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President U Thein Sein rolls out red carpet for Japanese PM

Japan vows to provide 91000 million yen worth of development aid to three main sectors in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May— Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and his wife Mrs. Akie Abe and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air at 8.30 am today.

On their arrival on the lawns of Presidential Palace to attend the welcoming ceremony at 9.30 am, they were cordially welcomed by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

Next, the President and Japanese Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour while the State Band was playing national anthems of Myanmar and Japan. Then the President and Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Japanese Prime Minister introduced his delegation members to the President who also presented his entourage to the Japanese Prime Minister.

Also present together with the President and wife at the welcoming ceremony were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Aye Myint, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Kan Zaw and U Htay Aung, and Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin. The Japanese Prime Minister and wife were accompanied by the Deputy Ministers, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata and senior officials.

While the welcoming ceremony was in progress, the President and Japanese Prime Minister were greeted by scouts of Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No (5) waving miniature flags of Myanmar and Japan.

Next, the President and the Japanese Prime Minister had a cordial discussion at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, President U Thein Sein spoke words of praise on the Japanese Prime Minister's first visit to Myanmar as a head of the government in 36 years and visits made by three generations as his grandfather and father also paid officials visits to Myanmar. He also expressed thanks for Japan's support for Myanmar's reform process since the start of the process.

President U Thein Sein cordially shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe.

MNA

Next, the two leaders held talks on political and economic reform processes, national unity, development of health and education sectors, industrial sector development, SMEs sector development, investment of Japanese businessmen in Myanmar, prospects for Japan's role in implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Dawei Special Economic Zone projects, rural region development and poverty alleviation schemes, security and the rule of law, banking service development, emergence of stock market, modernization and improvement in taxation structure and promotion of people-to-people connectivity and prospects for multisectoral cooperation between the two countries.

Furthermore, the two leaders exchanged views on ASEAN-Japan cooperation and regional security matters.

At the meeting, Japanese PM Mr. Shinzo Abe made a vow to provide 91000 million yen worth of development aid to three main sectors in Myanmar—rural region development and poverty alleviation schemes including development of national races in border regions, human resources development and infrastructural development.

Also present at the meeting together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Aye Myint, U Win Myint, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Kan Zaw, U Htay Aung and officials. The Japanese Prime Minister was accompanied by deputy ministers and high-ranking officials. — *MNA*

***President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe inspect Guard of Honour.*—MNA**

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar selected Vovinam team leaves for Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May— Myanmar selected Vovinam team left for Cambodia yesterday to take part in the Second Southeast Asian Vovinam Championship to be held in Siam Reap of Cambodia on 28-30 May.

The Myanmar selected Vovinam team comprising 35 athletes, four coaches and two managers led by Deputy Director U Soe Aung of the Ministry of Sports were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Principal of Myanmar Martial Arts School U Aung Htay and officials. It will be the first international sports tour for Myanmar Vovinam team.

Vovinam (Martial Arts of Vietnam) is a Vietnamese sports that will be in the XXVII SEA Games. The Myanmar selected Vovinam team tentatively formed with 52 athletes had received a joint training in Vietnam from 16 March to 14 April.

It is planned to hire a coach from Vietnam after this sports event in which two Myanmar referees will also take part.

NLM

Indonesia conceals three points in its away match with Myanmar

National Sports

YANGON, 26 May — Myanmar team faced Indonesian team in the first-day match of FAM-Frenz Asean Championship Youth Football Tournament-2013 at Aung San Stadium yesterday evening. Indonesia won by three goals to one over Myanmar in its away match.

Indonesian team showed their brilliant performance in front of the crowd of the host team with a hat-trick of its winger Diki. Myanmar lost its home advantage due to its weaknesses in skills and stamina. Indonesian winger Diki scored his opener after 15 minutes at Aung San Stadium. He added one more goal in the half-time and made his third goal after the break. Myanmar got only a consolation goal scored by Thiha Tun Kyaw in the second-half.

The tournament is being held with the participation of 12 teams in two groups. Group (A) consists of Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Timor, Singapore and Malaysia (A). Group (B) comprises Myanmar, Malaysia (B), Laos, Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia. Each team will have home and away matches. Myanmar will face Philippines as its second round robin match on 1 June at Aung San Stadium.

Kyemon

Myanmar U-23 football team ready for home and away international friendly matches

YANGON, 26 May — With the aim of achieving success in the upcoming XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar, U-23 selected Myanmar football team has been under intensive training since 21 May.

Arrangements are being made for the team tentatively formed with 30 players to play four friendly matches during the training period. After playing its first friendly match against MNL All Star team in Taunggyi today, the team will play three international friendly matches one after another in next month. The selected Myanmar football team will face Singaporean team formed with selected players in front of its home crowd at Thuwunna football stadium on 4 June. Then Myanmar team will play two more friendly matches against a V-league football club and U-23 selected Vietnamese football team on the soil of Vietnam on 9 and 11 June.

Kyemon

Red Cross Society Office opened in Monghsat Township

Development

MONGHSAT, 26 May — An opening of Monghsat Township Red Cross Society Office took place in front of the new building, jointly-donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross, in Myothit ward of Monghsat Township in Shan State on 20 May. Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Ohn, ICRC Coordinator Mr. Julien Nicolas Chailier and Joint Head of Shan State RCS (Grade-I) U Ko Ko Aung formally opened the one-storey new office which is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide.— *Kyemon*

Myawady Industrial Zone implementation process in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — In meeting with trainees at the women's vocational training school in Myawady on 20 May, the Kayin State Chief Minister called on them to share their knowledge they got at the training course to others in their own regions.

Next, the chief minister presented a set of Sky Net satellite disc and receiver to the school.

Then the chief minister attended the meeting to clarify the implementation of Myawady industrial zone and observed a site chosen for establishment of the industrial zone together with Thai entrepreneurs.

MNA

Leaking gas pipeline in Insein Township repaired in time

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — Shwepyitha natural gas control and distribution station was informed of a leak in Ywama-Thamaing natural gas pipeline of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy at Zaykon east ward in Insein Township on 23 May.

Officials concerned including Engineer In-charge U Thein Hlaing of the station went to the scene and underwent repair works. They carried out the substitution of 200-foot defective pipeline with a new one and buried it for public safety. The repair works had completed at about 11.30 pm on 24 May.

Now, supply of natural gas is in progress regularly.

Kyemon

Dala dwellers provided with free health care service of specialists

Health

DALA, 26 May — A medical team comprising specialists led by Deputy Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr Zaw Min went on a health care service tour of Dala Township in Yangon Region on 18 May.

For providing free medical treatment to local people in urban wards and nearby villages in the township, the medical team of 43 specialists and doctors performed health care service at Dala People's Hospital in cooperation with local authorities, health staff led by Head of Dala Township Health Department Dr Hsan Thura Aung Thein and members of Dala Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

The team was divided into eight groups led by each specialist and provided free health care to 428 patients and carried out necessary arrangement to transfer 37 patients to respective hospitals where they will be provided with more effective treatment.

Kyemon

Kerry presses Egypt on economic reform, says aid depends on it

*U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (L) meets with Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi in Addis Ababa on 25 May, 2013.—*Reuters

Addis Ababa, 26 May—US Secretary of State John Kerry urged Egypt to act swiftly on economic reforms to secure a $4.8 billion International Monetary Fund loan, saying the measures were needed to get further aid from the US Congress, an American official said.

Kerry met Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi for about an hour on the sidelines of an African Union summit on Saturday, discussing Syria's civil war, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, human rights in Egypt and the country's faltering economy, the official said.

Egypt's Islamist-led government has been resistant to introducing the austerity measures needed to win the IMF funding, including raising taxes and cutting fuel subsidies, fearing such painful reforms could provoke social unrest.

However, an IMF deal could help shore up investor and donor concerns after two years of political instability since the overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak in early 2011. The instability has depressed tourism, a crucial industry for Egypt. The US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Kerry had made the argument that the reforms were necessary to persuade American lawmakers to proceed with further economic support for the country, which borders US ally Israel.

"He urged action on making reforms happen now to move towards requirements to get the IMF package," the official said.

During his first visit to Cairo as secretary of state, on 3 March, Kerry told Mursi the United States would provide the first $190 million of $450 million in pledged budget support because of Mursi's commitment to see the IMF process through.

The remainder, however, would depend on the economic reforms, a point Kerry made again in the Ethiopian capital.

Reuters

EU steps up quest to solve youth unemployment

Brussels, 26 May—European leaders have decided youth unemployment and the risk of social breakdown are among the toughest challenges they face and finding solutions will be a top priority for the coming months.

In a letter released late on Friday, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said youth unemployment was one of the most pressing issues for the 27-member European Union.

"The June European Council will be an opportunity to mobilise efforts at all levels around one shared objective: to get motivated young people back to work or education," he said, referring to upcoming summit talks.

"We must give them the guarantee that they will be either in training, further education or employment within four months of leaving school."

EU ministers agreed earlier this year on steps to ensure people under the age of 25 receive an offer of work or work-related training as part of a 6 billion euro ($8 billion)initiative on youth unemployment in the worst-hit corners of Europe. Social unrest is rumbling and research has warned of "lost generations" of unemployed people and their children.

Van Rompuy said in his public letter preparatory work needed to be carried out, so schemes to help young people could be "fully operational" by January next year.

*Job seekers line up to submit their resumes during a job fair in La Roca Village, near Barcelona on 21 May, 2013.—*Reuters

In Germany, policymakers have in private expressed a concern about a lack of urgency and have thrown their weight behind bilateral deals to solve the problem.

The dominant EU state says it is experienced in dealing with unemployment and is hosting talks on July 3 in Berlin to follow up on the June EU talks.

It thinks the 6 billion euros of EU money should be spent upfront, rather over the seven years of the next multi-annual budget (2014-2020).

It also has said some funds could pay for the early retirement of older people to make way for the next generation. Van Rompuy's letter notes unemployment levels vary greatly across the European Union, underlining the case for sharing best practice.

For the European Union as a whole, unemployment is 10.9 percent and in the 17-member euro zone, it reached a record 12.1 percent of the working population in March, the latest public figures.

Reuters

US to take out Syrian air power if Geneva 2 talks fail

Dead Sea, Jordan, 26 May—US Senator John McCain said on Saturday here that if the second Geneva conference on the Syria issue failed, the United States would act to take out the air power of the Syrian government.

"There are serious consequences if the talks in Geneva seeking a political solution to the Syrian crisis fail. Then we will increase aid to the rebels ... the fall of Assad is inevitable," McCain said at a Press conference on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea in Jordan.

"Air power is a decisive factor and cruise missiles can be used to take Assad's air power out. We can take out his runways and air power capabilities," he said.

McCain, a senior member of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, revealed talks between regional parties and Washington about establishing no-fly zones in Syria were in process.

Xinhua

India's Singh to seek nuclear deal, investments during Japan visit

New Delhi, 26, May—Achieving progress in civil nuclear cooperation and encouraging Japanese companies to invest in India will be high on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's agenda during his visit to Japan from Monday through Thursday, he told *Kyodo News* and other Japanese correspondents on Saturday.

"It will be my effort to use this visit to strengthen our strategic and global partnership, which also includes trying to reach an agreement with regard to civil nuclear energy cooperation. I do recognize there are problems in Japan and there are elections to the upper house which take place later this year. But, I do hope that we can make progress in the civil nuclear energy cooperation," he said. During the interview in New Delhi, Singh also called on Japanese industry to contribute toward India's economic growth.

"I invite the business community of Japan to take full advantage of enormous opportunities at our opening up a liberalized Indian economy," he said, adding there is an "enormous" scope for Japanese companies to invest in India, particularly in manufacturing and clean and renewable energy. "We require robust participation of Japanese business and Japanese industries in India's economic development. Today, we have more Japanese companies operating in India than ever before. But, in terms of their contribution to the Indian growth process, much needs to be done."

Kyodo News

Pakistan school bus explosion and blaze kill 17 children

Islamabad, 26 May—Seventeen Pakistani children burnt to death on Saturday when a gas cylinder on the bus taking them to school exploded, media said.

Ten children were injured in the blaze on the outskirts of Gujrat, 100 miles southeast of Islamabad, *DawnNews* said.

Many vehicles in energy-starved Pakistan are powered by relatively cheap compressed natural gas and cylinder blasts are common.—*Reuters*

*Burnt schoolbooks are seen near a school bus, on which a gas cylinder exploded, killing seventeen children, on the outskirts of Gujrat, 100 miles (170 km) southeast of Islamabad, on 25 May, 2013.—*Reuters

Abe to pledge nuclear plant restart in growth strategy

Tokyo, 26 May—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will clarify his government's plan to resume operation of idled nuclear power plants in a growth strategy to be compiled in mid-June, sources familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The draft energy policy to be included in the growth strategy states that steps will be taken to restart reactors judged safe for operation by the nuclear regulatory authorities, they said.

The government will pledge that it will make utmost efforts to ensure plant safety to gain support from municipalities hosting nuclear plants, the sources said.

The energy policy laid out in the growth strategy will be the government's official endorsement of Abe's plan to rely on nuclear power until the nation's final policy is made on nuclear energy use.

The growth strategy is one of the "three arrows" of Abe's economic policies aimed at pulling Japan's economy out of nearly two decades of deflationary recession, along with aggressive monetary easing and large-scale public works projects.

Of the 50 commercial reactors in Japan, only two are currently online amid safety concerns over the use of nuclear power in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi plant disaster.

The draft policy says use of nuclear power plants is needed for the country's stable power supply, and the government will complete the separation of electric power companies' electricity generation and distribution operations by 2020, the sources said.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Planetary alignment peaks with celestial show this weekend

A crescent moon and the planets Jupiter (bottom) and Venus are seen in the sky over Buenos Aires on 1 Dec, 2008.—Reuters

Cape Canaveral, (Florida), 26 May—Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest planets in the sky this month, will be joined by tiny Mercury for a rare celestial show this weekend.

Typically, Venus, the second-closest planet to the sun, and Jupiter, which orbits beyond Mars, are tens of millions of miles apart. But they have been cycling together while moving ever closer to each other this month, joined by the innermost planet Mercury.

The celestial show peaks on Sunday when the trio will appear as a bright triangle of light in the western sky beginning about 30 minutes after sunset.

Triple conjunctions are relatively rare, according to NASA. The last one was in May 2011 and the next one will not occur until October 2015. "This triple is especially good because it involves the three brightest planets in May's night sky," the US space agency said on its website.

The formation should be visible even in places with bright city lights, though a clear view of the western horizon is a must.

Astronomers suggest sky-watchers let Venus and Jupiter be their guide. As the sky darkens the planets will be visible to the naked eye. "They really do shine so brightly that you might mistake them for one or two approaching airplanes with their landing lights turned on," the University of Texas' *StarDate* magazine wrote on its website.

On Sunday, Mercury forms the top of the triangle. By Monday, Venus and Jupiter will be side by side, less than 1 degree apart.—*Reuters*

Etisalat makes top bid for Vivendi's Maroc Tel

Paris/London, 26 May — Gulf telecom operator Etisalat has offered a higher price for Vivendi's Maroc Telecom stake than rival Qatari bidder Ooredoo, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Etisalat's bid needs further work, however, and has more legal conditions than Ooredoo's offer, so Vivendi has not yet made a final choice, the people said.

"If Etisalat cleans up its offer, then it wins," said one of the sources, who is close to the process. "If not, it will go to Qatar, who also made an offer that Vivendi can accept."

While the exact prices of the offers were not clear, sources earlier told *Reuters* that they had come in lower than the 5 billion euros ($6.5 billion) Vivendi had initially hoped for and closer to the market value of the stake.

Vivendi's 53 percent shareholding in Maroc Telecom is now worth 4.34 billion euros.

Maroc Telecom offers fixed-line, mobile and Internet services in the kingdom and is one of Africa's top telecom firms, with units in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali and Mauritania.

The buyer will inherit a firm that has been a reliable cash machine for Vivendi but has seen slower growth in recent years, analysts say, although there is growth potential in sub-Saharan Africa, where sales and profits rose last year.

Vivendi has been in talks in recent weeks with Etisalat to remove some of the legal clauses in its bid, the sources said. The UAE-backed group has scheduled an extraordinary shareholder meeting on 28 May to approve the financing package for the bid.

Ooredoo, meanwhile, crafted its offer with minimal conditions to make it simple and less risky for Vivendi, the group's strategy chief told *Reuters* earlier.

Vivendi has not asked Ooredoo to improve its offer so far, the first source said. Ooredoo is frustrated with the slowness of the process and what it sees as a lack of communication from Vivendi, said two other sources familiar with the situation.

Vivendi may choose a preferred bidder with whom to continue exclusive negotiations next week after the Etisalat vote, but it could also take longer, the first source said.

Spokesmen for Vivendi, Etisalat and Ooredoo declined to comment on Friday.

Both bidders are eager to sign a deal with Vivendi before the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, which begins in early July.

For Vivendi, the sale of Maroc Telecom is crucial to its ambition to lessen exposure to capital-intensive telecoms and focus on its media activities in video games, pay TV and music.

Investors have been eagerly awaiting progress on the divestments, especially after Vivendi's attempted sales of its video games and Brazilian telecom units fell through.

Vivendi previously said the Maroc Telecom sale would not be finalized before the autumn and that it was working closely with the Moroccan state, which owns 30 percent of Maroc Telecom and will have to approve the buyer.

Both Etisalat and Ooredoo see Maroc Telecom as a way to expand their footprints in Africa, and both have expanded aggressively overseas in the past decade.

Etisalat, which is 60 percent owned by the UAE, relies more on its home market for revenue and sales than Ooredoo, however, with 60 percent of revenue and 71 percent of core profit earned domestically, according to HSBC research. "We think it will be a very close-fought race," HSBC analysts wrote in a note. "We expect the victor, whoever it is, to use Maroc Telecom as a springboard to further acquisitions in the Africa region."

($1 = 0.7751 euros)

Reuters

customer walks out of an Etisalat shop at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai on 14 Oct, 2012.
Reuters

SAP revamps management to focus on cloud computing

Frankfut, 26 May—German business software maker SAP said it was revamping its management to sharpen its focus on cloud computing as demand for the service which saves clients money grows.

SAP and rivals such as IBM and Oracle are dashing to meet surging demand for cloud computing, which allows clients to ditch bulky and costly servers for network-based software and storage in remote data centers. The company said it was now grouping all of its development activities and putting executive board member Vishal Sikka in charge of them from June 1. It also named board member Gerhard Oswald to oversee its new HANA Enterprise Cloud product.

"In record time, we went from being a startup in the cloud to being one of the largest companies in the cloud," Co-Chief Executive Jim Hagemann Snabe said during a conference call.

SAP splashed out $7.7 billion last year to buy Ariba and SuccessFactors to push into the cloud computing market, which research firm Gartner has said is expected to grow 18.5 percent this year to $131 billion worldwide.

But it suffered a setback at the start of 2013, when top sales managers in Asia left, giving rivals an edge just as demand for cloud computing was on the rise.

The German company vowed last month to get its Asia-Pacific business back on track after the problems pushed its first-quarter earnings and revenue below expectations.

On Friday, it unexpectedly announced that Lars Dalgaard, the former SuccessFactors CEO who was widely expected to lead its cloud computing business, was leaving SAP to become an investor.

SAP said Dalgaard was stepping down from the management board and leaving the company effective June 1 but that he would continue to act as an adviser to its cloud business. "We're not letting Lars go. He is still our strategic cloud adviser. We're not turning off his e-mail and he can keep his PC," co-Chief Executive Bill McDermott said.—*Reuters*

Google to bankroll, build wireless networks across Africa

New York, 26 May—Google Inc intends to finance, build and help operate wireless networks from sub-Saharan Africa to Southeast Asia, hoping to connect a billion or so people in emerging countries to the Internet, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday.

The Internet search giant — which has for years espoused universal Web access — is employing a patchwork quilt of technologies and holding discussions with regulators from South Africa to Kenya, the *WSJ* cited people familiar with the strategy as saying.

Access to the vast trove of information on the Internet, and the tools to make use of it, is considered key to lifting economies up the value chain. But countries are often hampered by the vast sums needed to build infrastructure, thorny regulations or geographical terrain.

To reach its goal, Google, which benefits the more people have access to its search and other Internet services, is lobbying regulators to use airwaves reserved for television broadcasts, which at lower frequencies can pass through buildings and over longer distances, the *WSJ* reported. It is also working on providing low-cost cellphones and employing balloons or blimps to transmit signals over hundreds of square miles from high altitudes.

The company has already begun several small-scale trials, including in Cape Town, South Africa, where it is using a base station in conjunction with wireless access boxes to broadcast signals over several miles, the newspaper reported.

Chief Executive Larry Page has made no secret of his plans to use his company to work toward broader, non-profit goals. Google on Friday declined to comment on its plans.—*Reuters*

Coffee cups with Google logos are seen at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 Nov, 2012.
Reuters

Blackstone notifies Cohen's SAC it intends to pull money

NEW YORK, 26 May— Billionaire hedge fund manager Steven A Cohen is losing the financial support of Blackstone Group Inc, the largest outside investor in his embattled SAC Capital Advisors, which is yanking much of its client money, according to a letter reviewed by *Reuters*.

A pension consultant, in a 21 May letter to clients, said Blackstone has notified Cohen that it intends to "fully redeem" a significant portion of the roughly $550 million the investment firm has invested with the $15 billion hedge fund. The letter from pension consulting firm Russell Investments said Blackstone submitted its redemption notice to SAC Capital sometime before 15 May because of ongoing concerns about the insider trading investigation that continues to engulf Cohen's fund.

Blackstone's investment with SAC Capital is through several investment funds known as hedge fund of funds and also through separately managed accounts it maintains for clients. The decision to redeem from SAC Capital impacts only client money invested in its hedge fund of funds, according to the letter. It's not clear how much of the $550 million is in those hedge fund of funds and it is not clear what Blackstone is advising clients who have money in separately managed accounts that is invested with SAC Capital.

Russell did say in the address to its pension clients that Blackstone "expects to receive 100 percent of investors' capital by year-end." Russell, which manages $173 billion in assets and oversees a number of index funds, also provides advice to pensions and institutional investors on where to invest their dollars in hedge funds.

Hedge fund manager Steven A. Cohen, founder and chairman of SAC Capital Advisors, listens to a question during a one-on-one interview session at the SkyBridge Alternatives (SALT) Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on 11 May, 2011.—REUTERS

The timing of Blackstone's request to withdraw money from SAC Capital is critical because it came before the hedge fund told investors on 17 May that its cooperation with federal authorities was no longer unconditional.

Soon after, news broke that federal prosecutors had issued grand jury subpoenas earlier this month to Cohen and several of his top executives, seeking their testimony about insider trading at the hedge fund.

Reuters

C-sections tied to child obesity

NEW YORK, 26 May— More babies born via cesarean section grow up to be heavy kids and teens than those delivered vaginally, according to a new study of more than 10,000 UK infants.

Eleven-year-olds delivered by C-section, for example, were 83 percent more likely to be overweight or obese than their vaginally-born peers once other related factors — such as their mother's weight and how long they were breastfed — were taken into account.

The findings are in line with a recent review of nine earlier studies that also found a link between C-sections and childhood obesity With C-sections, "there may be long-term consequences to children that we don't know about," said Dr Jan Blustein, who led the new study at the New York University School of Medicine.

The rate of C-sections in the US has been rising, leading to concerns about possible complications for mothers and babies. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, C-sections accounted for almost 1 in 3 births in 2010 - up from 1 in 5 in 1996.

For women, the procedure increases the chance of bowel or bladder injuries as well as future pregnancy complications.

Blustein said the size of the obesity risk for kids is "not great," and shouldn't come into play for women who need a C-section for medical reasons.

But, "a woman who's considering C-section electively should probably know about those risks," she told *Reuters Health.*

The researchers analyzed data from babies born in Avon, UK in 1991 and 1992 who were followed through age 15. Just over 9 percent of the infants were delivered via C-section.

Reuters

Pregnant women wait for their turn to undergo a Cesarean section (c-section) procedure at the Santa Ana public maternity hospital in Caracas on 19 Oct, 2011.—REUTERS

Certain chronic pain may raise suicide risk

NEW YORK, 26 May— Back pain, migraine and other types of chronic pain without a known physical cause — and therefore little prospect for relief — were associated with an increased risk of suicide in a new study of US veterans.

But the researchers, who analyzed data on about five million patients in the US Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, found no link between suicide and arthritis, neuropathies or non-migraine headaches.

Dr Mark Ilgen, the study's lead author, said the findings jibe with what he and his colleagues expected to see based on their own experiences and past research.

"I think we had the expectation that certain conditions — such as migraine and back pain — would be especially problematic when it came to suicide risk," Ilgen, from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System in Michigan, told Reuters Health.

That's because of differences in the origins, intensity and treatability of various chronic pain conditions, he said.

Xinhua

In surprise, General Growth eyes New York office tower

NEW YORK, 26 May— General Growth Properties Inc (GGP.N) has paired with Brookfield Office Properties Inc (BPO.TO) to bid for an expensive New York building in what could mark the No 2 US mall owner's entry into a new segment of the retail real estate market, according to two sources familiar with the deal.

Bids for the 27-story office and retail building at 650 Madison Avenue, one of the toniest shopping and office districts in Manhattan, could exceed $1.3 billion, the sources said.

Other bidders include Vornado Realty Trust (VNO.N), one of the sources said. The decision on the winning bid is expected next week, the source said.

Eastdil Secured is brokering the sale of the building, which is owned by private equity firm Carlyle Group LP (CG.O).

General Growth, Carlyle and Brookfield declined comment. Vornado and Eastdil did not respond to requests for comment.

General Growth's interest in the building, which has not been previously reported, surprised industry executives. The company has long focused on operating malls and buying the New York building would mean a foray into what is known in the industry as urban street-level retail real estate.

Unlike malls whose popularity grew with the rise of US suburbs as destinations that people typically drive to for shopping, the New York building has space for a handful of stores in a shopping and office district in the middle of the city.

The building is around the corner from the famous Fifth Avenue Apple store, known for its glass cube entrance. The current retail tenants include home goods store Crate & Barrel and Italian designer shoemaker Tod's. Ralph Lauren Corp (RL.N) has its office, but not a retail store, in the building. General Growth CEO Sandeep Mathrani, who used to run a similar business at Vornado, said at a conference two years ago that he was thinking about adding such urban properties to General Growth's portfolio of more than 120 US malls.—*Reuters*

Attendees pass by the General Growth Properties booth during the International Council of Shopping Centres convention in Las Vegas, on 18 May, 2009.—REUTERS

Nepal needs more homework on foreign investment law

KATHMANDU, 26 May —While the interim election government in Nepal is preparing to bring new Foreign Investment and Technology Transfer Ordinance 2013 in this fiscal year that will allow its citizens to invest abroad, experts and business leader here said it needs more homework.

The experts from various quarters on Sunday displayed their concerns regarding the ambiguity in various provisions in the draft ordinance.

The draft bill has provision to allow Nepali companies invest up to one million US dollars at one time with the permission from the central bank. But there are many questions unanswered.

The first ever billionaire of Nepal, industrialist Binod Kumar Chaudhary is exited with the idea of paving the way for Nepali investors to invest abroad, he told, there are many issues to be clear in the draft.

"There are still some confusion regarding the minimum threshold and specific sectors to attract foreign direct investment in the draft bill such as provision to allow foreigners to open only the 3 stars or better quality hotels seem unreasonable," he said.

The minimum threshold of 200,000 US dollars for the foreign direct investment in Nepal will bar the foreigners to run small but innovative enterprises with newer technologies in the opinion of billionaire Chaudary, who is also the President Emeritus of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI).0

Likewise the draft bill should have clear provisions to allow Nepalese to invest beyond the country and there should not be wall between resident and non resident Nepali, he opined.

"We will certainly bring the ordinances to set provisions on foreign investment and technology transfer, industrial enterprises, accreditation and special economic zone by the end of 2012/13," Minister for Finance, Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Shankar Prasad Koirala informed.

Reuters

WORLD

Chinese premier arrives in Germany for official visit

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrives at the airport in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 25 May 2013, starting an official visit to the European country. —Xinhua

Berlin, 26 May—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived here on Saturday for an official visit to Germany, the only European Union country included in his first overseas tour since taking office.

"Germany is the first EU country I visit since taking office as Chinese premier, which shows that the new Chinese leadership highly values China's relations with Germany and Europe," Li said in a written statement released upon arrival. Both China and Germany are countries with important influence in the world, and it is China's strategic choice and long-term policy to develop friendly cooperation with Germany, Li said.

China, he said, is ready to work with the German side to enhance mutual understanding and trust, expand cooperation and strengthen communication and coordination on global and regional affairs, so as to advance their strategic partnership as well as China-EU ties.

Li will meet with President Joachim Gauck and hold talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel. He will deliver a speech at a business luncheon and make extensive contacts with German political and business figures.Also, Li and Merkel will officially launch "the Year of Languages" programme between China and Germany, an initiative meant to encourage the two peoples to study each other's language.

To further expand bilateral cooperation, a series of documents will be signed regarding cooperation in such fields as energy conservation, environmental protection, investment, agriculture and education. Germany is the last leg of Li's ongoing trip, which has taken him to India, Pakistan and Switzerland.—*Xinhua*

US Navy names new destroyer after late Japanese-American senator

Washington, 26 May—The US Navy has announced that a new destroyer will be named after the late Japanese-American Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Inouye, from Hawaii, served in a US army unit consisting of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II. In 2000, he was given the Medal of Honour, the highest US military decoration, along with other former Japanese-American soldiers.

Inouye became a senator in 1962 and served for nine consecutive terms, the second-longest for a US senator. He died last year at the age of 88.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus called Inouye "a true American hero" in announcing the name of the destroyer that will be equipped with the Aegis radar system.

Kyodo News

Five soldiers killed in western Iraq

Baghdad, 26 May—Five soldiers were killed in a bomb attack in the Iraqi volatile province of Anbar on Saturday, a provincial police source said.

The attack occurred in the afternoon when a roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol near the town of Heet, some 160 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, killing five soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The vast desert area in Anbar province has been the scene of major offensive by the Iraqi security forces backed by aircraft to hunt down al-Qaeda militants.—*Xinhua*

British police arrest three over soldier's killing

A woman views floral tributes to Drummer Lee Rigby, of the British Army's 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, at the scene of his killing in Woolwich, southeast London on 24 May 2013.—Reuters

London , 26 May—British counter-terrorism police on Saturday arrested three people suspected of involvement in the killing of a soldier hacked to death in a London street by two men shouting Islamist slogans.

The killing of the soldier in what the government said appeared to be a terrorist attack has led to angry protests against radical Islam and fears of a possible anti-Muslim backlash.

Michael Adebolajo, 28 and Michael Adebowale, 22, are under armed guard in hospital after being shot and arrested by police on suspicion of murder on Wednesday.

The three men arrested on Saturday are suspected of conspiracy to murder. London police said two of them were hit by electric Taser guns, but neither needed hospital treatment.

Eight people have now been arrested in connection with the murder on Wednesday of 25-year-old Lee Rigby, who served in Afghanistan. No one has been charged.

Witnesses said Adebolajo and Adebowale used a car to run down Rigby outside Woolwich Barracks in southeast London and then attacked him with a meat cleaver and knives, before being shot by police.

The pair told bystanders they were acting in revenge for British wars in Muslim countries.

Reuters

Two freight trains collide in Missouri, bringing down overpass

St. Louis , 26 May—Two freight trains collided at a rail intersection in rural Missouri on Saturday, triggering the collapse of a highway overpass when at least a dozen rail cars derailed and struck a support pillar, authorities said.

None of the seven people hurt in the fiery crash—two train workers and five people who had been in two cars on the overpass— suffered life-threatening injuries, Scott County Sheriff Rick Walter said in a statement.

"One train T-boned the other one and caused it to derail, and the derailed train hit a pillar which caused the overpass to collapse," Sheriff's dispatcher Clay Slipis said of the pre-dawn crash near Chaffee, about 15 miles (24 km) southwest of Cape Girardeau, in southeastern Missouri.

Emergency personnel looking at an overpass that collapsed after two freight trains collided at a rail intersection in Missouri on 25 May 2013, are pictured in this photo courtesy of KFVS12. —Reuters

The collision of the BNSF Railway Co and Union Pacific trains also sparked a fire when diesel fuel leaked from one of the train engines, Slipis said.

The crash came just over a week after a commuter train derailed in Connecticut, striking another train and injuring more than 70 people during the evening rush hour.

On Thursday, a truck crash triggered the collapse of a bridge in Washington state, sending two cars plunging into the frigid Skagit River and raising concerns about the country's aging infrastructure. Three people were rescued.

In Missouri, Wayne Woods told a regional CBS affiliate that he rushed to the scene as soon as he heard the crash to try to halt traffic as he called in the emergency.

"We heard the crash and we stepped outside and my son said the overpass was down. Then we heard a car's tires squealing like it was coming to a stop and then a crash and a horn continuously blowing," he told KFVS television.

"I got over there, the train was on its side. They got the guys out and lifted them down off the train and got them off the overpass. One was kind of bloody and the other one looked like he was pretty shook up," he said.—*Reuters*

Radiation leak reported day after incident at Ibaraki laboratory

Tokyo, 26 May—Radioactive substances were released into the atmosphere Thursday outside the controlled area at one of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's nuclear physics laboratories in Ibaraki Prefecture and at least six people at the facility have been exposed to leaked radiation, officials said on Saturday.

The JAEA said six people were confirmed to have been exposed by Saturday night and a quick checkup suggested possible exposure of 24 others.

The highest radiation dose detected was 1.6 millisieverts, compared with the annual exposure limit for nuclear facility workers of 50 millisieverts, the Nuclear Regulation Authority's secretariat said on Saturday. Of 55 researchers and others who were engaged in experiments and other work at the laboratory, 14 did not suffer any radiation exposure, but 11 others have yet to undergo a checkup, the secretariat said. None of them were taken to the hospital, it said.

No impact from the radiation is expected beyond the premises of the accelerator laboratory in Tokaimura. The NRA secretariat said it received a report on the incident at the laboratory of the Nuclear Science Research Institute from the JAEA at around 9 pm Friday. The incident occurred at 11:55 am Thursday.

Officials of the JAEA said in a Press conference early Saturday in Tokyo that it failed to report the incident to the NRA immediately because it believed the leak had been confined to the laboratory.—*Kyodo News*

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on May 25, 2013, shows a nuclear physics laboratory (front) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, where radioactive substances were released into the atmosphere outside the controlled area two days earlier. The JAEA said on 25 May six people were confirmed to have been exposed to radiation and a quick checkup suggested possible exposure of 24 others.
Kyodo News

LOCAL NEWS

BUSINESS

Myanmar-Japan business meet

YANGON, 26 May—A Japanese economic mission comprising 150 Japanese businessmen visited Myanmar from 24 to 26 May and met with Myanmar businessmen in Myanmar-Japan Business Forum to explore potentials for boosting trade and investments between the two countries and mutual cooperation between the businessmen. The forum took place at Mingala Hall in Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at 2 pm yesterday.

Myanma Alinn

ODD NEWS

Eight-legged buffalo born dead

An eight-legged buffalo was born dead in Yebyu Township in Dawei District.

DAWEI, 26 May—A eight-legged baby buffalo was born in Kyaukhwetkon village in Thitdwintaunt village-tract in Yebyu Township in Dawei District of Taninthayi Region on 18 May.

The mother buffalo survived but the baby didn't.

The villagers from nearby villages crowded to witness the odd incident.

The baby buffalo has one head, one eye, four ears, eight legs and two tails.

Myanma Alinn

Pyu man who swallowed seven nails survives

PYU, 26 May—A man who had swallowed seven nails and one piece of wire received a surgery at Pyu Township People's Hospital in Bago Region on 22 May to get them out from his intestine.

The patient who had mental problems was admitted to the hospital on 23 May morning.

As the physicians and surgeons of the hospital diagnosed objects in his intestine and decided to conduct an immediate surgery.

The surgeons could remove seven nails and one wire from his intestine.

He is receiving treatment at intensive care unit.—*Myanma Alinn*

A Pyu man with mental problems survives after swallowing seven nails.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister attends school building opening ceremonies

HRD

SAGAING, 26 May—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, accompanied by officials, visited construction site of new two-storey building of Basic Education High School (branch) in Kangon village in Salingyi Township of Sagaing Region on 18 May and attended to the needs.

On 20 May, he inspected progress in construction of a two-storey building of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Ahlon ward in Monywa and attended to the needs.

The Chief Minister attended the opening ceremony of Basic Education High School (branch) upgraded from affiliated high school in Myopaw village in Budalin Township, Monywa District, in Sagaing Region on 21 May morning.

Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, Region Hluttaw Representative U Sein Win Hlaing, Region Education Officer U Hla Thein formally opened the school at the arch of the school.

Chief Minister U Tha Aye unveiled the signboard of the school.

Chief Minister U Tha Aye and officials donated cash, note books, periodicals and sports gear to the school, met the local people and coordinated regional development efforts.

The chief minister also attended the opening of Hla Nan Thuzar school building of Basic Education Primary School in Tawway village in Budalin Township and unveiled the signboard of the school.

At the ceremony to hand over the school building, the chief minister delivered an address and donor U Win Myint explained purpose of the construction of the school building.

The chief minister and party then provided furnishings, cash, note books, sports gear and periodicals for the school.

Myanma Alinn

Basic Life Support Training for Ambulance Crew commences at Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital

MANDALAY, 26 May—The opening ceremony of Basic Life Support Training for Ambulance Crew was held in Orthopaedic Hospital in Mandalay here at 8 am on 20 May.

The opening ceremony was attended by the director-general of Health Department under the Ministry of Health, the rector of Mandalay Nursing University, the head of Mandalay Region Health Department, medical superintendents, professors of Orthopaedic Department and orthopaedic surgeons, trainee nurses and Red Cross members.

Dr Min Thant Nyunt, Director-General of Health Department said most patients admitted to hospitals were victims of traffic accidents.

The duty of ambulance crew to admit them to hospital as soon as possible is equally important as enforcing traffic rules, he said. With the help of Mobile ICU, the ambulance crew would be able to save lives, he added.

The training is a part of preparation for providing healthcare in XXVII SEA Games, he went on.

Each and every trainee are essential part of emergency unit (ambulance system), he said, urging the trainees to improve English proficiency as they are bound to perform duties during SEA Games.

Twenty nurses from hospitals in Mandalay Region and 20 Red Cross members in Mandalay are attending the training course and specialists of Yangon General Hospital are giving lectures to the trainees.

Myanma Alinn

Opening ceremony of Basic Life Support Training for Ambulance Crew in Mandalay Orthopaedic Hospital in progress in Mandalay.

One died in motorcycle accident in Thabeikkyin

THABEIKKYIN, 26 May—An accident involving two motorbikes near Tagaung Sub-Township MPT office in Thabeikkyin Township in Mandalay Region killed one whose name has yet to be identified on 18 May night. Myo Oo and Kyaw Thura Tun on another bike were also injured and admitted to the hospital.

Tagaung Police Station has lodged a lawsuit against the drivers.

Myanma Alinn

CRIME

Villagers invade government farm

MEIKTILA, 26 May—U Lin, Maung Tint, U Sepyar and U Chit Pan of Thandaw village, U Hla San of Yedwin village and U Kyaw Myint of Indaingtha village ploughed in government-owned Indaingthan farm 15 miles northeast of Thazi in Meiktila District on 16 May.

Staff Officer U Ngwe Hsan of the farm lodged a lawsuit against them at Hanza police station.

Myanma Alinn

Three injured in motorbike head-on collision in Wundwin

WUNDWIN, 26 May—A Laojia motorbike driven by Kyaw Hsan Maung, a worker of Yadanabon restaurant in southern Wundwin, with the restaurant's manager Ma Aye Aye Khaing at the backseat, collided with an unlicensed Laojia motorbike driven by Nay Shine, a bus conductor in Leinbin village in Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region on Yangon-Mandalay road on 18 May evening.

All of them sustained injuries in the accident.

The Wundwin police station has filed a lawsuit against the reckless drivers under the law.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 May, 2013

National unity or internal peace

National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP) has been adopted as national economic reform strategy and will be implemented from 2011 to 2031 for 20 years. Therefore, political reforms, economic and social reforms and administrative reforms have been undertaken on a wide scale for peace and stability, development and democratization process of the State with certain success.

Local and foreign investments have increased fivefold between 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 with over USD 1.419 billion of foreign investment in 94 industries, and over K 1.1 trillion of citizens' investment in 65 industries and jobs for 82792.

We all thank the personnel concerned for their contributions to these encouraging figures. Myanmar Investment Committee formed with 50 per cent of civilian personalities is gathering momentum and it will be placed under effective operation of new generations.

Reforms have been put in place to strengthen foundations for democratization as freedom of expression, freedom of demonstration, press freedom, freedom of association, human rights so as to practise democracy aspired by the people. Meanwhile, necessary laws have been enacted, with outdated laws revoked and amended.

For example, Farmland Act has been promulgated in an effort for development of agriculture, the core of the economy and farmland registration has been carried out to ensure farmland ownership. This will benefit farmers in particular.

We all must understand that stability is the most important of all in national development drive and democratization process, and national unity or in other words internal peace is the basic condition for stability of the State.

In this regard, the government is taking steps to enter into political dialogues to build a lasting peace with all armed groups. As a result, gunfire can be silenced in once-unstable border regions with peace process taking shape. Meanwhile, rehabilitation tasks are being carried out for the victims of unrest.

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Andrew Patrick as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Mr Andrew Richard Heyn.

Mr Andrew Patrick joined the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1989 and served in various capacities at different departments of the FCO and at Her Britannic Majesty's Embassies and Missions in Nicosia, Brussels, Pretoria and Kabul. He is currently serving as Additional Director for South Asia of the FCO.

MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein hosts luncheon to Japanese PM

Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and wife Mrs Akie Abe are seen at luncheon hosted by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win at Myanmar International Convention Center.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a luncheon to Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and wife Mrs Akie Abe, at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), here, at 1 pm today.

The two leaders and their wives posed for documentary photo in front of the MICC. The Japanese PM and wife presented the members of the Japanese economic delegation to the Myanmar President and wife.

The State band played national anthems of the two countries before the two leaders toasted for stronger ties of the two countries.

The Japanese PM presented the tracksuits designed by Japanese designer Koshino Jonko for Myanmar athletes to wear in XXVII SEA Games.

The artistes of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained the guests with songs during the luncheon. The two leaders and their wives then cordially greeted the artistes.

The President presented the Japanese PM with photo album of tour to Myanmar and the two leaders exchanged gifts.

Also present at the luncheon were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife, Union ministers, deputy ministers, Myanmar ambassador to Japan and departmental heads and Japanese ambassador to Myanmar.

The Japanese delegation then wrapped up their visit and left for Japan from Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—*MNA*

Myanmar, Japan cordial ties date back to days of yore

Myanmar should continue to maintain her appealing, inspiring traditions to gain respect from international community

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein and Mrs Akie Abe, wife of Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe held talks at ante-room of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Daw Khin Khin Win expressed her pleasure to see the visit of a Japanese PM and his wife in 36 years. She said the two countries had cordial relations since the time immemorial. She thanked the Japanese government for its assistance to Myanmar, mentioning Mrs Akie Abe's contribution to an orphanage and a nunnery during her visit. She praised her for her devotion to promotion of education sector, philanthropic and welfare works.

Daw Khin Khin Win and Mrs Akie Abe cordially hold talks at Presidential Palace.—MNA

Mrs Akie Abe said she has been involving in welfare activities for disadvantaged children in Myanmar. She has been to Myanmar for ten times including the current visit. Nearly 200,000 Japanese combatants lost their lives in Myanmar during the World War II she added. She said she would never forget that Myanmar people took good care of the Japanese survivors and spoke of her intention to offer more assistance to Myanmar.

She suggested that Myanmar should keep on maintaining her time-honoured appealing traditions to gain respect from global countries. She spoke of the importance of health sector in Myanmar and offered help for it.

MNA

Myanmar and Japanese leaders welcome comprehensive assistance projects ongoing or under consideration by relevant organizations including Government of Japan and NGOs and confirm to further promote cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—*A Myanmar-Japan Joint Statement was released after Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe and wife had concluded their visit to Myanmar.*

The joint statement is as follows:-

Joint Statement between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Japan -New Foundation for Mutual Friendship-

At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid a state visit to Myanmar from 24 to 26 May, 2013.

During the visit, President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held talks in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The two leaders shared the view that, in laying a new foundation for taking the relationship between Japan and Myanmar to a higher level and establishing a lasting, friendly and cooperative relationship, Japan and Myanmar will work together to bolster their relationship in the following areas:

1. Support for Myanmar's reform

President U Thein Sein confirmed that Myanmar would continue to make all-out efforts to address various issues that it is currently tackling, including democratization, enhancement of the rule of law, economic reform, and national reconciliation. Prime Minister Abe reiterated Japan's intention to support these efforts by combining the public and private sector's strengths.

2. Towards mutual prosperity

The development of economic and social capital including infrastructure, the development of institutions, capacity building, the development of rural and ethnic minority areas, among others, are key to improving the livelihoods of the people of Myanmar and to building a prosperous nation. In support of the development of Myanmar and having implemented its arrears clearance operation with Myanmar, the Government of Japan decided to provide new yen loans as well as grant assistance, for which notes were exchanged between the two governments during the visit.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the view as to the importance of Japan's technical cooperation for institution development and capacity building of the Government of Myanmar and confirmed their intentions to further promote it. They also shared the intention to work together in various areas such as acceleration of their work towards the early signing of a bilateral investment agreement, an enhancement of their efforts towards a bilateral agreement on technical cooperation, and the development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in order to strengthen bilateral economic relations including through trade and investment. President U Thein Sein confirmed Myanmar's commitment to sustaining efforts for the improvement of investment climate in Myanmar and appropriate measures with due consideration to environment and society, including through discussion under the recently launched "Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative".

3. Enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges

Both Japan and Myanmar are countries with long history and traditional cultural heritage, and they have a number of similarities from religion to food culture. The year 2014 will mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The cordial bilateral relationship between the two countries is grounded in the bonds of trust and friendship based on long-standing interaction between their peoples, and will continue to be enhanced in all areas. Prime Minister Abe expressed his hope to see JENESYS 2.0 bolster youth exchanges between the two countries. President U Thein Sein confirmed Myanmar's intention to consider to facilitate the visit of Japanese businessmen and tourists for the further promotion of economic relation and tourism between Myanmar and Japan.

The two leaders also shared their intention to build on the long history of culture and sports exchanges between the two countries and further enhance these exchanges. In particular, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed that Japan is committed to supporting the SEA Games 2013 to be held in Myanmar in December 2013.

4. Strengthening political and security cooperation

The two leaders decided to enhance dialogue on regional issues and security in order to advance cooperation across the Asia-Pacific and the Indian Ocean. They also decided to further promote cooperation and exchange between their defense authorities.

Upon strengthening the measures mentioned above, acknowledging that the list of a wide range of projects announced by Japan would substantially contribute to further promoting the reforms in Myanmar, the two leaders welcomed that these comprehensive assistance projects are ongoing or under consideration by relevant organizations including the Government of Japan and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and confirmed to further promote cooperation.

Furthermore, the two leaders shared the intention to further bolster Japan-ASEAN cooperation, taking the opportunity of this year's 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. In this connection, President U Thein Sein confirmed his participation in the Japan-ASEAN Special Summit in December this year and welcomed Japan's continued assistance to the activities of Myanmar as it holds the ASEAN presidency in 2014.

Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 26 May 2013

Publications, periodicals contributed to MLF

YANGON, 26 May—Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi described the literature valuable heritage for a nation and an essential tool for socio-economic develop-ment of the entire national people, and contributor to promotion of Sasana apart from welfare to mundane life.

The Union minister as he addressed the donation of cash, periodicals and publications to libraries of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, at Central Press of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Information Ministry on Theinbyu Street here this morning stressed that the mature society as the whole is responsible for handing down such heritage, tool and contributor to next generations, speaking of the crucial role of MLF in so doing.

The Union Minister said it is quite fortunate that the literacy rate stands at 95.08 per cent though the 26 per cent of the population lives under poverty line according to the statistics of previous year.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi hands over cash donations for Myanmar Libraries Foundation to Chairman of MLF U Maung Maung.

MNA

The education system of monastic schools are particularly grateful, said the Union minister, who also expressed his heartfelt thanks to wellwishers and donors who have made contribution for development of libraries.

He quoted the famous words of German philosopher Goethe, saying "Everyday we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture". He said he believes the sharing-out of experienced people of his aged group would bring much greater benefits if the younger generation would accept the German philosopher's advice.

MLF Chairman U Maung Maung presented K 17,280,000 for sustainability of public book corners across the country. He also donated K 78.7 million for maintenance of libraries across the country and initial fund of K 1 million for establishment of Hmawby Saya Thein Library.

Next, wellwihsers donated cash, periodicals and publications through Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Tint and Chairman of Hmawby Saya Thein Library Committee U Nay Lin (Maung Cho Wai).

The MLF Chairman said the Information Ministry is setting up public book corners which are achieving success. The foundation is also providing necessities for those corners, said the chairman speaking words of thanks for contribution of the wellwishers.

A total of 66 wellwishers presented K 6,640,000 and 540,685 publications and periodicals.

MNA

Myanmar golfers leave for Scotland

YANGON, 26 May—A Myanmar youth golf team left here by air yesterday evening to take part in the 2013 European Championship to be held in East Lothian of Scotland from 28 to 30 May.

The golf team comprised team captain Joint General Secretary of Myanmar Golf Federation U Myo Tun, women golfers Yin May Myo and Thin Wai Khaing and the latter's caddy Tun Aung Khaing.

Yin May Myo secured the first prize in the US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia 2012, in which over 400 youth golfers from 22 countries participated, at Saujanu Golf & Country Club, Selangor of Malaysia from 3 to 7 December 2012.

Thin Wai Khaing won the fourth prize. Therefore, the two were invited to take part in the championship.

It was reported that over 500 golfers will participate in the 2013 European Championship.

NLM

LOCAL NEWS

PRIZE AWARDED: ***The prize presentation of the Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman's Cup National Hockey League 2013, jointly organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, was held at Theinbyu Hockey Turf Pitch on 25 May afternoon. Vice-Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik presents championship trophy to Ministry of Defence (Youth) team.—NLM***

Ananda replica pagoda in Kawthoung fixed with new religious objects

KAWTHOUNG, 26 May—A replica pagoda of Bagan Ananda Temple was hoisted with new Pennant-shaped Vane and Diamond Orb atop on it on 24 May in Kawthoung.

The pagoda is 61 feet and three inches high and is built on the hillock at an altitude of 400 feet in the compound of Shwepyitha Monastery in Shwepyitha Ward of Kawthoung.

The hoisting of pennant-shape vane and diamond orb cost K 21,500 million contributed by Shwepyitha Sayadaw.

The previous pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb hoisted atop the pagoda were stricken by lightning on 24 April.—*Kyemon*

CRIME

Over 25 grams of heroin seized in Mawlu

MAWLU, 26 May—An anti-drug special squad, acting on tip-off, searched a house in Mawlu Village, Manhe Village-tract in Indaw Township, on 22 May, seizing 25.6 grams of heroin.

A squad searched the shop of Ma Thin Thin Wai, 33 with a warrant.

And they seized a package contained 0.1 gram of heroin hidden under the table, a plastic bottle contained about seven grams of heroin and a package of heroin weighing 18.5 grams hidden in a soap can buried at the back of her house.

Mawlu Police Station has taken action against her under Sections 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon

Man charged for fire in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 26 May—A man was charged after a fire broke out at his house in Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay on 23 May. The plastic chair caught fire from a mosquito coil and spread to another chairs and the ceiling of the house. The fire was managed under control at 2.10 pm, 20 minutes after it started, said officials.

U Tin Htay, 54, owner of the house was charged by No 8 Police Station under the Criminal Section 285. Similarly, a small fire caused by a child playing with fire broke out in Mahaaungmyay Township at 9 am on 24 May.

Kyemon

Summer paddy gets good price

YADESHE, 26 May—U Aung Zaw Moe from Paukchaung Village in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District who grew 15 acres of summer paddy said that summer paddy got good price.

"Paddy was sold at 270,000 kyats per 100 baskets last year. This year, I grew Thailand paddy strain and one acre can produce over 100 baskets. The price of paddy is K 470,000 per 100 baskets. We, farmers are happy because of the good price," said U Aung Zaw Moe.

Kyemon

DEVELOPMENT

Road to Yangon West University concreted

YANGON, 26 May—Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon City Development Committee is concreting the main roads and streets one after another in Yangon municipal area for ensuring secure and smooth transport for the city dwellers.

As part of efforts to implement the plans of the government, officials of Htantabin Township Development Affairs Committee of Yangon North District in Yangon Region is repaving the damaged road which is seven miles and six furlongs long from Ayeywalay of Htantabin Township to Yangon West University.

The road is being concreted. At present, the three miles and one furlong long section of the road has been upgraded to 14 feet wide and 10 inches thick concrete one. On 19 May, the concreting works reached Sibintha Village of the township.

Kyemon

Padeegon of Thegon Township gets self-reliant transformer

PYAY, 26 May—A ceremony to launch one 200 KVA transformer and 9800 feet long 11 KV 400 volt power line on a self-reliant basis was held in Nyaungwun and Letpanbinlay villages of Padeegon area of Thegon Township in Pyay District of Bago Region (West) on 24 May morning.

In Nyaungwun Village, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Soe Lwin spoke on the occasion. Padeegon Township Electrical Engineer U Sann Lwin explained matters related to electrification and member of Village Electrification Committee U Aye Thaik, financial statement.

Chairman of Village Electrification Committee U Myint Thein spoke words of thanks.

Later, officials launched the transformer for supplying electricity to the local people.—*Kyemon*

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

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

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

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

Diet session to end on 26 June, lower house poll to be set on 21 July

TOKYO, 26 May—The government and the ruling parties decided not to extend the ongoing session of parliament scheduled to end 26 June, effectively setting the upper house election on 21 July, senior lawmakers of the ruling camp said on Saturday.

They have concluded there is no need to extend the Diet session after having paved the way for passing key bills including one aimed at addressing a vote value disparity. With the term for half of the House of Councillors expiring on 28 July, the election is almost certain to be set on 21 July given a minimum time period required under the law between the public announcement of the election and the voting day.

One of the senior lawmakers said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is forming election strategies on the assumption a Diet session extension will not be needed. Shigeru Ishiba, secretary general of Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said in a speech in Saga city, southwestern Japan, the election will be announced on 4 July for voting on 21 July "unless extraordinary circumstances arise."

Kyodo News

Hashimoto to urge 'strict discipline' for US military

TOKYO, 26 May—Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto said on Sunday he would urge the US military in Japan to enforce strict discipline for its servicemen while reiterating he would retract his earlier remark suggesting they use Japan's adult entertainment industry in order to prevent them committing sex offenses.

Hashimoto said on a TV programme that he would make the request at a Press conference slated for Monday at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, where he would also retract the remarks about the US military in Japan relating to the adult entertainment industry, and offer an apology to the US-people and military.

"I will urge (the United states and the US military) to enforce strict discipline in a full-fledged manner," at the Press conference, Hashimoto, who co-heads the opposition Japan Restoration Party together with former Tokyo Gov Shintaro Ishihara, said.

On Saturday, Hashimoto said he will retract his remark and make the apology at Monday's conference.

He repeated his excuse that it had been his intention to urge the US military to "be more responsible" amid a rising number of sexual assaults within the US military against female soldiers.

"The situation within the US military concerning the sexual assault against women soldiers has been horrible and President (Barack) Obama is outraged about it," Hashimoto said in explaining the background and intention of his controversial remark. Meanwhile, he reiterated that he had no intention of retracting his remark that the system to recruit women into sexual servitude "was necessary" to maintain discipline in the Japanese military during World War II.

On 13 May, Hashimoto said it should be understood that such women were necessary for brave soldiers who had been at the front line of the war. He also said that, when he visited Okinawa to inspect the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in late April, he asked a senior US military officer based in the prefecture to let Marines use

local adult entertainment services. Hashimoto's remarks have drawn criticism in and outside Japan, including from the US State Department.—*Kyodo News*

Released Indian fishermen wait for immigration clearance at Wagah Border in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 25 May, 2013. Pakistan on Friday freed 45 India fishermen on humanitarian grounds as a goodwill gesture, officials said. Pakistan and India routinely arrest fishermen after they cross the maritime boundaries for fishing. XINHUA

Artists dance during the second day of the three-day Mid and Far West Tourism festival in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 25 May, 2013.—XINHUA

China's energy demand to peak in 20 years

XIAMEN, 26 May—China will see its energy demand peak between 2030 and 2035 on the back of expanding industrialization and urbanization, Zhong Ziran, chief engineer of the Ministry of Land and Resources, forecast on Saturday.

The country's energy consumption will grow at an annualized pace of 4.5 percent in the next 20 years, with the accumulative demand for coal, oil and natural gas at 82.6 billion tonnes, 12 billion tonnes and 5.8 trillion cubic meters, respectively, Zhong said at a work conference.

In 2012, China, the world's largest energy user, consumed 3.62 billion tonnes of standard coal equivalent, up 3.9 percent year on year, official data showed.

Over 60 percent of the power driving China's economy comes from coal, which has resulted in serious pollution problems that are forcing China to explore cleaner sources of energy.

Oil and natural gas accounted for roughly 20 percent of the energy consumption.

A report released by China National Petroleum Corporation indicated that China's dependence rates on imports of crude oil and natural gas stood at 56.6 percent and 29 percent, respectively, posing severe challenges for the country's energy security.

Xinhua

17 killed, 20 injured in Naxalite attack on Congress convoy in central India

NEW DELHI, 26 May—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the ruling Congress party have condemned the horrific attack on party leaders by left-wing Naxalite rebels in the central state of Chhattisgarh, in which at least 17 people were killed and more than 20 others injured.

A group of armed Naxalites Saturday ambushed a Congress party convoy at Dharba Valley in the state ruled by the country's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), killing 17 people on the spot and abducting a senior leader along with his son, according to a senior police official.

"All the injured, including former central Minister and senior Congress leader VC Shukla, are currently being treated in various hospitals," he said, on condition of anonymity.

The prime minister has strongly condemned the horrific attack and offered all kinds of assistance to state Chief Minister Raman Singh. He is due to visit the injured Sunday.

Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi has described it as "an attack on democracy" while her son and party vice president Rahul Gandhi is currently camping in state capital Raipur. "The Congress party stands by the families of the victims," he told the media.

Meanwhile, local Congress workers have staged demonstrations throughout the night in Raipur and called a 24-hour closedown of Chhattisgarh to protest against the state government's inadequate security arrangements for the

Congress leaders who were ambushed while returning from a political rally.

Xinhua

Local people in traditonal costumes dance to pay their tribute to the ancestor of tea during the opening of 2013 International Tea Convention in Pu'er, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 25 May, 2013. The convention that opened on Saturday aims to promote tea culture around the world.—XINHUA

5.6-magnitude quake hits Kepulauan Barat Daya, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 May—An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted Kepulauan Barat Daya, Indonesia at 10:32:53 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 86.30 km, was initially determined to be at 7.5551 degrees south latitude and 127.9245 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Philippine troops on high alert for Abu Sayyaf retaliatory attacks

COTABATO, (Philippines), 26 May—Security in the southern Philippine Province of Sulu have been placed on heightened alert on Sunday for possible retaliatory attacks of Muslim terrorist group Abu Sayyaf as the death toll in the fierce gun battle between Marines and the radical group reached 12.

The troops were pursuing the militants and a retaliatory attack may occur as the Abu Sayyaf suffered severe casualties during an encounter in the hinterlands of Patikul, said Chief Superintendent Noel Delos Reyes, head of police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

He ordered all troops in the province to take precautionary move to prevent any diversionary attacks that may be carried out by Abu Sayyaf since one of their fatalities was the son of Abu Sayyaf leader Adzmar Sawadjali.

"They might stage bombings and kidnappings to distract the attention of our police and soldiers pursuing them," Reyes said.

At least seven Marines and five Abu Sayyaf have been killed in the gun battle on Saturday in Tugas village. Nine other Marines and about 10 Abu Sayyaf fighters were wounded.

Troops were on mission against militants involved in recent kidnapping incidents in Sulu when they encountered Abu Sayyaf militants. The 380-strong Abu Sayyaf group, founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is one of the major anti-government forces in the Philippints. The group is notorious for kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decade.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

*Graduating cadets toss their hats during the graduation ceremonies at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, the United States, on 25 May, 2013. 1,007 cadets graduated on Saturday from the famous military academy founded in 1802.—*XINHUA

Two killed as heavy rains flood San Antonio streets

SAN ANTONIO, 26 May —Two women were killed on Saturday as drenching rains in San Antonio triggered floodwaters so strong they swept cars and a city bus off the street and forced the rescue of some 130 people, officials said

The flooding, which followed torrential rains that brought flash-flood warnings across South Texas, inundated a number of major thoroughfares in San Antonio and collapsed the roof of an apartment complex.

Several dozen people were evacuated after water rose rapidly through a neighbourhood near the Mission Espada, one of the 18th century Spanish colonial missions that dot the city's south side along the San Antonio River.

Priscilla Ingle, vice president of the city's Via Metro Transit, said rescue teams had to pull the driver of a city bus and three passengers to safety, and bus service was shut down until the water receded to safer levels. "The bus was driving down the street when water got under its tires," Ingle said. "This forced the bus off the street as the water rose."

Authorities said they rescued a total of 130 people before the floodwaters began to subside.

A 29-year-old woman was killed in the city when her car was washed into a creek as she tried to drive across a bridge, police said. A male passenger in her car survived.

A second woman, who was in her 60s, died when a flood surge washed her and her car away as firefighters were trying to pull her from the swamped vehicle, San Antonio Fire Department spokesman Christian Bove said.

Neither victim was immediately identified by authorities.

"We ask San Antonians to please stay off the roads and stay at home," Mayor Julian Castro said.

Flash-flood warnings were in effect across south-central Texas, including in San Antonio, through Sunday morning, with downpours of 2 to 4 inches expected on Saturday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

Bove said the roof of an apartment complex collapsed from accumulated rainfall and that firefighters had been called to several fires believed to have been caused by lightning.

Reuters

Landslide kills seven in NW China

XI'AN, 26 May—Seven people died and 12 others were injured after a landslide buried a dormitory building in northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Saturday morning, local authorities said.

The landslide happened around 10 am in Cangcun Township of Huangling County, burying a two-story dormitory owned by a coal mine, according to the county's publicity bureau.

The rescue had completed as of 7 pm, and the injured have been sent to a local hospital, the bureau said.—*Xinhua*

Latin American economic bloc removes some tariffs

SANTIAGO, 26 May—A Latin American economic bloc that includes Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Chile has agreed to remove tariffs on 90 percent of the products traded among members.

"We have established a deadline by 30 June to write the agreement's document and afterwards each country's Congress should approve it," Chilean President Sebastian Pinera told reporters on Friday after the seventh Pacific Alliance (PA) Summit ended on Thursday in Cali, Colombia. The four Pacific Alliance members agreed at the summit to hold trade talks on 19 June in Cali, Colombia, focusing on small- and medium- businesses and industries.—*Xinhua*

China to continue developing strategic partnership with Ecuador

QUITO, 26 May—The Chinese government's Special Envoy Chen Lei said Saturday that his country is willing to further develop bilateral strategic partnership with Ecuador during a meeting with Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ricardo Patino in Quito, the capital city of the South American country.

Chen, also the minister of water resources, was here to attend Friday's inauguration ceremony of Ecuadorian President Rafeal Correa at the invitation of the Ecuadorian government.

Chen congratulated on the president's inauguration and conveyed the best wishes from Chinese President Xi Jinping. He said that the Chinese government attaches great importance to developing ties with Ecuador and is willing to further strengthen friendly relations and to consolidate communication and cooperation in international affairs.

For his part, Patino thanked China for sending a special envoy to attend Correa's swearing-in ceremony and spoke highly of the new progress in bilateral ties, adding that Ecuador is ready to enhance bilateral cooperation and further promote friendly exchanges between the two countries.

The two sides reached a consensus in further strengthening strategic cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, finance, energy, telecommunications, infrastructure and water resources.

Ecuadorian Coordinating Minister of Strategic Sectors Rafael Poveda, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Esteban Albornoz, and Chinese Ambassador to Ecuador Wang Shixiong also attended the meeting.

Xinhua

Chinese Visual Festival opens in London

LONDON, 26 May—A festival of Chinese film, documentaries, and art which opened in London on Saturday will bring the changing face of China to a wider audience.

"They provide people who are interested in China a very rich resource for research about Chinese social development," said Zhan *Xuhua*, co-organizer and art director of the festival.

The festival, in its third year, has expanded to its largest size yet.Subjects covered include mental health, Chinese opera, punk music and hospitals in China.

There are also a series of talks and events showing the rapid change of China and how documentary makers changed the perception of China.

"Thanks to the support of King's College, we have been able to invite artists and directors to the festival for talks and panel discussions. These are important because they help audience understand the films and the art," Zhan said.

The festival, organized by China Culture Connect in partnership with King's College (part of London University) runs until 1 June.—*Xinhua*

*An auction of the Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art is held by Christie's in Hong Kong, south China, on 25 May, 2013. The five-day Christie's 2013 spring auctions kicked off in Hong Kong on 25 May.—*XINHUA

A young mother and her child have fun in a rape flower field in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 May, 2013. Rape flower blossom in the outskirt of Beijing attracted city dwellers over the weekend.
XINHUA

Bomb in Yemeni military vehicle kills two and injures six

ADEN, 26 May—A remotely-detonated bomb planted in a military vehicle killed a soldier and a civilian and injured six other soldiers in the Hadramaut region of eastern Yemen on Saturday evening, a local security official said.

The explosion took place in the town of al-Shehr as the vehicle drove along a main road, the official said. He added Islamist militants were suspected of the bombing.

Militants seized control of swathes of south and east Yemen during the political chaos of the Arab Spring in 2011. They instituted Islamic law in captured towns and allied with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, seen in the West as the movement's most dangerous wing.

Yemeni armed forces and pro-government tribal militias backed by the US ousted Islamists from major towns last year, but fighting persists.

Stability in lawless, impoverished Yemen is a priority for Washington, which wants to prevent al-Qaeda using it as a base to plot international attacks.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Cambodian documentary wins Cannes prize for innovative cinema

CANNES, 26 May—A documentary using small clay figures to tell the story of how Cambodian filmmaker Rithy Panh's family perished under the Khmer Rouge regime won the top prize in the second most important competition at the Cannes film festival on Saturday."L'Image Manquante" (The Missing Picture) was among the 18 films that premiered in the Un Certain Regard category that was set up to encourage emerging and innovative filmmakers and run alongside the main competition at the world's top film festival.

Panh, 49, a prolific filmmaker whose films concentrate on the brutality in Cambodia when an estimated 1.7 million people were killed during the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge regime, said the prize was important for his country. "For a country that has emerged from its difficulties and years of war, it is important to say we are still alive," Panh told *Reuters* after receiving his award at a red carpet ceremony in the French Riviera resort. The jury led by Danish director Thomas Vinterberg, whose film "Jagten" (The Hunt) won Mads Mikkelsen the best actor award at Cannes last year, described the documentary as "one of the most powerful films I have seen in many years".

The runner-up was "Omar" by Palestinian director Hany Abu-Assad, a political thriller involving Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in which a young baker, Omar, is tortured by Israel's secret police to betray his friends. "Omar", which was shot in the West Bank and Israeli-Arab town of Nazareth last year, received a standing ovation at its premiere as the first film fully funded by the Palestinian cinema industry. "It is the only festival that I think still cares about different films," said Abu-Assad, known for the 2005 award-winning film "Paradise Now", as he received his award.

Reuters

Oklahoma singer Shelton to headline 29 May tornado relief benefit

Blake Shelton performs "Sure Be Cool If You Did" at the 48th ACM Awards in Las Vegas, on 7 April, 2013.
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 26 May —Oklahoma country singer Blake Shelton said on Friday that he will headline a concert to benefit the victims of the Oklahoma tornado that swept through the city of Moore earlier this week, leaving 24 dead and thousands homeless.

Shelton, a native of Ada, Oklahoma, which is 75 miles northwest of Moore, said the "Healing in the Heartland: Relief Benefit Concert" will be held on 29 May at the Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City, and will be televised live at 9 pm EDT on NBC.

The singer, 36, also recruited Grammy-winning country stars Reba McEntire, Vince Gill, and Miranda Lambert—Shelton's wife—for the concert. It will raise money for the United Way of Central Oklahoma May Tornadoes Relief Fund, to aid long-term recovery efforts. McEntire and Gill are also Oklahoma natives.

Tickets are $25 each, and go on sale on 25 May. "Everyone has their way to help, and mine as an entertainer is to perform to help raise money and awareness for this tragedy. This is why I want to do this special and especially hold it in Oklahoma City, which is near ground zero," Shelton said in a statement.

Shelton, who is currently a judge on NBC's reality television show "The Voice," performed a tribute song with Lambert at the start of Tuesday's show. Last November, NBC's star-studded telethon with Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel for the victims of Superstorm Sandy helped raise more than $23 million, while ABC's "Day of Giving" event raised more than $10 million for the American Red Cross. NBC is a unit of Comcast Corp.

Reuters

***Beyonce Knowles and Lady Gaga came together in 2010 with Telephone.*—PTI**

Lady Gaga to make live comeback at Beyonce Knowles concert?

LONDON, 26 May—Pop star Lady Gaga is reportedly planning a live comeback three months after being diagnosed with synovitis, a severe inflammation of the joints. In February, Gaga, 26, was forced to cancel the remainder of her Born This Way US tour due to a labral tear of her right hip, which left her unable to walk.

Gaga will make her long awaited return during Beyonce's Mrs Carter world tour, when it reaches New York in the summer, reported *Sun* online. An email was reportedly sent by concert listings website Songkick describing that Gaga had been lined up to perform with Beyonce on 3 August.

Shortly after cancelling her tour, Gaga, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, was hospitalized to undergo hip surgery. The procedure was ultimately a success. Beyonce and Gaga collaborated back in 2010 for the hit song Telephone, which Gaga had originally written for pop star Britney Spears.—*PTI*

Polanski's Venus seduces on last day of Cannes festival

CANNES, 26 May—An avenging Venus settling the psychological and sexual score is the star of acclaimed director Roman Polanski's "La Venus a la Fourrure" ("Venus in Fur"), one of the Cannes film festival's two final movies in main competition to premiere on Saturday.

The French-Polish director is one of 20 vying for the top Palme d'Or prize to be handed out at the festival on Sunday by a jury led by Steven Spielberg. Polanski won the prize in 2002 for "The Pianist", his semi-autobiographical drama about the Warsaw Ghetto, for which he also won an Oscar for best director."

I think when you show a film here, you have to be in the competition, you have to be a sport," Polanski told journalists before the official screening. "And even if I don't get anything I can say, 'Well, I got it already.'"

Also screening on Saturday is "Only Lovers Left Alive," US director Jim Jarmusch's languorous retro-cool vampire film.Frontrunners for top prize at the end of the 12-day festival include French director Abdellatif Kechiche's love story "Blue is the Warmest Colour" — and "Inside Llewyn Davis", US directors Ethan and Joel Coen's story of a struggling singer trying to make it as a folk singer in the 1960s.

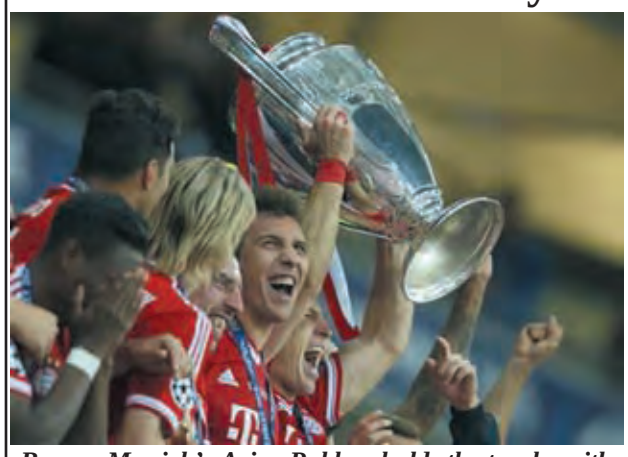
Also on the short list is "The Great Beauty" from Italy's Paolo Sorrentino, a heady, magical ode to the decadence of Rome, and "The Past" a tension-filled psychological drama from Iranian director Asghar Farhadi. The jury of Ang Lee, Vidya Balan, Daniel Auteuil, Lynn Ramsay, Christoph Waltz, Naomi Kawase, Nicole Kidman and Cristian Mungiu will hand out the top prize and a slate of other directing and acting awards on Sunday.

Reuters

***Director Roman Polanski (L) takes pictures as cast members Emmanuelle Seigner (C) and Mathieu Amalric (R) pose during a photocall for the film "La Venus a la Fourrure" (Venus in Fur) at the 66th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 25 May, 2013.*—REUTERS**

SPORTS

Ribery and Robben combine to give Bayern victory



Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben holds the trophy with team mates after defeating Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League Final soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 25 May, 2013.—Reuters

London, 26 May— A brilliant Franco-Dutch move involving Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben in the final minutes settled a memorable all-German Champions League final as Bayern Munich beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 at Wembley on Saturday.

Frenchman Ribery's back heel allowed Dutchman Robben to break through a gap in the Dortmund defence and dance round goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller to score the 89th minute winner. The goal sent Bayern's fans into raptures as their team became European champions for the fifth time to match Liverpool's haul of titles.

Only Real Madrid with nine triumphs and AC Milan with seven have been crowned champions more often. Bayern soaked up almost non-stop Dortmund pressure before going ahead in the 60th minute when Ribery and Robben again combined in the build-up to set up Croatian Mario Mandzukic to hook in with his left foot from close range from a Robben cross.

Dortmund, who fashioned seven scoring chances in the first half, pulled level when Bayern defender Dante clumsily kicked Marco Reus in the stomach eight minutes later with Ilkay Guendogan sending Manuel Neuer the wrong way with his penalty.

But just as the match appeared destined for extra time, Robben, who missed a penalty in last season's final, pounced to collect Ribery's clever back heel and score the winner. "So many people told me I'd score a goal tonight. the first few chances I missed. I got another chance at the end and took advantage of it," said Robben. "It means a lot to me. It's still hard to fathom. I'll be able to put it in words later. There are so many emotions right now, it's incredible." The victory eased the pain of Bayern's defeats by Inter Milan in the 2010 final and the heartbreaking defeat to Chelsea on penalties in their own stadium a year ago as they lifted the European Cup for the first time since 2001.

Bayern's success puts them in touching distance of an unprecedented treble for a German club as they have already been crowned Bundesliga champions and play VfB Stuttgart in the domestic cup final in Berlin next week.

It also means Bayern's 68-year-old coach Heynckes, who is leaving at the end of the season, becomes only the fourth manager to win the European Cup with two different clubs following his earlier success with Real Madrid in 1998.

Reuters

Openly gay Rogers joins Los Angeles Galaxy

Toronto, 26 May— Former soccer international Robbie Rogers has joined Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy, the team said on Saturday, making him the latest openly gay male athlete in an American professional team sport. Rogers, who came out in February on the same day he retired from the game, will be on the Galaxy's roster for Sunday's home match against the Seattle Sounders if his international transfer certificate arrives in time.

"I was afraid to put myself back in a situation where I felt like I was kind of an outcast I guess, or just different from people," Rogers told a news conference at the Galaxy's Home Depot Centre. "But after this whole process I've realized that everyone is a bit different, everyone has their issues." The announcement by the Galaxy comes less than a month after National Basketball Association veteran Jason Collins became the first active athlete from the four major U.S. men's professional sports leagues to come out publicly as gay.

Collins, however, is a free agent and has not played since his announcement after the 2012-13 NBA regular season. Rogers said the watershed announcement by Collins, who received widespread support, including a phone call from President Barack Obama, did not influence his decision to end his brief retirement. "Not for me," said Rogers, who was part of the US team at the Beijing Olympics and narrowly missed out on a place in the US World Cup squad in 2010."For me it was a decision that I had to make on my own."

US midfielder Robbie Rogers (16) is pulled down by Mexico defender Gerardo Torrado during the second half of their friendly soccer match in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 10 Aug, 2011.—Reuters

Rogers, a 26-year-old winger who had spells in England with Leeds United and Stevenage after first making his name in MLS with the Columbus Crew, had been training with the Galaxy for the past three weeks.He most recently played for the United States in 2011 but struggled following a move to English second tier club Leeds in January 2012, being loaned out to third tier Stevenage before being released by Leeds earlier this year.The Galaxy signed Rogers to a multi-year contract after acquiring the right of first refusal for him from the Chicago Fire in exchange for midfielder Mike Magee.

Rogers enjoyed a breakout season in 2008 when he scored six goals, earning all-star honors and helping the Crew win their first MLS Cup championship. "We've been searching for the last year or two for a player that has the skills to be a flank player, play wide, add a little speed to our club," said Galaxy coach Bruce Arena.

Reuters

Girl power no longer a novelty at Indy 500

Indianapolis, 26 May —While Formula One flirts with the idea of a female driver, girl power is already as much a part of the Indianapolis 500 as turbo-charged engines and the winner chugging cold milk in Victory Lane.

Swiss Simona de Silvestro, Brazilian Ana Beatriz and Britons Pippa Mann and Katherine Legge represent the four women who will take the command to start their engines alongside 29 men at the famed Brickyard for Sunday's race.

On the other side of the Atlantic, however, the only women on the starting grid at the Monaco Grand Prix, which will also run on Sunday, will be the glamorous models holding placards with drivers names on them. "It doesn't matter if they are male or female, the car doesn't know the difference," Legge told *Reuters*. "I don't think about it, there are just 32 other drivers out there and me."

KV Racing Technology driver Simona de Silvestro of Switzerland sits on the pit lane wall smiling during a practice session prior to qualifications at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana on 18 May, 2013.—Reuters

Formula One has not had a female driver for decades, with Italian Giovanna Amati the last to try and get on the grid when she failed to qualify in 1992.

The only woman to appear on the score sheet was Italian Lella Lombardi who finished sixth in the shortened 1975 Spanish Grand Prix and was awarded a half point. Development driver Susie Wolff is pushing Williams to give her a proper test and keep alive her distant dream of one day racing alongside the men in Formula One.

Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone has been supportive of her efforts, according to Wolff, even if publicly he has stated that he does not see any woman driver on F1's horizon because there was nobody good enough at present.

Reuters

Kenny Perry stalks Senior PGA Championship title

New York, 26 May —American Kenny Perry is one round away from claiming his first major championship after taking a two-shot lead after the third round of the Senior PGA Championship in St Louis on Saturday. Perry fired a three-under 68 at Bellerive Golf Club to move to 10-under 203 for the tournament, two clear of fellow American Jay Haas (67) who is in second at eight-under. Russ Cochran (71) holds outright third at seven-under with Canadian Rod Spittle (67) fourth at six-under. Australian Peter Senior (69) and Japan's Kohki Idoki (68) remain in the mix in a tie for fifth at five-under.

The 52-year-old Perry, who twice lost in playoffs in golf's regular major championships, has his chance to atone on Sunday. The Kentucky native has two previous wins on the Champions Tour for those over 50 but is yet to win a major. His third round proved a roller-coaster with five birdies, an eagle and four bogeys.

Reuters

Kenny Perry of the US watches his tee shot on the first hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, on 5 June, 2010. Reuters

Warsaw to host the Europa League final in 2015

Warsaw, 26 May— Warsaw will be the venue for the Europa League final in 2015, the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) announced on Friday.

Polish Football Association (PZPN) president Zbigniew Boniek said that he was very glad Poland was granted the organisation of the final and stressed such event would promote Warsaw, Poland, Poles, our culture and soccer.

UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino said that they have decided to go back to Warsaw with excellent memories of Euro 2012 and because it is a fantastic, modern efficient venue in a wonderful city in the centre of Europe.

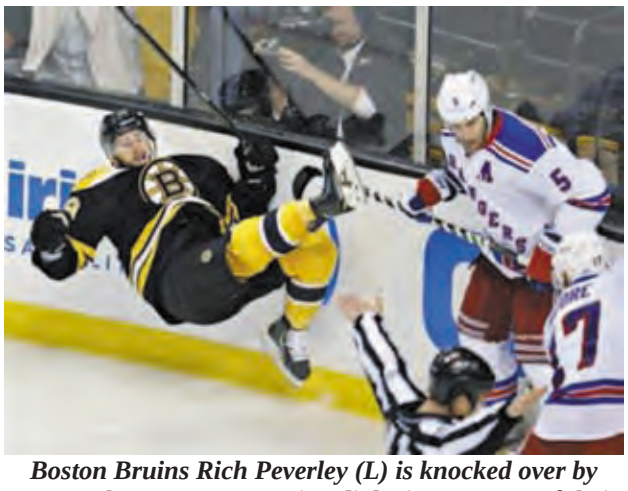
Poland co-hosted Euro 2012 with Ukraine.

Warsaw's National Stadium will be the first time to host a major European final.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Boston to meet Pittsburgh in East Finals



Boston Bruins Rich Peverley (L) is knocked over by New York Rangers Dan Girardi during Game 5 of their NHL Eastern Conference semi-final hockey playoff game in Boston, Massachusetts on 25 May, 2013.
REUTERS

BOSTON, 26 May—The Boston Bruins booked a place in the National Hockey League Eastern Conference Finals against the Pittsburgh Penguins after clinching their series against the New York Rangers with a 3-1 win in Game Five on Saturday. The fourth seed Bruins closed out the series 4-1 against the sixth seeded Rangers to set up the showdown with the top-seeded Penguins for a place in the Stanley Cup Finals.

It is their first trip back to the Eastern Finals since the 2010-11 season where they went on to win the Stanley Cup. Boston fell behind after Dan Girardi scored a power-play goal in the opening period but 22-year-old Torey Krug continued his strong post-season with a power-play goal of his own after three minutes of the second period. It was Krug's fourth goal in his first five play-off games and sparked the Bruins into action.

Gregory Campbell snapped the tie with a goal 10 minutes later and he added a second goal in the dying seconds of the game when he managed to backhand the puck into an empty net despite being hooked right before the attempt."It was a tough series.

They played hard and they are really similar to us," Campbell said. "It was a physical series and most games could have gone either way but we fought hard." Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask saved 28 of 29 shots.

Reuters

Indy 500 tightens security in wake of Boston bombings

INDIANAPOLIS, 26 May —Security at Sunday's Indianapolis 500 will be ramped up as race officials of one of the year's biggest one-day sporting events respond to last month's deadly Boston Marathon bombings.

Officials of the race, which routinely attracts crowds of about 300,000 to the sprawling 2.5 mile oval, said the added security steps include closing traffic on a major route into the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) and banning oversized coolers. While the enhanced security will cause some headaches, the sight of runners who were unable to finish the Boston Marathon completing the distance at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is sure to provide one of the inspirational moments of the day.

About 35 runners will run about one-half mile from Turn Four to one of the most famous finish lines in all of sports—the Yard of Bricks—about 10 minutes before the start of the race. All of the participants in the ceremonial run were prevented from finishing the Boston Marathon as the race was halted when two pressure cooker bombs left at the finish line exploded in a crowd of thousands of spectators and athletes, killing three people and injuring 264 others. "The tragedy last month in Boston still resonates with everyone, so we wanted to give runners the chance to finish the race in front of thousands of fans who will appreciate their persistence and determination," said Doug Boles, IMS chief operating officer.

Reuters

*A general view of the drivers meeting for the Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana on 25 May, 2013.—*REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-5-13 09:30 am ~ 28-5-13 09:30 am) MST

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* Sagaing Hills & Nostalgic Panorama
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* Nature's Hidden Treasure (Mushroom & Mushtoom Species Production)
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Serbian university hosts Chinese language proficiency contest

NOVI SAD, (Serbia), 26 May—A Serbian university on Saturday hosted a national contest to select competitors to take part in the 12th worldwide "Chinese Bridge" competition of international students in proficiency of Chinese language.

The preliminary round of the contest held in Novi Sad University in Northern Serbia gathered participants from Belgrade University, Novi Sad University and Nis University.

Students demonstrated their knowledge in front of professors of Chinese language from both China and Serbia, competing in conversation, expression through artistic skills, knowledge of Chinese culture and civilization.

First place was won by Mila Zekovic from University of Belgrade, runner-up was Milica Jocic from University of Nis and Branislav Sovilj from University of Novi Sad came in third.

The "Chinese Bridge" is an international contest for foreign college students on their mastery of Chinese language. It premiered in 2002 as a plan to introduce Chinese to the outside world.—*Xinhua*

A woman rides in rain in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 26 May, 2013. Many parts in Henan witnessed rainfall since Saturday. Local meteorological authorities issued a yellow alert on thunder.
XINHUA

Neymar agrees to five-year deal with Barcelona

SAO PAULO, 26 May — Brazil starlet Neymar has agreed to a five-year contract with Barcelona and will join the club during this summer's European transfer window, according to local media. The 21-year-old is expected to announce the move after playing his final match for Santos in Brazil's Serie A championship against Flamengo on Sunday, Globoesporte reported. "Neymar has listened to his heart and made a decision," the striker's father Neymar da Silva Santos said on Saturday night. "The time has come for him to play in Europe."

Barcelona is understood to have committed to a 35 million-euro transfer fee, 55% of which will go to Santos and the remainder to investment companies DIS (40%) and Terceira Estrela Investimentos (5%). The decision ends two years of speculation surrounding Neymar's future. In addition to the Camp Nou, reports have linked him to Real Madrid, Chelsea, Manchester United, Manchester City and Juventus. Santos released a statement on Friday night saying the club had accepted offers from Real Madrid and Barcelona, allowing Neymar to choose between the Spanish rivals.

Real Madrid reportedly offered Neymar a salary of 11 million euros a year, four million euros more than Barcelona. But Neymar Snr said he had elected the club that was best for him. "He has chosen a team that suits his style. I'm not going to say who it is now because he wants to make the announcement to the Santos fans. He owes them that and he will be letting them know tomorrow (Sunday). Santos officially received offers from six European clubs, "but he only wanted to know about Real Madrid and Barcelona," Neymar Snr said.

Neymar, is considered the man who will carry the hopes of a football-obsessed nation during next year's World Cup in Brazil. Since breaking into Santos' first team in 2009, he has led the club made famous by Pele to the 2010 Brazilian Cup, 2011 Copa Libertadores and three straight Sao Paulo state championships. He is the club's highest scorer in the post Pele era with 138 goals in 229 matches. Despite declining to speak to the media, Neymar was in a jovial mood on Saturday as he filmed his last Santos training session with his mobile phone and laughed with teammates.

Afterwards he wrote a message on the club's dressing room wall that read: "I'm going but I will be back." He then travelled by helicopter to the coastal town of Caraguatatuba for the wedding of his close friend and Brazil international teammate Paulo Henrique Ganso. Neymar will officially join Barcelona in July following the FIFA Confederations Cup in Brazil from 15-30 June.

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Myanmar, Japan to promote relations in all sectors in future

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party held talks with a Japanese delegation led by Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe at the Presidential Palace here at 11.30 am today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between Yangon University and Nagoya University, cooperation in health system, establishing Japan-Myanmar Legal Center, building infrastructures, investment for development of SMEs, assisting in technology and human resource development, making investment in and providing technical assistance to banking system, development of micro-finance system for farmers for development agricultural sector, issues related to drawing master plan for Yangon City development, development of ring railroad system and traffic system and conservation of historical buildings in Yangon.

President U Thein Sein and party holding discussion with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and party.—MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Lin Aung and Ambassador Mr Mikio Numata sign MoUs on giving new loans of 51.052 billion yen to Myanmar for three development projects in the presence of President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe.—MNA

After the meeting, a memorandum of understanding on human resource development scholarship program and promoting Yangon City water supply system was signed by Deputy Minister Daw Khin San Yi and Japanese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata in the presence of President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr Lin Aung and Ambassador Mr Mikio Numata signed MoUs on giving new loans of 51.052 billion yen to Myanmar for three development projects, on forgiving 12.5 billion yen which is the remaining portion of the 60% of Myanmar's debt to be forgiven and on overdue 176.1 billion yen of Myanmar's debts.

At meeting with the press, President U Thein Sein said on behalf of the government and the people of Myanmar, he warmly welcomed the visit of Japanese Prime Minister and wife to Myanmar as the visit has become the first visit of a Japanese Prime Minister to Myanmar in 36 years and historic one to foster the relations between the two countries.

He also expressed his delight for opening a new chapter between the two countries after the new government took office in Myanmar.

He expressed thanks for the Japanese government and its people for their support for the democratic transition and socio-economic reforms in Myanmar.

He also recounted his visit to Japan in April, last year and the signing of MoU on cooperation between Myanmar and Japan for Thilawa special economic zone during the visit.

Plans are underway to set up Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative as part of efforts for attracting more investment from Japan and for promoting socio-economic development in Myanmar, he said. On behalf of the people of Myanmar, President U Thein Sein expressed thanks to Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe for Japan's strong support to the reforms in Myanmar and for assistance in development of Myanmar's economy, development of rural areas, poverty reduction and human resource development.

The President also said that he and the Japanese PM exchanged views on promoting the bilateral relations, win-win cooperation and regional and international issues.

They also discussed issues related to investment opportunities and potentials to attract Japanese companies.

He also expressed thanks to Japanese government for news loans to Myanmar and forgiving debts.

Afterwards, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe said both Japanese government and private sector are willing to assist in nation building works of Myanmar as they have witnessed that Myanmar government has been making efforts for transition to a democracy, rule of law and reforms.

He also pledged 91000 million yen in new loans to Myanmar, covering infrastructure development in rural areas, promoting socio-economic standard of the people, the rule of law, human resource development, construction and electricity sectors.

He also pledged to promote bilateral relations including political, security and cultural sectors and to promote bilateral cooperation between Myanmar which is rich in natural resources and Japan which has experiences and possesses technology.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe meet the press.—MNA