations," Fu said. The Fugu section of the Great Wall was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and has endured years of weathering and erosion.

In 2010, Fu was the first person to count all 196 watchtowers along the 100-km stretch of wall. The watchtowers are all in extremely poor condition, with some barely even visible.

"The statistics collected by Fu are of great importance for the protection of the Great Wall," said Tan Yushan, the head of the county's culture bureau.

The walls, horse tracks, watchtowers and fortresses that make up the Great Wall span 15 provincial-level regions from west to east, including Qinghai, Shaanxi, Inner Mongolia and Beijing.

"The Fugu section of the Great Wall is not as imposing as the Badaling or Juyongguan Great Wall on the outskirts of Beijing, but they are precious possessions our ancestors left for us," Fu said, adding that they should be better protected, not left to be destroyed. —*Xinhua*

Abe seeks Japan's bigger role in infrastructure projects in Thailand

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra ahead of their talks at his office in Tokyo on 23 May, 2013.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 24 May—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday expressed hope that Japanese companies will play larger roles in infrastructure development in Thailand, when he met with his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra.

Abe is promoting Japanese exports of infrastructure such as atomic power plants and medical and railway systems to the developing world as a main pillar of his strategy for economic growth.

"Infrastructure development will benefit both countries. (Japan) wants to contribute to it proactively," Abe told Yingluck in reference to planned high-speed railway services in Thailand, according to the Japanese government. Yingluck appreciated Japan's offer of cooperation.

Yingluck called for Japan's participation in a special economic zone in southern Myanmar that Thailand aims to set up in cooperation with the neighbouring Southeast Asian country. Abe responded by underscoring the need for working-level talks.

The two leaders, who met for the second time following talks in January in Bangkok, also confirmed their policy of enhancing the security partnership between Japan and Thailand.

Kyodo News

Thailand calls for ASEAN ministers' meeting in August

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 24 May—Thailand proposed on Thursday that Southeast Asian ministers meet sometime in August to firm up its position on the protracted South China Sea disputes before meeting with China in Beijing in September, ASEAN diplomats said.

Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Thailand's permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, told *Kyodo News* he circulated the proposal during the ASEAN senior officials meeting in the Brunei capital. He added some were still discussing when the meeting will take place, but according to another ASEAN diplomat the ministers will hold a "special retreat" on 13 and 14 August in Hua Hin in Thailand. Thailand is the coordinator for ASEAN-China relations.

He also said the ASEAN-China working group on Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea is scheduled to meet 29 May in Bangkok.

Foreign ministers from Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries are expected to meet with their Chinese counterpart in Beijing in the last part of August or in September to discuss the sea disputes, including how to move forward a proposed regional code of conduct aimed at reducing territorial and maritime conflicts in the South China Sea.

Expectations are high China will announce at the meeting with the ASEAN ministers whether or not it is ready to negotiate.

Talks to begin formal talks on a binding code stalled last year after China balked, saying it can only negotiate with ASEAN when "the conditions are ripe." China did not elaborate, but a Southeast Asian diplomat said China wants an eminent persons group to draft the key elements of the proposed multilateral code. Some ASEAN countries such as the Philippines opposed Beijing's proposal, saying it will only muddle the issue.

"It's a waste of time," said another ASEAN diplomat. The 10-member association has finished identifying the key elements it plans to use in negotiating with China in crafting a "more binding protocol" such as the code of conduct. The proposed code is hoped to govern the behaviour of claimants in the Spratly Islands, a widely scattered group of islets, cays, reefs, rocky outcrops, shoals and banks in the South China Sea.

ASEAN wants to start the negotiations "at an earliest opportunity."

Kyodo News

Five killed, 38 injured in road mishap in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 24 May—At least five people were charred to death and 38 others sustained injuries in a road mishap in the eastern Indian state of Odisha on Thursday, a senior police official said.

"The mishap happened when a bus in which the victims were traveling rammed against a tree and caught fire in the state's Bolangir District. While five people were charred to death on the spot, those with burns and other injuries were rushed to a hospital by locals," he said on condition of anonymity.

Eyewitnesses told local TV channels that the accident took place after the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle.

However, a probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that a manhunt was also launched to track down the driver of the bus who fled after the mishap.—*Xinhua*

Bomb explodes outside shopping mall in southern Philippines

DAVAO, (Philippines), 24 May—A homemade bomb exploded on Thursday afternoon outside a shopping mall in the southern Philippine city of Pagadian. There were no reported casualties but the incident damaged a number of vehicles, local radio reported.

The explosive was planted inside a vehicle at a parking area of Gaisano Mall, local police said. Lawmen are investigating the motive and explosive used in the bombing.

Xinhua

Vehicles are seen in water at Motijheel area in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 23 May, 2013. Heavy showers hit different parts of the capital city on Thursday morning.
XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (553)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (553) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (337)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (337) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Paraguay seizes 25.6 tons of marijuana

MONTEVIDEO, 24 May— Paraguay's anti-drug police on Thursday said they have seized and burned 25.6 tons of marijuana in the eastern department of Alto Parana, local media reported.

The police said 20 tons of marijuana were found chopped while 5.6 tons were pressed, according to reports from Asuncion, capital of Paraguay. They also found 12 drug pressers.

The operation was held in Itakyry district, 435 km east of Asuncion, with the support of neighboring Brazil's Federal Police.

Three people, including two minors, were arrested, said the reports.

Agents from Paraguay's National Anti-Drug Secretary and a helicopter of the Air Force will remain in the zone to search for other possible drug-production camps.

According to a UN report, Paraguay is one of the world leaders in marijuana-producing and the main source of the drug sold in South American countries.

Xinhua

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Japanese Yen (JP¥);

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Qty
1.	1/MR/Rail Bus(M) 2013-2014	Inservice Rail Bus (RBE) with Roof Mounted Air Condition	20 Nos

Closing Date & Time - 12.7.2013(Friday)(12:00)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 27.5.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994

Mexico, Germany vow to promote tourism

MEXICO CITY, 24 May—Mexico and Germany pledged on Wednesday to promote bilateral tourism, air connectivity and the flow of visitors, Mexico's Ministry of Tourism said in a statement.

Mexico's Secretary of Tourism Massieu Salinas and Germany's State Secretary for Tourism Ernst Burgbacher agreed to establish a joint working group on tourism during their meeting in the German city of Frankfurt.

They also agreed to expand Germany's tourist destinations with larger sustainability in Mexico.

Massieu said Mexico aimed to have "more powerful relations with Germany" not only by making Mexico's destinations more sustainable but also by diversifying tourism on culture, business and conventions.

Burgbacher said the good and beautiful things in Mexico should be better known and appreciated by Germans.

Germany is the fourth largest tourism market in Europe for Mexico, behind Britain, Spain and France, according to the Integral System of Migratory Operation. The number of German visitors to Mexico in 2012 reached 172,841, an increase of 4.7 percent year-on-year.—*Xinhua*

Applicants shelter sunshine with books when participating in a job fair in a college of Nanchang in Nanchang City, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 23 May, 2013. Nanchang saw its highest temperature reaching 34 degrees celcius on Thursday, about 10 degrees higher than the same period in 2012.—XINHUA

Turkey to build wall on border with Syria

ANKARA, 24 May — Turkey will build a 2.5 km-long wall along its border with Syria to prevent illegal crossings, Turkish Trade and Customs Minister Hayati Yazici said on Thursday.

The wall is to be built along Hatay province's Cilvegozu gate with Syria, he said, adding that a protocol with the Turkish Armed Forces had already been signed for the construction of the wall.

"According to the protocol, we have defined a project that aims to increase the security of the military zone by building a part barbed wire, part concrete wall with security camera system," the minister said.

The Cilvegozu gate lies less than 10 km from Reyhanli town centre, where a twin-bomb attack killed 51 and wounded more than 100 on 11 May.

Xinhua

A woman poses with bags recycled from banners that had been put up on expressways during an event in Nagoya on 22 May, 2013. The products are sold by Central Nippon Expressway Co.—KYODO NEWS

Magnitude 7.4 quake strikes in sea off Tonga

LONDON, 24 May—A magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck in the sea 177 (285 km) miles southwest of Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa, the US Geological Survey reported on Thursday.

It said the quake was recorded at a depth of 106 miles and had struck at 1719 GMT. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre on its website said that no "destructive Pacific-wide tsunami" was expected.

Reuters

Edinburgh to host Int'l Conference on Climate Justice

EDINBURGH, 24 May— The Scottish government on Thursday announced that the International Conference on Climate Justice will take place in Edinburgh in October ahead of crucial global talks later this year.

To be held at Dynamic Earth on 9 October, the Conference will bring together international businesses, civic society and leading thinkers from across the globe to collaborate on climate justice, complementing the economic case for a swift transition to a low carbon economy, said a government Press release.

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, who is a former president of Ireland, will speak at the conference which will highlight the opportunities and challenges for businesses ahead of climate talks in Warsaw in November.

Speaking at a Carbon Capture and Storage event in Edinburgh on Thursday, Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change Paul Wheelhouse said that "the economic case for a swift transition to a global low carbon economy is compelling—delivering jobs, investment, trade and economic growth."

"But if we are to truly make a difference and help the world's poorest communities, it's important that we also tackle the inequalities brought on by climate change," Wheelhouse said.

He noted that Scotland's innovative Climate Justice Fund illustrates "how we are taking our international obligations seriously and demonstrating how climate justice can be delivered on the ground."

The conference pushes that agenda further bringing businesses and civic society together to tackle climate justice, said Wheelhouse, adding that "it will help them to consider how to share the benefits and burdens of climate change fairly so as to avoid the worst impacts falling on the poor and vulnerable who have done least to contribute to the problem."

Xinhua

Nine killed in S China auto shop fire

GUANGZHOU, 24 May— Nine people were killed in a fire that broke out in south China's Guangdong Province early Friday morning, the local government said.

The fire broke out at 5:26 am at an automobile detailing centre in the Nanhai District of the city of Foshan, sources with the provincial government's emergency office said.

An investigation into the cause of the fire is under way.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

File photo of Paris Hilton and River Viiperi. XINHUA

Paris Hilton to marry soon

BEIJING, 24 May —Paris Hilton wants to marry her boyfriend River Viiperi and can't wait to have children with him. Paris Hilton will marry River Viiperi "soon". The 32-year-old heiress has been dating the 21-year-old model for eight months, but the pair are smitten with one another and the socialite thinks they will definitely tie the knot in the near future. Asked about plans to marry, she said: "It could happen soon... I trust him with my life and that means the world to me more than anything."

Paris — who was previously engaged to model Jason Shaw and shipping heir Paris Latsis — also admitted she is keen to start a family with river. She told the *Daily Mirror* newspaper: "I can't wait to have little Parises." The former reality TV star has previously admitted she has curbed her partying ways and "grown up", so can't wait to settle down with River.

She said recently: "I'm staying out of trouble. I've grown up." Asked if she is ready to start a family, she said: "I think that's every woman's dream. I think that's the meaning of life to have children and have a family one day." "I am so in love. I feel so lucky to have met him. He's one of the kindest, most loyal men I've ever met in my entire life, and he treats me like a princess." "He's the most beautiful man I've ever seen in my life."

Xinhua

Brad Pitt

Brad Pitt wanted to protect Angelina

BEIJING, 24 May — Brad Pitt was determined to keep Angelina Jolie's double mastectomy a secret until she was ready to reveal it. Brad Pitt did everything he could to keep Angelina Jolie's double mastectomy a secret.

The 49-year-old actor was desperate to "protect" his 37-year-old fiancee when she chose to undergo the preventative surgery earlier this year after discovering she had an 87 per cent chance of developing breast cancer because she carries the BRCA1 gene mutation.

A source told *People magazine:* "Brad did everything he could to keep things secret and protect Angie. They really wanted Angie to be able to recover and rest before they shared the story." After making a full recovery, Angelina recently opened up about her surgery in order to inspire other women.

Xinhua

Justin Bieber will sue party goers for $5m

BEIJING, 24 May — Justin Bieber will sue guests at any of his parties for $5 million if they leak details of his bashes in public or on social media. Justin Bieber will sue guests $5 million if they spill secrets about his parties. The 'Beauty and a Beat' hitmaker is making everyone sign a document before they enter his Calabasas home in California that forbids them from posting any information about the antics that go on inside the property on social networking sites. If they break this agreement they will be liable to pay damages.

According to TMZ, the 19-year-old pop superstar has made sure the legal document highlights that no one can gossip about the "physical health, or the philosophical, spiritual or other views or characteristics" of any of the party goers. Guests are pre-warned that taking part in activities in the $6.5 million mansion could pose "potentially hazardous and you should not participate unless you are medically able and properly trained otherwise they could face "minor injuries to catastrophic injuries, including death". The teenage heartthrob is believed to have made the decision to draw up the legal documentation after his rapper pal Lil' Twist arranged a party at Justin's pad and invited around 40 people while the 'Baby' singer was millions of miles away on his 'Believe Tour'. The practice is something that is widely carried out among celebrities in the US to protect the privacy of their homes.

Xinhua

Director Roman Polanski (L) and former Formula One champion driver Jackie Stewart of Britain pose on the red carpet as they arrive for the screening of the film "All is Lost'' during the 66th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 22 May, 2013. REUTERS

Justin Bieber

Cannes documentary makers focus on Jackie Stewart, Pele and Ali

CANNES, 24 May — Three years after "Senna", the hit film biography of the late Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna, sporting documentaries about Jackie Stewart, Muhammad Ali and Pele are competing for attention at the Cannes Film Festival. In "Weekend of a Champion", the Polish-French filmmaker Roman Polanski follows Stewart, his long-time friend, as he prepares to drive in the 1971 Monaco Grand Prix, at a time when the risks to drivers were far greater than they are now.

Polanski said he had forgotten about the film, which was screened at the Berlin film festival in 1972 but never released, until a recent call from a processing lab holding the footage. He decided to resurrect it, adding a sequence where he and Stewart reunite more than 40 years later to discuss how the sport has changed. "Back in the day, it was much freer. People could practically, or almost, walk onto the track. Now it's a bit NASA, a bit Martian," Polanski said after the revised version premiered in Cannes on Tuesday.

Three-times world champion Stewart, now 73, said Formula One had always been at the sharp end of technology, "but I think the racing is still as good today as ever, maybe even better". "The animal is the same, the driver has the same mentality, the same type of person," he told *Reuters* in an interview. British director Stephen Frears' documentary "Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight" aims to bring public attention to the boxer's court battle after he refused to fight in the Vietnam War, a stand that made him known far beyond his sport.

Ali refused to be conscripted into the US military in 1967, on the basis of his religious beliefs and his opposition to the war. A hero to a growing anti-war movement, vilified by others, he was found guilty of evading the draft.—*Reuters*

SPORTS

*Members of German club Wolfsburg celebrate during the awarding ceremony for the UEFA Women's Champions League after the final match between Wolfsburg and Olympique Lyonnais in London, Britain, on 23 May, 2013. Wolfsburg won the match 1-0 and claimed the title.—*XINHUA

Chinese Olympic champ seeks victory in fencing GP

HAVANA, 24 May — Chinese fencer Sun Yujie, 2012 London Olympic champion, said on Thursday that she is seeking a title in a Grand Prix event to be held in Havana on 23-27 May .

The world top-ranked Sun, who also won an individual bronze medal in London, will have to face tough rivals such as Romania's Ana Maria Branza, ranked third in the world, Italy's Rossella Flamingo, the fifth, and South Korea's Shin A Lam, ranked sixth and a team silver medalist in London.

Chinese fencer Sun Yujie

The Grand Prix is expected to draw over 100 fencers.

Xinhua

Haas, Waldorf set pace at Senior PGA Championship

LOS ANGELES, 24 May —American Jay Haas charged into early contention for a third Senior PGA Championship title by shooting a flawless five-under-par 66 in Thursday's opening round at Bellerive Country Club in St Louis, Missouri. The 59-year-old shrugged off lingering back pain with accurate driving and deft course management to end a cool, blustery day tied at the top with compatriot Duffy Waldorf, who qualified for the over-50 Champions Tour last August.

Japan's Kiyoshi Murota and American club professional Sonny Skinner started out with 67s in the first of the season's five senior majors, finishing a stroke in front of Taiwan's Lu Chien-soon and Australian Peter Senior. Haas, a 16-times winner on the Champions Tour who clinched the Senior PGA Championship in 2006 and 2008, expressed both delight and surprise after his five-birdie display. "Certainly very excited about shooting five under here," he told reporters. "Probably my lowest score ever at Bellerive, no matter what age I was. I didn't expect it going out. "I wasn't very sharp today, but my misses were in the correct spots and I took advantage of a few good iron shots. I'm very, very pleased with that."

American Jay Haas

Asked how much he had been bothered by his back, St Louis-born Haas replied: "A little bit. It's tight, it doesn't allow me to kind of stay in my spine angle.

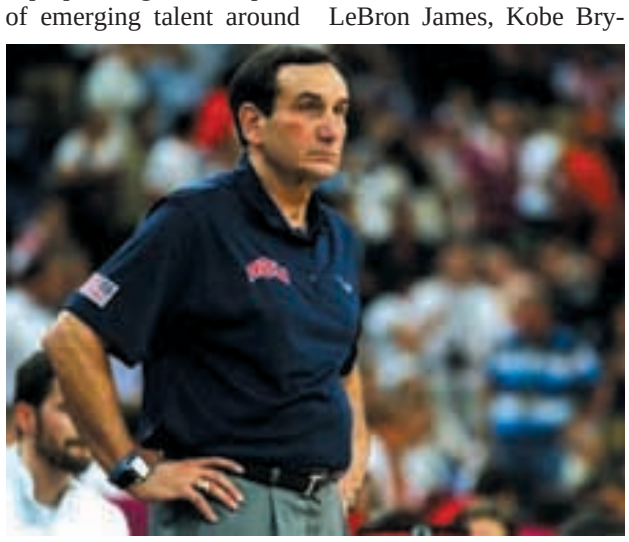
Just trying to hit the fairways was my first key and I did that a lot today." A special bonus for Haas was being watched over the last nine holes by his 84-year-old uncle Bob Goalby, the 1968 Masters champion who had introduced him to the game. "At 84, that's pretty impressive," Haas smiled. "The last time he walked nine holes I don't know when that was, but I was happy to see him.

"I have a picture at my house and it's of me and him and his caddie in the '65 (US) Open here ... just walking off the 14th green. I was 11-years-old then. I said to my caddie, 'Here he is watching me play golf at 84 and I'm 59.' It's pretty cool." Roger Chapman, who won last year's Senior PGA Championship by two shots over American John Cook before landing a second major crown at the US Senior Open two months later, launched his title defence with a 72.

Reuters

US basketball team driven by international talent

NEW YORK, 24 May —The star-studded US national basketball team cannot afford to get complacent about being the sport's superpower given the pace of emerging talent around the globe, head coach Mike Krzyzewski said on Thursday.According to Krzyzewski, having the privilege of coaching teams that have boasted NBA All-Stars LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul does not come with a guarantee of beating competition.



The US head coach Mike Krzyzewski watches his team against Spain during their men's gold medal basketball match at the North Greenwich Arena in London during the London 2012 Olympic Games on 12 Aug, 2012.
REUTERS

"People think that because we have all these guys you just roll out a ball and you're going to win," Krzyzewski said at a news conference to announce he would return as coach of the US national team through the 2016 Rio Olympics."If you do your program that way, you're going to get beat."Respect for the competition is fundamental to Krzyzewski's approach and the lessons he has drilled into his US teams have paid off with a 62-1 mark that includes two Olympic gold medals and a current 50-game winning streak.

Krzyzewski said all you have to do is look at the rosters of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) teams to appreciate the growth of the game globally."There are a lot of great teams out there and you see these guys playing in the NBA," Krzyzewski said at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he has led the Blue Devils to four men's college basketball championships.

"Twenty-one percent of the NBA is international and these teams can have anywhere between 10 and 12 NBA players on them. And we have 12 NBA players."And we'll have five of them out there at one time and they'll have five. As long as it's five against five we could lose at any time."And that's the respect you have to give your opponent and that's what we do with our preparation."—*Reuters*

Real Madrid sign Casemiro to permanent deal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May— Real Madrid has exercised the option of signing Sao Paulo loanee Casemiro on a permanent deal, Brazilian media reported on Thursday.

The 21-year-old joined the Spanish giants on loan in January and made his Liga debut in a 3-1 victory over Real Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu on 19 April.

A series of impressive performances for Real Madrid Castilla in Spain's second tier convinced club president Florentino Perez to make Casemiro'smove a permanent one.

Real Madrid will pay 6.5 million euros for the player, with 80% going to SaoPaulo, 15% to his agent Julio Fressato and 5% to another unnamed representative, Uol reported.

Casemiro has been capped five times for Brazil since making his international debut under Mano Menezes in 2011.—*Xinhua*

Barcelona make final Neymar offer

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May—Barcelona has reportedly made a final offer of 23 million euros to sign Brazil international striker Neymar during the European summer transfer window. The Catalan club's football director Raul Sanllehi returned to Spain on Thursday after a week of negotiations with Neymar's club Santos and his representatives, local daily *Estado de S Paulo* reported.

The Brazilian outfit has reportedly rejected successive bids of 18 million euros and 20 million euros in the past six days. Neymar is contracted to Santos until the 2014 World Cup with a buyout clause of 65 million euros. But under FIFA rules Neymar would be free to negotiate a pre-contract with another club in January, meaning the Sao Paulo-based outfit risks losing the 21-year-old for nothing if an imminent deal is not struck.

Speaking to reporters after Santos' goalless draw against Joinville in the Copa do Brasil on Wednesday, Neymar was cryptic about his future. "We all know that it takes something more to come out winners here," he said when asked about Barcelona's interest.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Yang Hua (L) demonstrates the 22-metre-long cross-stitch work of "Riverside Scene at the Qingming Festival" in Yiyuan County, east China's Shandong Province, on 22 May, 2013. Yang spent more than three years to finish the cross-stitch.—XINHUA

Five officers killed in helicopter accident in Venezuela

CARACAS, 24 May— Five officers from Venezuela's Bolivarian National Police (PNB), members of the crew of a police helicopter, were killed on Thursday when their aircraft crashed in western Caracas during an operation to rescue two kidnapped engineers, official sources said.

PNB Director Luis Karabin said that the accident occurred on Thursday morning at 7:30 local time (1200 GMT) in the highway Mamera-El Junquito, in a sector called El Naranjal, in the western region of Caracas.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear, but Karabin cited weather conditions. Some versions said the helicopter suddenly fell after crashing against high voltage cables.

Karabin said all the members of the crew died, including the pilot, the co-pilot, one technician and two policemen, adding local forensic team arrived at the accident's site to remove the bodies, according to judicial procedures.

He said that the helicopter was supporting the land policemen during an operation to rescue the two engineers who were kidnapped by several criminals from the state-owned electricity company Corpoelec.

He added the criminals were running away with the two engineers in a Ford Power vehicle and at some point in Antimano sector, a shooting between policemen and the criminals occurred.

During the operation, one of the criminals was shot and two escaped towards a wooded area, while the two engineers were rescued, said Karabin.

One house was affected by the spiral of the helicopter model Bolkow Bo 105 blue, which destroyed the ceiling and part of the kitchen, said Karabin.

Xinhua

Garcia signs off with eagle as Kingston leads PGA

VIRGINIA WATER, (England), 24 May —Sergio Garcia, embroiled in a racism row with Tiger Woods this week, got by with a little help from his friends on Thursday as he battled to a level-par 72 in the PGA Championship first round. South African veteran James Kingston led the way on 66 but most of the attention at the European Tour's flagship event was focused on Garcia following his "fried chicken" jibe at world number one Woods on Tuesday.The Spaniard played alongside compatriot Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano and Britain's Luke Donald in the opening round.

He said he was grateful for that and for the support of the crowd at the iconic Wentworth course on the outskirts of London."I was very fortunate to be paired with two friends of mine so they could help me get along a little bit easier," Garcia told reporters after signing off by holing a 20-foot putt to claim the only eagle three all day at the 18th.

The world number 14's effort at the last sparked a huge roar from the crowd who had also given Garcia a warm welcome on the first tee."The reaction was great, it was amazing," he said. "I've always been very fortunate with fans all over the world, not only here in Europe.

"I've always been very lucky with that and I'm very thankful for it," added Garcia who issued an apology on Wednesday for his jibe at Woods.The Spaniard said on Thursday that he had talked to the world number one's manager over the phone."He said they are moving forward," Garcia added. "If I manage to talk to him (Woods), perfect, if not I'll definitely see him at the US Open next month and we can talk face to face."Fried chicken has become a racial stereotype in the US when referring to African-Americans, a reference to the days before the abolition of slavery when chicken was believed to be a staple part of the diet.

Garcia's remark came when he was asked on stage at a tour function on Tuesday whether he would be inviting Woods for dinner during next month's US Open in Pennsylvania."We will have him round every night," said the Spaniard. "We will serve fried chicken."

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-5-13 09:30 am ~ 26-5-13 09:30 am) MST

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Universities told to increase management of hazardous chemicals

BEIJING, 24 May —Chinese universities have been urged to improve the control and management of hazardous chemicals in their labarotories to prevent safety risks and cases of misuse.

The Ministry of Education on Thursday posted a circular on its website, requiring universities and colleges to improve their regulation of the storing, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals they keep for experiments.

The entire process regarding chemicals should be put under control, and all areas, including purchasing, obtaining, use, returning and disposal, should be properly recorded, the circular said.

Colleges should make sure that registrations of consumption and inventory of chemicals are accurate and tally with each other, the document said.

Toxic chemicals should be double-locked and major processes, such as storing, obtaining and using must be conducted by at least two people, it said.

Moreover, different hazardous materials must be kept separately, and inflammable and explosive materials in laboratories, including labs that are not in use, should be properly handled, the circular said.

The document also urged local governments and authorities to make sure regulations are properly carried out.—*Xinhua*

People queue up for Boradway shows tickets in rain at the Times Square in midtown Manhattan, on 23 May, 2013. In its 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook issued today, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Centre is forecasting an active or extremely active season this year with a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes, including 3 to 6 major hurricanes during the six-month hurrican season beginning on 1 June.—XINHUA

Foyt and Sato form sweet and sour Indy partnership

AJ Foyt Enterprises driver Takuma Sato of Japan walks down pit lane after qualifying for the Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in, Indiana, on 18 May, 2013.
REUTERS

INDIANAPOLIS, 24 May — They are the Indianapolis 500's odd couple. Crusty team owner AJ Foyt, a 78-year old American motor racing legend and his driver Takuma Sato, an impeccably groomed 36-year-old from Tokyo who arrived in IndyCar from the glamour world of Formula One. They are a sweet and sour, East meets West fusion of cultures that enter Sunday's Indianapolis 500 as one of the favorites to reach victory lane at the famed Brickyard.

Foyt is a straight-shooting, tough-talking Texan who won the Indy 500 four times, the Daytona 500 and Le Mans in a driving career that spanned 30 years.

He famously cheated death on and off the track, surviving several harrowing crashes during the 1960s, open wheel racing's most dangerous decade. SuperTex, as Foyt is known to his fans, has at times appeared indestructible.

Reuters

No H7N9 virus found in poultry farms

BEIJING, 24 May—The H7N9 bird flu virus has not been detected in poultry farms, with positive samples mainly coming from live poultry markets, China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) said on Thursday.

The MOA said it has "basically" finished collecting and testing 899,758 samples from across most parts of the country.

Of the total, 53 samples were found positive with H7N9. Fifty-one positive samples were from 18 live poultry markets in Shanghai, Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Henan, Shandong, Guangdong, Jiangxi and Fujian, the MOA said in a statement.—*Xinhua*

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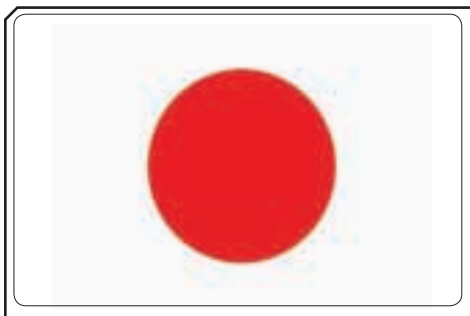
The New Light of Myanmar

Saturday, 25 May, 2013



Japanese PM's visit serves as opportunity to lay down foundation for turning a new page in history

Japanese PM's Message to the Myanmar People

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—*The following is the message sent by Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe to Myanmar people on his visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar today.*

During my first official visit to Myanmar by a Japanese Prime Minister in 36 years, starting from May 24, I will exchange views with dignitaries, including President U Thein Sein. In returning to Myanmar since my last visit in January of last year, I took forward to seeing with my own eyes the dramatic changes sweeping the country.

Japan and Myanmar have established a lasting and friendly bilateral relationship based on mutual trust. The fact that all three generations of my family have visited Myanmar, following the visits of my grandfather, Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, and my father, Minister for Foreign Affairs Shintaro Abe, gives me a sense, at a personal level, that I am linked to Myanmar by deep ties that have been woven over the decades. With this visit, Japan strongly hopes to raise to a new height the historical bilateral relationship which has been nurtured by our forefathers, and engage in and offer cooperation in the following four areas.

First, for strengthening our bilateral relations, Japan attaches the most importance to supporting the reform efforts of Myanmar. We believe that it is essential that the current reforms aimed at democratization, national reconciliation, and economic reforms are further promoted and solidified, and that the people of Myanmar enjoy further tangible benefits. Japan will spare no effort to cooperate for the development of Myanmar that has overcome countless hardships. Japan will give its all to offer our support to Myanmar.

Second, Japan will enhance our economic relations which are rapidly gaining momentum, and aim for mutual prosperity. Japan has led the international community in announcing the cancellation of Myanmar's delinquent debt and, furthermore, in being among the first to announce the resumption of full-fledged assistance to Myanmar, including new ODA loans of around 50 billion Japanese yen. In addition, further assistance will be announced at my forthcoming meeting with President U Thein Sein. Furthermore, as is evident from the fact that I am accompanied by many of Japan's top business leaders, Japanese companies are paying very close attention to Myanmar. The Japanese Government will fully support the efforts to strengthen economic relations to ensure that win-win outcomes will be brought about to both sides.

Third, in order to lay down a new foundation for Japan-Myanmar relations, it is necessary to further promote exchanges between our peoples who underpin these efforts, as well as cultural exchanges. My wife and I, on a personal level, have been engaged in work to donate elementary schools to Asian nations, including to Myanmar. At the government level as well, Japan will further promote efforts associated with "fostering people."

Lastly, through this visit, I look forward to deepening our shared understanding regarding the regional and security environment facing the two countries and to bolstering our discussion and cooperation.

There are many Myanmar fans in Japan. The two countries enjoy favorable relations. However, without being complacent about this, I will work to elevate our relations to even better relations. I hope that my visit will bring Japan-Myanmar cooperation to even higher levels and serve as an opportunity to lay down a foundation for turning a new page in history.

Mandalarians perform meritorious deeds at religious edifices

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May— As today is Fullmoon day of Kason called Vesak Day, pagodas, stupas, religious edifices and monasteries were packed with devotees and pilgrims in Mandalay.

Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered gold foils, water, flowers and lights to Maha Muni Buddha Image.

In the evening, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and party poured water at Bo tree at Image. Similarly, local people performed meriotious deeds at religious edifices and pagodas.—*MNA*

Japanese PM arrives in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—A delegation led by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and Mrs Akie Abe, at the invitation of President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, arrived Yangon this evening, on their goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The Japanese Prime Minister and his wife were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and wife Daw Chaw, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and wife, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata and wife, and mission staff.

MNA

***Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe being welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and officials at Yangon International Airport.*—MNA**

YGH to use PET/CT scan in early 2014

By Moe Thuzar Soe

Yangon General Hospital is planning to use the Position Emission Tomography (PET)-Computed Tomography (CT) technique, opening a new chapter in diagnosis and giving treatment. PET/CT technique produces better three-dimensional images and can detect diseases and has become a very useful technique for giving treatment to cancer, brain and nerve systems and arteries and veins.

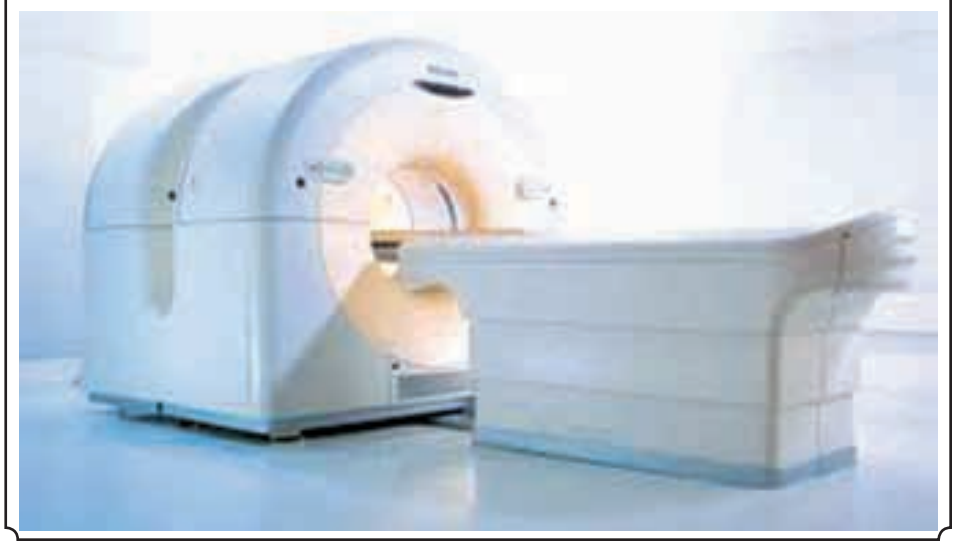
As part of efforts for promoting health care services in Myanmar, Ministry of Health has planned to use PET/CT scan at the Yangon General Hospital in early 2014.

Royal Philips Company is working together with Myanmar Radiological Society to use the PET/CT scan technique. The Philips Healthcare, using modern technique and tool, launched the medical care programmes in Myanmar.

The programme of the Philips Healthcare is also supporting the ASEAN Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Network by means of discussion and sharing best practices, said Vincent Chan, General Manager of Philips Healthcare for ASEAN region.

"I am delighted to carry out diagnosis with the use of PET/CT scan in our country and want to say thank the government for its support and our dreams do come true," says Prof Dr U Kyin Myint, Head of Radio Department of the hospital.

Philips Healthcare launched its educative programme for medical care (2013-2014) comprising three steps and its training will focus on medical technology including Nuclear Medicine, MRI and Ultrasound. Besides, members of Myanmar Radiological Society can participate in regular paper reading sessions and can learn at Philips Learning Centre (www.theonline-elearningcentre.com)

Medical experts from Philips Healthcare and from Australia, India, Singapore, Thai and Myanmar gave talks on medical technology, radio threaphy and cancer treatment at the paper reading session at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon on 19 May.

Trs- AMS