

President U Thein Sein felicitates Italian President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Dr Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy and Mr Enrico Letta, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2013.—MNA

Narrow gap between urban and rural health care services: President



President U Thein Sein meets Union ministers, Chief minister, deputy minister, patrons, chairperson and members of Public Health Foundation.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—President U Thein Sein called on Public Health Foundation to assist in narrowing the gap of health care service delivery between urban and rural areas as much as possible.

It took one year for the government to form a formal, systematic public health foundation to promote the health standard of people, mentioned the President as he met the patrons, the chairperson and members of Public Health Foundation at Yangon Region government office this evening.

He said he was pleased with the make-up of the foundation constituted with personalities of great experience in health and social sectors at home and abroad. The foundation is responsible to assist in the work programmes of

the State government and Health Ministry to improve the health care service delivery to the people, he said, calling on the foundation to cooperate in good faith with the Health Ministry in promoting the health standard of the nation.

He noted the some examples of similar but borderless NGOs from private sector in other countries, adding that such NGOs have technical and financial advantages and are offering assistance in developing countries including Myanmar. However, those NGOs being funded by mainly the public contribution would like to bring direct benefits to the people and prefer to interact with similar organizations rather than governments concerned, not wanting to intervene in internal

political affairs.

He hopes the foundation to be able to promote the health standard of the people through networking with health-related NGOs worldwide. He called for formulation of a draft regarding the foundation and submission of it at the forthcoming parliamentary session.

He warned against the unchanged trend of 3D—malaria, TB and AIDS—despite concentrated efforts on control of those diseases, demanding greater efforts. He also spoke of the need to control better such life-threatening diseases as cancer, heart attack, hypertension and diabetes.

He called on the foundation to assist in bridging the gap of health standard between urban and rural regions as much

as possible. He also urged the foundation to help with health knowledge, and personal hygiene of rural folks.

He suggested that determined efforts should be put into a particular sector rather than undertaking sector-wise measures. He also spoke of the need to function according to the law and regulations.

Chairperson of Public Health Foundation Dr Than Sein elaborated on organizational structure, functions, interaction with local and foreign organizations, future plans and financial status of the foundation.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe

"The President called on the foundation to assist in bridging the gap of health standard between urban and rural regions as much as possible"

Thane, U Tin Naing Thein and foundation patron Dr Ko Ko Gyi gave account of the foundation.

In his guidance, the President called on the foundation to turn itself into a reliable organization in promoting the health standard of the country with devotion to longevity of its citizens. He also asked the foundation to cooperate with GPs abroad and social organizations, calling for systematic expenditure of

the fund. He also promised government assistance, urging the foundation to assist in promoting the health standard of people through establishment of worldwide links with local and foreign organizations.

Public Health Foundation was founded as a social organization on 21 December, 2012 and its mission is said to be to work toward ensuring equal public access to health care service nationwide.—MNA

He wards off natural disaster

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

When you visit prominent pagodas or Buddhist temples in Myanmar cities or towns, you are sure to find a statue of a gilt Buddhist monk in a sitting posture, with his right hand in a rice alms bowl, preparing a mouthful of rice food, and his face looking at the sky, watching the position of the sun.

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Sri Lanka, Thailand to
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Self-reliant school building
opened in Yedashe Tsp

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Third Myanmar Job Fair kicks off



NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — The opening of the Third Myanmar Job Fair, organized by Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, took place at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisaya Road in Dagon Township, yesterday.

Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint spoke words of

thanks for conducting the Job Fair aimed at creating job opportunities for the youths. The onus is on the government and private sectors to ensure youth employment. Such kind of job fair serves as a platform for both employers and employees.

He called for human resources development through job fairs. Next, Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Hla Myint, Re-

gion Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo and officials formally opened the Fair. Then the Union minister and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the Fair. Afterwards, the Union minister, the chief minister and party viewed round the Fair.

MNA

Motorbike accident kills one, hurts other one in Myinmu

MYINMU, 1 June — Myinmu Township police station said that they had a report of a motorbike accident at a place between mile post Nos(41/4) and (41/5) on Mandalay-Myinmu road near Nabekyu rest house in Myinmu Township on 28 May morning and they rushed there.

Police found U Win Swe dead, bleeding from his ears and nose at the scene. The fatal incident happened to the motorbike

driven by Maung Tun, 27, of Pauk Township together with U Win Swe while the motorbike crashed into a tree by road as it plunged off the road due to excessive speed.

Maung Tun, the motorcyclist, had suffered injuries and he was taken to Myinmu hospital. Myinmu police station charged the motorcyclist with dangerous driving.

Kyemon-Ko Ko
Ning-Myinmu

Overtaken bus kills one passenger in Kawthoung District

KAWTHOUNG, 1 June — A passenger bus en route to Myeik from Bokpyin had caught into an overturned car accident at mile post No (102/2-3) near Nantaung Village in Pyigy Mandine sub-township in Kawthoung District of Taninthayi Region at about 8.50 am on 23 May.

The bus carrying 51 passengers—23 men, 24 women and four children— of Myeik Tagun bus line overturned on

the road between Bokpyin and Myeik. The rollover passenger bus accident left one young man killed and six men and eight women injured. The victim was identified as Maung Phyo Soe, 18.

Local authorities and a rescue team rushed there and transported the injured to Pyigy Mandine hospital and Bokpyin Township hospital.

Kyemon-Kyaw Soe-
Kawthoung

Fire reduces houses to ashes, leaves victims homeless in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 1 June — A fire broke out in a house in Minte Ekin ward in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay at about 9 am yesterday.

The fire is believed to have started from an overheated iron which was left unattended in a state of being plugged into the socket at the house of Daw Yee Yee Htay who left home for Thabeikkyin at about 8.50 am as her husband telephoned her to go there.

The fire swept through the whole house and spread to two huts in the same

FIRE

compound and two nearby houses, leaving four households homeless.

Fire crews accompanied by 20 fire trucks of Mandalay Region Fire Services Department managed to bring the fire under control in cooperation with auxiliary fire bridge members and local people. No (5) police station filed a lawsuit against Daw Yee Yee Htay with fire negligence.

Kyemon -Ba Oo



Drowsy driver causes car accident on expressway

TOUNGGOO, 1 June — A road accident happened to a bus carrying 21 passengers heading from Taunggyi to Yangon on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway near Kyauktaga Township of Bago Region at about 4.30

ACCIDENT

am on 27 May.

The passenger bus driven by Kyaw Naing Linn, 32, skidded out of control and ended up hitting 13 crash barriers and nine cat eyes

Construction of temporary market for New Bogyoke market nearing completion

YANGON, 1 June — As New Bogyoke Market will be upgraded by Yangon City Development Committee in cooperation with Shwedaung Company, a temporary market is being built at the corner of Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Anawrahta Road for the convenience of shopkeepers.

So far construction of the temporary market has been completed by 90 per cent.

“The new Bogyoke market was put into service on 17 December 1980. Now, there are 436 shops in the new Bogyoke market including twenty shops which were opened three years later,” says the chairman of the market development committee. As the wooden market has become old and it is required to build a new

and modern market in the time of the new government, opened tender was invited in 2012. For the convenience of shopkeepers, construction of a temporary market that can hold 436 shops carried out at the place of open market and construction works are nearing completion. Plans are underway to relocate all shops of the new Bogyoke market which is going to be upgraded at the temporary market in June, he

added.

He spoke words of thanks for upgrading plan of the Union government, Yangon Region government and Yangon City Development Committee and Shwedaung Company.

All shopkeepers of 436 shops in new Bogyoke market will be relocated at the temporary market with 436 shops, each shop has an area of eight square feet.

Kyemon-Soe Win-MLA



MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — 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 Dep-

uty 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

in the middle of the road at a place between mile post Nos (77/5) and (77/4). The incident is said to be due to drowsiness of the driver who lost control.

No one was hurt in the

road accident, but the crash caused damage to crash barriers and nine cat eyes. Myotchaung expressway traffic police charged the driver with reckless driving.

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WORLD

UN experts see no increased cancer risk among Fukushima residents



Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO)'s tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant's (R to L) No.4, No.3, No.2 and No.1 reactor buildings are seen in this aerial view photo taken by Yomiuri Shimbun 26 Feb 2012.

REUTERS

VIENNA, 1 June—UN scientists assessing the health impact of the disaster-crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station said Friday their estimates based on data obtained so far show the radiation dose on residents in the region is so low they do not expect to see any increase in cancer in the future but urged that follow-up studies be conducted on residents' health.

The UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation also noted that the prompt evacuation of many residents from areas around

Tokyo Electric Power Co's plant resulted in a reduction of dose they would have received from radioactive substances released after the 2011 accident.

The panel said its dose estimate of radioactive iodine, which is associated with the thyroid cancer, in most cases was below the critical 50 millisieverts, a threshold above which preventive "iodine tablets" are given to young children.

The doses for the whole body are estimated up to 10 millisieverts, much lower than 100 millisieverts of dose considered to increase risks for solid cancers.

In the 1986 nuclear accident in Chernobyl, many children consumed milk with a high iodine concentration, leading to high thyroid doses and an increase in thyroid cancer.

The panel said the quick evacuation of the local population after the accident has reduced the radiation doses for the people by a factor of 10. Radiation doses were also reduced because taking in food contaminated with radioactive substances was prevented. The results presented in the report differ from those in a previous report published by the World Health Organization in February, which warned of higher cancer risks for residents and nuclear power plant workers around Fukushima than the average for the country's entire population.

On this, UNSCEAR said the WHO only had access to data from the first three months after the accident and then calculated the estimates by using models and plausible parameters, while UNSCEAR made use of precise dose distributions from an additional year of time, which helped present updated results.

Kyodo News

Assad forces advance; West, Russia exchange barbs ahead of talks

BEIRUT, 1 June—Forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad tightened their siege of rebels in a strategic town on Friday, in a counter-offensive that is shifting the balance of the Syrian war ahead of a peace conference next month.

Rebels said they had managed to infiltrate new fighters into the town of Qusair on the Lebanese frontier, where they are encircled by Assad's army and his allies in Lebanon's Hezbollah militia who have openly joined the war on his behalf.

The battle comes amid a blizzard of diplomacy ahead of the conference called by the United States and Russia, the first time in a year that the global powers ranged on opposing sides in Syria's civil war have agreed to talk about a way to end it.

If the summons to peace talks in Geneva was intended to calm rhetoric it has had the opposite effect, with Russia and the West issuing tit-for-tat threats to escalate the conflict by sending arms to the warring sides. The two-year war has killed at least 80,000 people and has divided the world and split the Middle East on its dangerous sectarian

faultline between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

Millions of Syrians have fled their homes and sectarian violence is surging in neighbouring Lebanon and Iraq, with recent histories of Sunni-Shi'ite civil wars of their own. Russia and Iran back Assad, a member of the minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam. Western countries, most Arab states and Turkey all back the rebels, mainly drawn from members of the majority Sunni sect.

Moscow suggested on Friday it could speed up the delivery of advanced anti-aircraft missiles to Assad's government to prevent Western intervention,

although it also floated the idea that it could suspend the shipment, turning the missiles into an apparent bargaining chip ahead of the peace talks in Geneva.

French President Francois Hollande said it was unacceptable for Moscow to discuss arming the Syrian government ahead of the peace conference, even as he emphasised the importance of his own and his allies' threat to arm the rebels.

The rebels made major gains in the second half of 2012, seizing swathes of the country from Assad's forces and leading Western leaders to declare that the president's days in power were surely numbered.

Reuters



A damaged military vehicle used by the Free Syrian Army is seen after heavy fighting against the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Lebanon's Hezbollah in the al-Barak area near Qusair town on 31 May 2013.—REUTERS

US may introduce F-35 stealth jets in Dec 2015 at earliest

WASHINGTON, 1 June — The US Defence Department said on Friday it is trying to introduce the F-35 stealth fighters in the military in December 2015, after keeping the country and others concerned such as Japan long guessing about the schedule due to a delay in development. The Marine Corps plans to introduce a model of the F-35 equipped with technology that can

evade radar detection in December 2015 and the Air Force plans to do likewise a year later, a department official said. The US military notified Congress on Friday of the schedule.

Lt Gen Chris Bogdan, who serves as F-53 programme, executive officer in the department, said that the aircraft design and technological capabilities of the F-35

are "sound" and the department "will deliver on our commitments to meet service timelines."

Japan's Air Self-Defence Force plans to get a total of 42 F-35s as its next-generation main fighter jet and introduce four in fiscal year 2016. Israel also plans to use the fighters. The US military stopped short of deciding when to deploy the aircraft due mainly

to a delay in software development. The F-35 aircraft has been developed jointly by the United States, Britain, Australia and six other countries.

Lockheed Martin Corp as a key developer designed three types of the aircraft each for the Navy, the Air Force and the Marine Corps and the US military plans to have about 2,400 units of the aircraft.—Kyodo News

US Kerry says unacceptable for Iran to have nuclear weapon

WASHINGTON, 1 June—US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday he did not have high expectations that an upcoming presidential election in Iran would change the calculus over Tehean's nuclear program, repeating it was unacceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapon.

At a joint news conference with German

Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, Kerry said Iran needs to understand that international patience was waning over the nuclear programme that Tehean says is meant for peaceful purposes. "Every month that goes by gets more dangerous," Kerry said. Westerwelle also said more diplomatic talks were necessary.—Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa at the King Hussein Convention Centre, at the Dead Sea on 26 May, 2013.

REUTERS

Most Americans oppose US military involvement in Syria

WASHINGTON, 1 June —A majority of Americans believe the United States should not use military action to attempt to end the civil war in Syria even if all economic and diplomatic efforts fail, finds a poll released on Friday.

Sixty-eight percent of Americans voiced opposition to US military involvement in Syria, compared to 24 percent who favor such action to try to end the prolonged civil war in Syria, according to the Gallup poll conducted on 28-29 May.

At the same time, 58 percent of Americans say they are not optimistic that the conflict in Syria will be solved through economic and diplomatic means, while 27 percent agree that such efforts will succeed, it shows. Americans also pay less attention to the Syrian civil war, as the poll finds that less than half (49

percent) of respondents say they are following news about the conflict "very" or "somewhat" closely. This is below the historical average of 60 percent for more than 200 news events that Gallup has measured since 1992.

"Thus, Americans seem to have a clear preference for keeping the US military out of the Syrian conflict, given their opposition to such involvement even though they expect that diplomatic efforts will fail to bring peace," Gallup said.

US Senator John McCain, who visited Syria recently, has said he favours providing arms to the anti-government forces there. But so far the US government remains wary of arming Syrian rebels, even after the European Union (EU) on Monday lifted its arms embargo on Syrian rebel forces.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Large asteroid, with small moon in tow, to fly by Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, 1 June—A large asteroid accompanied by its own small moon was approaching Earth on Friday, the latest in a string of celestial visitors drawing attention to the potential dangers of objects in space.

Asteroid 1998 QE2 - which is not named for the United Kingdom's monarch - is about 1.7 miles in diameter, about nine times as long as the Queen Elizabeth II ocean liner.

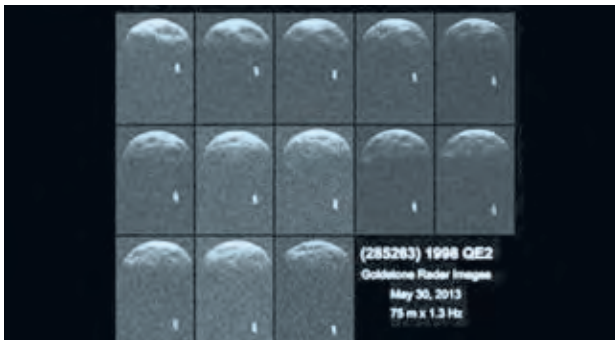
It is far bigger than the small asteroid that blasted through the skies over Chelyabinsk, Russia, on February 15, leaving more than 1,500 people injured

by flying glass and debris.

That same day another asteroid, about 150 feet in diameter, passed about 17,200 miles from Earth - closer than the networks of communication satellites that ring the planet.

At its closest approach, which will occur at 4:59 p.m. EDT (2059 GMT), asteroid 1998 QE2 will be about 3.6 million miles (5.8 million km) from Earth, which is roughly 15 times farther away than Earth's moon.

"For an asteroid of this size, it's a close shave," said Paul Chodas, a scientist with NASA's Near Earth Object programme



The first radar images of asteroid 1998 QE2 were obtained when the asteroid was about 3.75 million miles (6 million kilometers) from Earth, as pictured in this image courtesy of NASA.—REUTERS

office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

NASA is tracking 95 percent of the large asteroids with orbits that come relatively close to Earth. The US space agency, as well as Russia, Europe and others, plans to beef up as-

teroid detection efforts to find smaller objects that could still do considerable damage if they hit a populated area.

Scientists used radar to get a preview of the asteroid on Wednesday and discovered it had a small moon in tow.—Reuters

LinkedIn boosts security, offering similar technology as Twitter

NEW YORK, 1 June—LinkedIn Corp unveiled technology to improve the security of the social networking site for professionals, about a week after Twitter introduced similar tools following a surge in high-profile attacks on its users. The optional service, known as two-factor authentication, is designed to verify the identity of users as they log in by requiring them to enter numeric codes sent via text message.

LinkedIn introduced the service on Friday, about a year after a highly publicized breach that exposed passwords of millions of its users. Some security experts criticized LinkedIn at the time, saying the firm had failed to use best practices to secure its passwords. The site provided instructions to its 225 million users on how to turn on the optional service at <http://linkd.in/1aIFV3D>

Reuters



The logo for LinkedIn Corporation, a social networking website for people in professional occupations, is pictured in Mountain View, California on 6 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Yelp open to partnering with Facebook's rival offering

NEW YORK, 1 June—Consumer review aggregator Yelp Inc, which analysts say could face intense competition from Facebook Inc's "graph search", is open to partnering with the social networking website's latest offering, Yelp's Chief Financial Officer Rob Krolik told Reuters.

Facebook, in January, unveiled its graph search feature, available in a beta version, letting users trawl their network of friends to find everything from restaurants to movie recommendations, bringing it into direct competition with Yelp.

Analysts have viewed this as a big negative for Yelp as companies such as Facebook have a lot of opportunity to imitate smaller companies, and over a larger audience.

"We are actually happy to partner with Facebook (for graph search) if that's something that they're interested in," Krolik said.

Facebook declined to comment on any possible partnership.

Yelp's mobile app

makes it easier for people to discover local businesses. It combines Yelp's reviews and other relevant information with knowledge of the consumer's location. It also allows consumers to "check-in" at local businesses.

Google Inc, through its Google Plus Local product, also recommends businesses to its users based on circles, past reviews, location and allows them to publish reviews and photos of favorite places.

"Facebook and Google and some other players really are attacking the local space via technology," Krolik said.

Krolik said Yelp, which is integrated into Apple Inc's Maps product and their Siri product, would definitely monitor Facebook's graph search and see what it's all about.

"I just don't think people go to Facebook to find a great local business. I think they connect with their friends, see a lot of photos."

Macquarie Research analyst Tom White said it

was not particularly likely that the partnership would happen, because Facebook thinks they have enough data to do it themselves.

He, however said, if it was to happen, it would benefit Yelp, and would cut down competition from Facebook.

"It would mean broader distribution for their reviews, and more people reading their reviews," White said.

"It's not directly a revenue generator, but in theory it would increase the value of advertising on Yelp, just because you're getting it out to more people."

The success of graph search, which will rely heavily on local information, depends on Facebook launching a mobile app. In addition, graph search lacks the depth of review content offered by Yelp.

If Yelp were to partner with Facebook for graph search, the consumer review aggregator would be in a better position to compete with Google, Jefferies analyst Brian Fitzgerald

told Reuters.

Yelp already has a tie-up with Facebook Connect, which allows users to login with their Facebook credentials without having to create separate accounts for different websites.

A Yelp user can see if a Facebook friend has reviewed a business. (r.reuters.com/fyp58t)

Jefferies' Fitzgerald said Yelp could also make a good acquisition target for Apple, Google or Facebook.

"Any one of those guys could acquire Yelp and they would be able to use it pretty productively," he said.

Yelp was founded by former PayPal engineers Jeremy Stoppelman and Russel Simmons as a startup idea in a business incubator in 2004. It has never been profitable since its inception.

Analysts expect the company to post its first profit of 1 cent per share for the first quarter of 2014, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Reuters

Self-sustaining building strives to be Canada's greenest home

TORONTON, 1 June—Imagine living in a home that not only generates its own electricity, but also filters rainwater and turns human waste into fertilizer.

This self-sustaining building is now a reality in the Canadian city of Peterborough, some 150 km east of Toronto. The newly built home that's now up for sale for the price of 649,000 Canadian dollars is as green as it gets, said Chris Magwood, project manager and executive director at the Endeavor Center, a local non-profit sustainable building school.

Painted with a nature-themed palette inside and out, the spacious, open-style layout is not only aesthetically pleasing, but offers up a myriad of innovative and eco-friendly options. Naming their project Canada's Greenest Home, Magwood told Xinhua in a recent interview that they wanted to push the envelope and create something that's never been done before.

"We really wanted to try building a house that had a lot of green components to it, but that met a sort of modern, more conventional appearance, and fit into the regular construction market more than some of the alternative houses that have been done in the past," he said.

The 2,300 square-foot three-bedroom home, complete with a wheelchair accessible main floor and 23 windows - at least two in each room - was built completely from scratch over an eight-month period. Each and every detail was taken into careful consideration, Magwood stressed.

"We really tried to cover all the bases with this one. I myself have been doing green construction for

almost 20 years, and this is sort of the culmination of all that experience," he said, adding "This is the one building where we've been able to put everything together to try to make it the best it can be."

One of the biggest differences between their project and other green homes that already exist is that it doesn't focus on just one aspect of green building, according to Magwood. Instead, it strived to have it all.

The builders integrated a number of mechanical systems into the home to help create a living space that was energy-efficient, had optimal indoor air quality, generated renewable energy and produced minimal waste. Having those features combined all into one building, especially a home, is a rare sight, said Magwood.

One of the big features is the human waste composting system set up in the basement. With the composting toilets using only one tenth of a liter of water per flush, the system not only minimizes water usage, but the easy-to-use and odour-free composter also completely eliminates sewage output by sending all clean compost to the front of the house as fertilizer.

Besides the composting toilets, the house also collects rainwater and treats it so that it doesn't need to rely on city water.

Overall, the house will cost buyers 60,000 to 80,000 dollars more than an average home of that size in the area just because of all the mechanical systems they've built into the home. But Magwood stressed that most of initial cost will be offset by the money saved in the long run.—Xinhua



An exhibitor displays Weenie Bear printed by a 3D printer at China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services (Beijing Fair) in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 May, 2013.—XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

SAC redemptions grow, as Magnitude Capital joins in

NEW YORK, 1 June—Investor redemptions from Steven A Cohen's SAC Capital Advisors continue to mount, with Magnitude Capital emerging as the latest outside investor asking to get money back from the \$15 billion hedge fund.

Magnitude Capital, a fund of hedge funds that manages \$3.1 billion of client money, began redeeming funds in the first quarter of this year and intends to submit another withdrawal notice for the second quarter, according to a person with knowledge of the investment.

Cohen's firm also recently received withdrawal requests from two large institutional investors, Blackstone Group LP and Ironwood Capital, as an insider trading probe focusing on Cohen's firm moves forward.

SAC Capital's second-quarter redemption deadline is Monday 3 June.

Magnitude's investors will have their money back from Cohen's hedge fund by the end of the year, according to that person and

another person familiar with the investment.

Several calls to partners at Magnitude Capital were not returned. A spokesman for SAC Capital declined to comment.

It was not immediately clear why Magnitude had decided to take back its money. The amount of money the firm has with SAC Capital also is not known.

Blackstone, which is the largest outside investor in Cohen's fund, has decided to redeem a significant portion of its roughly \$550 million allocation to SAC, according to a letter from pension consulting firm Russell Investments, which *Reuters* earlier reported on.

The letter said Blackstone decided to submit a redemption notice to SAC Capital after reviewing the terms of a \$616 million agreement SAC Capital reached in March with the US Securities and Exchange Commission to settle allegations that the hedge fund's employees had engaged in insider trading in four stocks.—*Reuters*



An exterior view of the headquarters of SAC Capital Advisors, LP in Stamford, Connecticut, in this picture taken on 13 Dec, 2010.—REUTERS

BDSM practitioners aren't mentally ill

NEW YORK, 1 June—Some good news for people who enjoy restraints, riding crops and floggers in the bedroom: A new study says you probably don't have a mental disorder.

The results "seem contradictory to what the general public and professionals believe," said Andreas Wismeijer of Tilburg University in the Netherlands, who published the study along with Marcel van Asen.

Previous studies had suggested that BDSM activities were linked to mental disorders and vulnerability to abuse, according to the researchers, who published their results in *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*.

But in the new study, researchers found people who like BDSM, which stands for bondage-discipline, dominance-submission and sadism-masochism, were well adjusted and reported slightly better wellbeing than people who don't take part in those activities.

"We do have a lot of academic literature that's finding these positive things and not finding harmful characteristics," said Dr Beverly Stiles, who has studied BDSMers but was not involved with the new research.

"The people that identify as being part of the (BDSM) subculture, this is who they see themselves as

DirecTV, two others bid over \$1 billion for Hulu

LOS ANGELES, 1 June—Satellite operator DirecTV and two other bidders have offered more than \$1 billion apiece to buy Hulu, a source with knowledge of the bidding process said on Friday, increasing the likelihood that owners News Corp and Walt Disney Co will be able to shed the video streaming service they failed to sell in 2011.

Hulu board members, who are being advised by Guggenheim Partners on the auction, fielded at least seven buyout offers last week, the source said.

That number will be whittled down in the next two or three weeks, the source told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity because the process was

private.

It was unclear which two other bidders offered \$1 billion for Hulu. The service has more than 4 million subscribers and generates revenue of about \$700 million through subscriptions and a free ad-supported service.

The proposed price tag heightens the likelihood that News Corp and Disney will find an acceptable offer price, which was the sticking point of the 2011 round of buyout negotiations.

DirecTV spokesman Darris Gringeri declined to comment, as did Meredith Kendall, a spokeswoman for Hulu. Bloomberg first reported the news on Friday.

Sources have said the

China's May manufacturing PMI rises to 50.8

BEIJING, 1 June—China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector rose to 50.8 percent in May from 50.6 percent in April, data from the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) showed on Saturday.

May marked the eighth consecutive month that the PMI figure stayed above 50 percent, which demarcates expansion from contraction, according to a statement of the CFLP.

A modest rise in the May PMI and steady sub-indices suggest the recovering trend in China's economy becomes more obvious, said Zhang Liquan, an analyst from the Development Research Centre of the State Council.

According to the CFLP, the sub-index for production moved up from

52.6 percent in April to 53.3 percent, a major driver of the May PMI and representing expanding output.

Orders received by manufacturers picked up in May, as the sub-index for new orders edged up 0.1 percentage points from the previous month to 51.8 percent.

After tumbling 10.5 percentage points to below-50-percent level in April, the sub-index for purchas-

ing prices of raw materials rebounded 5 percentage points to 45.1 percent in May, indicating improved market expectation, according to Zhang.

The sub-index for raw materials inventories was slightly up 0.1 percentage points from the previous month to 47.6 percent in May, but still marking a fourth consecutive month of shrinking stocks.

The CFLP data also

showed that the employment sub-index for May declined 0.2 percentage points to 48.8 percent, indicating job cuts, while the sub-index for supplier delivery times was unchanged at 50.8 percent.

The official PMI, based on a survey of purchasing managers from 3,000 companies in 21 industries, diverged from the HSBC's flash PMI reading issued last week.—*Xinhua*

Not all very short kids need screening tests: study

NEW YORK, 1 June—Kids who are short for their age but otherwise healthy probably don't need extensive blood tests to determine if a disease is stunting their growth, researchers said in a new study.

Of 235 short kids without symptoms who were referred for specialty testing, just three had a possible diagnosis picked up on those labs, and only one diagnosis — for celiac disease — was confirmed, researchers found.

"Most of the screening tests are for diseases you really wouldn't want to miss, but it's rare that any of

those diseases (would only) present with short stature," said by Dr Stephanie Sisley, who led the study.

Guidelines on short stature from endocrinology groups recommend lab screening for very short children, including those who don't have any problems picked up on a physical exam. That screening includes blood tests for thyroid and growth hormones as well as calcium and other nutrients.

But one of the authors of those guidelines agreed that based on the new findings, kids who are short but have no other symptoms

probably don't need extensive screening.

Sisley and her colleagues reviewed the medical charts of 1,373 short children who were referred to the endocrinology clinic at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre between 2008 and 2011. Of them, 235 were below the third percentile for height and had a normal check-up and no record of having stopped growing.

A 10-year-old girl who is four feet, one inch tall would fall just below the third percentile, for example, as would a six-year-old boy who is three feet, five inches.

Few of those children underwent all tests recommended by the guidelines; the average kid had about two-thirds of them. One was diagnosed with celiac disease — when the body can't process certain grains — and two others had signs of underlying conditions but didn't finish follow-up tests. There were 10 false-positive lab results that didn't pan out on further testing.—*Reuters*



Jason Kilar, CEO of Hulu, participates in the Hollywood Radio and Television Society presentation of "The Digital Chiefs: A Special Conversation on the Future of new Media in the Digital Age" panel discussion in Los Angeles on 8 Sept, 2009.—REUTERS

other bidders are Yahoo, former News Corp president Peter Chernin, private equity firm KKR, cable operator Time Warner Cable, Guggenheim Digital, and Silver Lake Management and talent agency William Morris Endeavor Entertain-

ment in a joint bid. Cable company Comcast is the third owner of Hulu alongside News Corp and Disney, but is precluded from an operational role as a condition imposed on it upon its acquisition of NBC Universal in 2011.—*Reuters*



A nurse takes care of newborn babies at a hospital in Hefei, Anhui Province on 21 April, 2011.—REUTERS

WORLD



South Korean President Park Geun Hye (R) and Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni (L) are seen ahead of their talks at the presidential office in Seoul on 30 May 2013. —KYODO NEWS

US vice president pledges to deepen ties with Brazil

BRASILIA, 1 June—US Vice President Joe Biden promised on Friday during his official visit to Brazil to deepen bilateral relations.

"I leave Brazil with much optimism on the fact that relations can reach another level. We are the first economy in the world, you are the seventh. I hope we can work a lot together," he told a Press conference after his meeting with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on the last day of his three-day visit.

"We're ready for a deeper, broader relationship across the board on everything from the military to education, trade and investment," Biden said.

Biden said he ex-

pressed to Rousseff the will of his country to strengthen relations in all areas.

"I do not think there is any obstacle we cannot overcome," he said, adding that "the interest we have of strengthening relations, which were never distant, is stressed by these visits and meetings."

Biden said one of the goals of his visit was to officially invite the Brazilian president to visit Washington next October.

He promised that the US government would work to issue tourist visas to Brazilians in a faster manner, saying he had talked to the Brazilian authorities to significantly reduce the waiting time for a visa from 12 weeks

to two or three days. "To do that, we are doubling the number of consulate workers."

Biden also praised Brazil for achieving the 'magic' of successfully conciliating economic growth with democracy and social advances.

At the Press conference, Biden was accompanied by his Brazilian counterpart Michel Temer, who said Brazil's foreign policy is never to distance itself from the United States, despite the fact that it has favored the South-South relations.

Biden arrived in Brasilia from Rio de Janeiro after visiting Colombia, and Trinidad and Tobago. This was Biden's fourth visit to Latin America.—Xinhua

German tourist shot and seriously wounded in Rio slum

BRASILIA, 1 June—A German tourist was shot and seriously wounded in the stomach on Friday in one of Brazil's largest slums, where drug traffickers still control areas despite a crackdown in 2011.

Frank Daniel Benjamin, 25, was shot in an alley of the poorest section of the Rocinha slum on Rio de Janeiro's south side, a police statement said. A local resident picked him off the ground and carried him to a police unit from where he was rushed to hospital with a serious wound to the liver.

The shooting added to a recent wave of violence that has hit visitors to Rio, including the brutal kidnapping and rape of an American tourist that shocked the tourist trade.

The violence just

weeks before Rio hosts football games in a warm-up for the 2014 World Cup has raised alarm over the city's ability to control crime and ensure the safety of visitors in a city that will also hold the Olympic games in 2016.

In July, hundreds of thousands of Catholics are expected to descend on Rio to see Pope Francis on his first trip abroad as pontiff.

The recent violence has raised questions about the effectiveness of efforts to "pacify" Rio's large slums by sending in troops and police to dismantle drug-trafficking rings.

The Rocinha slum, part of a shanty town perched on steep hillsides, was "pacified" in November 2011 and now attracts visits by foreign tourists on guided

tours.

The German tourist, however, was shot in the poorest part of the slum known as "Dirty Clothes," where drug traffickers still rule a maze of back alleys that are hard to patrol and tourists normally do not

visit, a police source told Reuters.

A friend who was with the wounded man told police they were surprised in an alley by an armed man who shot at them when they ran off.

Reuters



A policeman patrols the Rocinha slum during an operation against drug dealers in Rio de Janeiro in this 14 Nov 2011 file photo. According to local media, a German tourist was shot on 31 May

REUTERS

EU member states to allow Japanese beef imports from June

TOKYO, 1 June—The European Union member states can start importing Japanese beef from June, with the lifting of a ban due to the Fukushima nuclear accident and mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Japan's agriculture ministry said Friday.

The European Union will only allow Japanese beef that has been processed at slaughterhouses which conform to food security standards.

Concerned with effects of the 2011 nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi

power plant in northeastern Japan, the European Union said beef from 10 prefectures including Fukushima can be exported only if they come with a certificate of inspection that assures consumers that the food is free from radioactive substances.

The rest of Japan's

prefectures are urged to provide certificates showing products' place of origin.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said the European Union in March included Japan in the list of countries that can export beef to the region, but details

about restrictions regarding specific radioactive substances have not been set.

Kobe beef and other high-grade beef brands are expected to draw brisk demand among EU member nations amid the growing popularity of Japanese food.—Kyodo News

Tornadoes hit near Oklahoma City, five dead



Vehicles slowly pass by a semi tractor-trailer, which was blown off the highway by a tornado, in the Eastbound lane of Interstate-40 just east of El Reno, Oklahoma on 31 May 2013. —REUTERS

OKLAHOMA CITY, 1 June—Violent thunderstorms spawned tornadoes that menaced Oklahoma City and its already hard-hit suburb of Moore on Friday, killing a mother and her baby, and officials worried that drivers stuck on freeways could be trapped in the path of dangerous twisters.

The mother and her baby were killed while travelling on Interstate 40, just west of Oklahoma City, when their vehicle was picked up by the storm, said Betsy Randolph, spokeswoman for the Okla-

homa Highway Patrol. The interstate was shut down due to the storm, with multiple crashes and injuries.

National Weather Service meteorologists at one point declared a tornado emergency for parts of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, including Moore, and storm spotters were tracking a tornado in the western suburb of Yukon.

One twister touched down on Interstate 40 and was headed toward Oklahoma City. A tornado also touched down in Moore, which was hit by a massive EF-5 twister last week that killed 24 people.

"The Interstate is at a standstill," Randolph said. "We are begging people to get off the Interstate and seek immediate shelter ... We are in a dire situation."

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin told CNN that motorists stuck on any freeway in the path of a twister should try to go in the opposite direction to where the twister was coming from.

"What we saw from the tornadoes that came through Moore and the other ones last week was that people who were in cars on the Interstate were killed," Fallin told CNN.

MNA/Reuters

Indian chains worry phone, tablet makers give top terms to e-tailers

MUMBAI, 1 June—Brick and mortar electronics retail chains in India say heavy discounting by online retailers is hurting them and they have asked manufacturers to take measure to stop such deals, the *Economic Times* reported on Friday. The chains such as Future Group's eZone and Reliance Digital have asked brands including Samsung, Nokia, Apple and BlackBerry to impose strict pricing policies on popular Indian e-tailing websites such as Flipkart, Infibeam and Snapdeal.

"Indiscriminate discounting by online stores affects our sales to quite an extent," said Rajan Malhotra, president of India's

largest listed retailer Future Group, which runs 38 eZone stores.

"If we get pushed due to such discounting, we definitely have to push back with the brands," he said while confirming his firm has taken up the issue with the manufacturers.

The Apple iPhone5 16GB, for example, is available online for Rs 40,950 (\$725) while at retail chains and Apple's own stores it is sold for Rs 45,500. Brian Bade, chief executive at Reliance Retail's electronics retailer Reliance Digital, said the brands need to take a tough stand against online deals that hurt the regular retail business.

Kyodo News

LOCAL NEWS

Thitlaylon high school branch upgraded to full-fledged BEHS



Opening ceremony of upgraded Basic Education High School of Thitlaylon village in progress.

MYINMANA, 1 June—The ceremony to upgrade Basic Education High School (branch) of Thitlaylon village in Pyinmana

Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to a full-fledged Basic Education High School was held on 29 May morning.

Village-tract administrator U Pho Ni, headmistress Daw Yin Hla and townselder U Myint Swe formally opened the

Abhidhamma course conducted in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—Mandalay Region Women's Affairs Organization conducted Ngwe Hla Yadana Abhidhamma crash course from 18 to 22 May at Basic Education High School No (4) in Chanayethazan

Township of Mandalay Region.

Patron of Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Myat Ngwe delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

The trainer of the

course was Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Daw Khin Thanda Oo.

The course was completed by 350 members of township WAOs in Mandalay District.

MMAL-Ko Thet Htway

School band course concluded in Mohnyin



Myaingthaya Basic Education High School Band poses with organizers and trainers at band course concluding ceremony.

MOHNYIN, 1 June—The concluding ceremony of band course was held in Myaingthaya Basic Education High School (Branch) in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State on 28 May morning.

Headmaster of

Myaingthaya Basic Education High School U Hla Thaung delivered a speech at the ceremony. It was also attended by departmental personnel, social organizations members, townselders, trainees and parents.

The course was organized by the headmaster, teachers and alumni. U Tun Shwe of Mohnyin Township gave the training. A total of 110 trainees completed the course.

MMAL-171

Child development workshop held in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 1 June—A workshop to review Myanmar's policies and strategies of early child care development took place at Swan Hotel in Pyigyimythman ward in Chanayethazan Township, here, here on 28 May morning.

Deputy Directors U Aung Tun Khaing and Daw Khaing May Nu of

Social Welfare Department, UNICEF external consultant Ms Emily Vargas-Baron, UNICEF local consultant Dr Thein Lwin, education in-charge Dr Aye Aye Yi, officials of Mandalay Region ministries, officials of region advocate-general office, officials of ethnic and cultural organizations, officials of international and local NGOs were present at

the workshop, making some 70 attendance.

U Aung Tun Khaing extended greetings and Ms Emily Vargas-Baron explained purpose of the workshop.

Those present discussed the drafting of Myanmar child nurturing and growth policy at the two-day workshop through 29 May.

MMAL-040

HRD

school.

There was 150 attendance of members of school board of trustees, social organizations members, parents and students.

"Our Thitlaylon Basic Education High School was opened as Basic Education High School No (2) (branch) since 2004. We are as hearty as parents and teachers for upgrading the school to the (full-fledged) Basic Education High School in 2013-2014 academic year," townselder U Myint Swe said.

MMAL-Min Min Lat (Mandalay University)

ODD NEWS

Abandoned ammunitions found in Monywa

MONYWA, 1 June—Grenades and bullets were found in black plastic bag by Bogyoke street in Kweyi ward in Monywa of Sagaing Region on 30 May morning.

The local battalion seized two grenades and

17 bullets and the police of No (1) Police Station in Monywa the mobile phone in the bag for further investigation.

The Nokia brand mobile has a SIM card inside with no battery.

Myanma Alinn



Illegal teak boards seized in Mansi

MANSI, 1 June—Foresters of Forest Department in Mansi Township in Bhamo District seized illegal teak boards in a Pajero near Namaphwe village on Shweku-Bhamo street, Kachin State, on 28 May morning.

A combined team of Mansi police, foresters and local authorities seized the car carrying the illegally-extracted teak boards.



Mansi police station has opened a case as regards the seizure.—MMAL-Lu Poe (Mansi)

Passenger bag stolen on Mandalay-Myitkyina train

KAWLIN, 1 June—A passenger's bag was stolen on Mandalay-Myitkyina train bound for Mandalay on 22 May morning between Wayonegon village in Kawlin Township in Sagaing Region and Koedaungboe village in Kanbalu Township.

Ma Yi Oolay backusing her sling bag as a pillow on the first-class coach and found her bag abruptly dragged away by a man who jumped down the train and run away about 15 minutes away from the arrival at Kawlin railway station. The bag includes about K 1,560,000 and a mobile phone plus her citizenship scrutiny card. Kawlin police are working on the case.

MMAL-Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlin)

CRIME

Drugs seized in Tamu

TAMU, 1 June—Acting on tip-offs, an anti-narcotics squad led by Police Sub-Inspector Tun Lwin intercepted a Kenbo 125 bike bound for Myothit Sub-Township from Tamu Township, Sagaing Region, on 27 May afternoon.

They seized opium powder, stimulant tablets and other illegal drugs hidden under the seat of the

bike.

Rider of the bike Htan Kho Se of Myothit Sub-Township has been charged with drug-related cases.

Further investigation led to the arrest of two more suspects Aung Naing Tun of Khamaing village and Sein Lin of Kaipyin village in Phaungpyin Township.—MMAL-Win Naing (Tamu)



He wards off natural disaster

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 2 June, 2013

Man behind the wheel

We were shocked by the recent tragedy where 11 died and 16 were wounded in a passenger bus accident on the expressway. This incident was the worst slaughter among the road fatalities occurred on it. An incident of this magnitude is horrifying.

During the past four years, 216 lives were lost in 432 traffic crashes in which 305 cases of reckless driving were the most. Nearly two-third of road accidents with the high number of fatalities and injuries was due to errors of human judgment. So, it can be said that the sheer follies of drivers in going so fast on the road with speed limit contribute a greater percentage of reckless driving cases than others. The end result of the investigations into the recent fatal accident of the passenger bus indicates a speed infringement of the driver.

The errors and stupidities of the speedsters are widely attributed to the unwanted slaughter on the expressway. Excessive speed and drunken driving, drowsiness while driving, a momentary lapse of concentration at turn or at the time of use of mobile phone and a poor judgments on mechanical failures, especially related to faulty brakes and bald tyres, account for a significant number of expressway deaths and injuries. According to facts and stats, 90 per cent of traffic crashes on the expressway are due to the driver's downiness and use of unqualified tyres.

The shocking death toll of passenger bus crash alarm us that concrete actions are critically needed to ensure the expressway as safe as possible. Making it safer calls for action plans of upgrading road safety infrastructure, building engineering safety countermeasures and ensuring improvement in emergency services, enhancement of safety in vehicles and improvement in road user behaviours. Moreover, enhancing penalty for undisciplined vehicles and drunken drivers have to be addressed as bad behaviours of the men behind the steering wheel are often their own worst enemies.

Urban development and management discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—Jointly organized by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction and Asian Development Bank, Talks on Urban Development and Management were held at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday noon, with an address by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin.

Then, Principle In-

rastructure Specialist Mr. Hideki Iwasaki extended greetings.

Technical Advisor Mr. Alistair C Blaunt to Asian Development Bank submitted paper on policy and reforms for urban development in Myanmar, necessities for economic and social development, system for drawing urban planning and made clarification on tactic paper.

MNA

When you visit prominent pagodas or Buddhist temples in Myanmar cities or towns, you are sure to find a statue of a gilt Buddhist monk in a sitting posture, with his right hand in a rice alms bowl, preparing a mouthful of rice food, and his face looking at the sky, watching the position of the sun.

He is sheltered in a shrine like temple with a copper tiled roof. The shrine is placed on a raft afloat in a lake or pond, natural or man-made.

All Myanmar people know that this statue is not Buddha. He is a monk who attained saint-hood in post Buddha's time. He watched the movement of the sun to check if it had reached noon, because monks abstain from taking meal in the afternoon.

He is well-known as Shin Upagote [Shin Upagupta]. He is worshipped by all believers who want his protection from all natural disasters—storms, earthquake, landslide, unwanted rain, volcanic eruption etc.

He became prominent in the time of Emperor Asoka. Asoka was the great patron and inheritor of Buddha Sasana. He became a Buddhist convert after many battles he fought for the unification of his empire. He witnessed to his great grief and repentance for several losses of human lives including children and pregnant woman. "Is there any means of uniting a country other than fighting?" He asked himself. Whereupon great Maha Thera Mogaltiputra Tisa told him, "Yes, there is, Your Imperial Majesty. It is Buddhism based upon metta [compassion, loving-kindness to all sentient beings." Maha Thera taught Asoka to observe moral precepts, and to mediate for the concentration of mind [Samatha] and for Vipassana for gaining insight knowledge of reality behind illusions.

Asoka embraced Buddhism, held Buddhist Council, sent out Buddhist missions to nine places and nine countries, allowed his son and daughter Maheindara and Sangha metre to become monks who took Buddhism to Lankadipa [Sri Lanka] where they planted

southern branch of Maha Bodhi Tree at Bodhagaya and established Buddha Sasana there.

Being not satisfied with what he had done so far for the propagation of Peace Region, Buddha Sasana, Asoka never stopped doing religious and social welfare works such as building rest houses, water tanks and wells, irrigations, gardens, parks, roads, monasteries, pagodas, temples, homes for the aged, orphanages and hospitals throughout his far-flung domains and beyond. It is said that each kind of his good deed number equal to the 84000 bodies of Buddha's Dhamma.

In these works of merit, he often encountered natural disasters — storms, heavy rains, floods, earthquake, lighting thunder, landslide etc. etc. Brahmin guru priests were consulted and they told the emperor that it was Mara, the evil opponent [Satan] of the Buddha who was molesting, and that only one saint monk of that time Ashin Upagupta could tame Mara to submission. Whereupon the saint monk was invited to ward off Mara the evil opponent, Saint Monk gave peaceful dhamma to Mara who refused to receive. There followed a series of power contests between Saint Monk and Mara. Eventually Mara was subdued when saint Monk by his mantra put on the neck of Mara a rotten corpse of a dog, which Mara could not get rid of. Mara went to all deities to help him but all said that only Saint Monk could help and told Mara to obey Saint Monk. Mara knelt before the Saint Monk, confessing his guilts and sins, apologizing and promising to listen to him, if only saint monk would remove the rotten dog corpse. Saint Monk gave Mara moral precepts to observe and made him promise never to molest, while good deeds were being performed and never destroy objects of good deeds. Mara obeyed and Asoka could carry on his religious and social welfare works without disasters.

Since that time, till today, Shin Upagupt has become Patron Saint of preventing natural disasters. He is believed to be still alive, residing in a copper shrine

on a float in the south seas. Travelers especially sea voyagers worshipped him as Patron Saint of seamen.

In Myanmar, in the month of Thadingyut [October] there is held a festival of Shin Upagote Puja. His gilt statues are made, put in a copper painted shrine with a spire. After about a week long puja, the statue and the shrine are put on a raft with offertories of food ration, fruits and cooked rice and float it down the river to the sea. Offertories on the raft are donated to monks and the needy. In Myanmar, marine waters, the statue the shrine and the raft of Shin Upagote are a common sight which seamen witness in all weathers.

In course of time, there emerged a special rite of Shin Upagote Puja to suspend or to stop storm and rain at the time and place where good deed of religious merit and social welfare was about to be carried out. There is a special master to conduct this ritual puja—A middle age man of good moral caliber, a vegetarian, observing nine moral precepts, who has learnt the correct way of puja from his senior masters, upon request would conduct the puja. He demarcates the area of puja at the place where good deeds are to be performed. The demarcated puja area is cleaned and cleansed consecrated by lustral water. It is fenced in by banana plants and coconut fronds. White sand is spread on the ground of the area while cotton threads blessed with mantra demarcate the puja area. On a bamboo platform, Shin Upagote statue in a shrine is placed with many ritual paraphernalia. The master of puja, after paying homage to three Gems — the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha—Begins chanting parittas and mantras, the audience outside the demarcated area, repeat after him in chanting Shin Upagote gathas.

The master of ceremony requests the Saint Monk to ward off natural disasters, to suspend or stop storm and rain at the time and the place where good deed is being carried out — build-

ing bridges, roads, monasteries, pagodas, school, orphanage, hospital, home for the aged, novitiation and ordination ceremonies, festivals etc, etc. The puja master sprinkles holy water and sprays flowers to ten directions.

Coincidentally or miraculously, strong wind and rain subside and stop at the time and place of where good deeds are performed till they finish while at other places wind and rain still continue.

The master of the puja is presented with clothing, towels or some food ration as a token of thanks. Never give money or cash. He gives his service for the community. He does not earn his living by puja.

It is a customary practice of Myanmar people to hold Shin Upagote puja for warding off natural disasters —especially wind and rain at the time and place of the performance of their good deeds.

At the htis or canopies of most prominent ancient pagodas metallic plates with etchings of Saint Upagupta are found affixed, apparently to ward off thunder, lighting and heavy storms. Chinese Buddhist communities in Myanmar believe in Shin Upagupta. They annually hold Shin Upagupta Puja. Myanmar seamen worship Shin Upagupta as their patron Saint who protects them during their marine voyages. When the writer of this article in late 1957 monsoon about to go to United Kingdom by S.S. Salween of the Henderson Shipping Line for a Myanmar Government Scholarship for post graduate degree Ph.D at the London School of Economics, London University, a Chinese friend of his mother came to give him a bronze statue of Shin Upagupta to keep and worship. The writer did accordingly. In his long sea journey to UK, and back journey home in June 1960, by S.S Worchester Shine of Bibby Shipping Line his ship passed through many stormy seas, the Bay of Bengal, the Mediterranean (See page 9)

NATIONAL

Union FM felicitates Italian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Ms Emma Bonino, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2013.—MNA

22nd WEF to focus social, ...

(from page 16)

Q: Is there any difficulty for sound engineering in preparing for the forum?

A: For TV debate, the issue will be our sensitive mics. We have a lot of sensitive mics for the discussion. Difficulty will be that we have to make sure that they don't feed back. So, that will require some skills.

And, also we have to advise microphones for different broadcasting stations.

Because some of them will prefer to use forum microphones. Some of them prefer to use other mics.

We have let them know that the number of people they have is it is okay to use forum mics or other mics.

These are the things

that we have to make sure that we know which is better.

If we don't know, they will feed back. So, we can address problems like when sound is not enough for audience to hear.

Michel Meca, Chief Chef of Kandawgyi Hotel

We arrived here four days ago and we have been organizing the whole MICC. We will have to cook for the president, prime ministers and many many VIPs in the forum.

Q: How many staff are assigned here for the forum?

A: We have two groups. Over 60 staff for the kitchen and over 60 waiters to serve the guests.

We have to cook 1200 buffet and 150 reserves.

English proficiency course concludes

YANGON, 1 June—The concluding of English Proficiency Course No. 1/2013 for English Lecturers from Universities, Degree Colleges and Colleges of the Higher Education Departments under the Ministry of Education took place at National Center for English Language on Pyay Road yesterday evening,

with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint.

The course is aimed at improving language proficiency of English Lecturers, effective teaching with English usages and idioms and learning practical activities which can apply in language teaching.

MNA

He wards off natural disaster

(from page 8)

seas, after crossing the Suez Canal and passing the strait of Gibraltar and the Bay of Biscay in the Atlantic before arrival at Liverpool seaport and Yangon harbour home bound. Squally rains and stormy times were experienced but he was safe and sound. His mother and Chinese friends were now no more. But the statue of Upgupta is still in his shrine room.

During one Christmas, he happened to be a guest of his Scottish classmate in Edinburgh. In the guest room of his house was found a bronze statue of Upagupta with its shrine

with flowers and fruits. His father a retired ship captain explained how he got the statue and the shrine. It was a very stormy evening in the Bay of Bengal. Their ship lost visibility. In complete darkness a lightning struck, he and his men saw a raft with that statue in the shrine afloat on the rolling waves. They managed to salvage it and put them in the reception room. Incredibly, the storm subsided and the next day was a pleasant sunny day. Since then they kept the statue and shrine in the captain's room. When he retired he brought it to his house as seen in the guest room. When the

writer studied the statue, the inscriptions on its base says "Made in 1935 and floated down in that year" in Burmese language.

There are three Shin Upagupta in Yangon that the writer visits frequently. (1) A big shrine with the statue at the foot of Shwedagon Pagoda's north-west direction in a depression which used to be full of water some years ago. A long corridor connects the main car road in the compound with the shrine (2) A big bronze statue in a sumptuous copper shrine kept in the centre of a water lake-shaped tank with aquatic creatures in the precinct of the largest bronze Buddha Image in

Union Minister meets employers and employees in Hlinethaya, Shwethanlwin Industrial Zones

YANGON, 1 June—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint this morning met employers and employees from Myue and Sue Garment Factory owned by Mr. Sung Min Kim in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone Section (4) and Toe Myat Aung Knit Lace Factory owned by U Soe Wai in Shwethanlwin Industrial Zone.

In meeting with them, the Union Minister said over 500 labour organizations had been formed after enacting Labour Organization Law, adding that the representatives of employers, employee and government will attend international labour conference to be held in Geneva of Switzerland in June. Foreign investments are being invited for creating job opportunities and increasing labour force approach enterprises and

YANGON, 1 June — At the invitation of Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with the ASEAN States of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Thomas Gambke, a Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by member U Ba Shein of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee left here for Germany this afternoon. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by the member of Pyithu Hluttaw



Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint views production process at a factory.

MNA

the government is striving for relaxation of GSP tax, he added. The Union minister pledged that minimum wage will be issued after

scrutinizing the reports of the region and state by making field study in accord with the outcomes of the final coordination meeting

to be held in 4 June. He also called for cooperation in enhancing life of labour forces.

MNA

Myanmar parliamentary delegation leaves for Germany

taw Bill Committee comprises six members from Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Myanmar parliamentary delegation seen at the airport before departure for the Federal Republic of Germany.

MNA



Yangon named "Maha Zeya Atula Marazein" located to the east of Shwedagon Pagoda Hill (3) A medium size statue with its bronze shrine in the precinct of Aindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township, next to Myoma high school. When the writer first visited the third statue, he found an inscription which says that "a retired ship captain U Thant Lwin during one of his sea voyages salvaged it from the sea waves and kept on his ship. After retirement he kept it at his house. Now, he moved it there, for public worship. The writer saw young seaman of all creeds and climes paying respect to the statue before they depart for sea service

on board.

This year May, the entire country was busy with preparations for encountering the impending cyclone Mahasen. Every hour, media gave out warning and informing the condition of the Mahasen yellow to orange. Then on the 16th May, orange to near red. The writer was praying to the Buddha and his treasured Upagupta statue on the shrine chanting paritta and seamen being long journeys to and back with that statue and arrived home safe and sound with that statue. "Pray ward off Mahasen." On the 17th May, TV gave out the happy tidings. The storm was over completely though it brought strong

wind and heavy showers, no damage, no destruction of life was caused. Right now Myanmar is a country undergoing a period of reconstruction reform, renovation politically, economically, socially, culturally and religiously. It is a country where good deeds of religious merits and social welfare works are being carried out. So Saint Upagupta would not allow Mara the evil opponents to molest us.

But we Myanmar people have to keep our moral and religious duty — to observe moral precepts, to retain goodwill and to send metta [Loving-kindness] to all mankind.

Kalay-Monywa-Mandalay express coaches change to Kalay-Gangaw route

TRANSPORT



KALAY, 1 June—Due to continuous rainfall beginning the first week of May, Kalay-Monywa-Mandalay express buses are using Gangaw Road instead of the regular route through Yagyi Road, said a driver.

The downpour on 24 May flooded the Kalewa-Yagyi Road section from Kyaw Village to Yagyi and around 30 vehicles were stranded on the road for three days. The passengers were also cut off from the outside world temporarily losing access to telecommunications,

according to a passenger.

“What I saw last year was Yagyi Road is vulnerable to even a shower. It (the road foundation) is quite good in summer. But, once the rain touches the ground, it becomes something like clay. So, it would be the safest to use Gangaw rather than Yagyi in monsoon,” explained a driver.

It is 224 miles from Kalay to Mandalay through Yagyi Road but is 297 miles through Gangaw Road.

Kyemon-Shin Nay Min

Self-reliant school building opened in Yedashe Tsp

YEDASHE, 1 June—Opening of a new self-reliant Basic Education Primary School building was held in Shanpaing Ward in Yeni of Yedashe Township, Bago Region yesterday morning.

The school building was constructed with the

contributions of townselders, local people and neighboring villages.

Present at the ceremony were officials of Yedashe Township Education Office, ward administrator and townselders, parents, teachers and pupils.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)



Medics give free medical treatment to patients in Paung

PAUNG, 1 June—Head of Township Health Department Dr Maung Maung Lwin and assistant surgeons and medics gave free treatment to patients and shared talks on health knowledge at Pagon Village, Paung Township, Mon State, on 29 May morning.

The head of Township

Health Department and medics provided 83 patients with free medical treatment and gave talks on preventive measures against DHE.

They then gave out pamphlets to villagers.

The gon and Ahlet Villages have been provided with medical treatment free of charge.

Kyemon-Paung IPRD



Farming rights certificates presented in Singaing

SINGAING, 1 June—Farming rights certificates were presented to the farmers at the meeting hall of Singaing Township General Administration Department, here, yesterday morning.

On the occasion, Singaing Township Administrator U Myint Thein explained the purpose of

presenting certificates. Then, he presented 93 certificates to the Ward administrator on behalf of 55 farmers in Thitkhok Villag-tract.

A total of 20679 certificates will be presented to the farmers of Singaing in 2013.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Chin traditional Longyi popular in Magway market

KALAY, 1 June—Chin traditional Longyi manufactured in Kalay Region are popular in Magway market.

There are over 50 Chin traditional weaving designs according to Chin national's region. The prices of Chin Longyi are from K 8000 to K 30000.

“Kalay Township population is over 300000 and Myanmar and Chin are 50 percent each. Over 1500 looms run by 246 entrepreneurs in three wards and three villages are producing Chin traditional Longyi and transporting it to Yagon, Mandalay, Magway

and Pyay markets. K 500,000 loan was disbursed to six entrepreneurs by the Region Fund in 2012-2013 fiscal year. Thanks to loan disbursement for development of rural area small enterprises, the entrepreneurs made more investment in cotton textile industry and could create job opportunities and increase productivity. In 2013-2014 financial year, Sagaing Region Government will disburse K 30 million loan to the entrepreneurs,” said a local woman who sells Chin traditional Longyi from Kalay.

Kyemon-Hla Myint (Magway)

Nay Pyi Taw Police Force grants stipends to offspring of police staff

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June—Stipends were granted to offspring of staff members of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Office for 2013-2014 academic year at the ceremony held at the meeting hall of the office on 29 May.

The stipends totalling K

900,000 were distributed to 106 students from primary level to university level.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Police Col Aung Aung presented the stipends to the students.

MMAL-Ko Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw)



ACCIDENT

A 10-wheeled truck overturns in Khamaukgyi Township, hurts seven workers



KAWTHOUNG, 1 June—A 10-wheeled truck 5Kha/2151 owned by Yuzana Palm Oil Company overturned near mile post 34 on Kawthoung-Bokpyin Road in Khamaukgyi Township of Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Region, at 9:15 pm on 29 May.

The truck carrying seven workers from Kawthoung to the company overturned at mile post No.

34 at the exit of Khamaukgyi due to out of control.

Seven workers on board were wounded in the accident.

Driver U San Shae (a) Kadon run away shortly after the accident.

Khamaukgyi local police force is taking necessary measures over the case and to arrest the traffic rule broker.

Kyemon-U Kyaw Soe

REGIONAL

Sri Lanka, Thailand to enhance maritime security



Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa (R) meets with visiting Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, on 31 May 2013. Sri Lanka and Thailand on Friday decided to enhance maritime security during their meeting. —XINHUA

COLOMBO, 1 June—Sri Lanka and Thailand on Friday decided to enhance maritime security during a meeting between President Mahinda Rajapaksa and visiting Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Rajapaksa said that sharing experiences and expertise will contribute to eradicating terrorism and other security threats in the region, the President's Office said.

He pointed out that despite the end of the war in Sri Lanka in 2009, supporters of the Tamil

Tigers are continuing their fight to divide Sri Lanka from foreign shores.

"We must cooperate more closely in security-related information and intelligence sharing," Rajapaksa said. Rajapaksa also expressed gratitude to Thailand for its "firm support" to Sri Lanka at the 19th and 22nd UN Human Rights Council meetings, adding that Sri Lanka "should be entitled to have time and space to proceed with a delicate process of national reconciliation."

Xinhua

Asian youth gather in Cambodia to discuss peace, development

PHNOM PENH, 1 June—The 2013 Asian Youth Forum opened here on Friday to exchange views on strengthening peace, stability and development in the region and the world, as well as share experiences and create regional network.

"I am really proud of Asian youth who are dynamically working together for the cause of peace, development and prosperity in each country, the region and the world," the premier said.

"This is the real spirit of cooperation and partnership that must take root among youth, the core force of development in the future."

He said the forum, held under the theme "Youth and Peace: Strengthening Peace, Stability and Development through Education", was right and timely in the context that the possibility of turmoil and civil war were threatening many countries and regions.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Hun Sen said the forum provided

a rare opportunity for Cambodian youth to share views on strengthening peace, stability and development in the region and the world, as well as share experiences and create regional network.

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Xinhua

Japan plans to more than triple foreign visitors by 2030

TOKYO, 1 June—The government has drafted a plan to more than triple the annual number of foreign travelers to Japan to 30 million by 2030 by publicizing Japan's attractions, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The draft plan, which the sources made available to *Kyodo News*, estimates that if the target is achieved, foreign travelers' spending in Japan may expand to 4.7 trillion yen in 2030 from 1.3 trillion yen in 2010 when foreign arrivals totaled a record 8.61 million.

That increased spending is estimated to boost travel-industry-related employment to 830,000 people from 250,000 people in 2010.

The draft plan — prepared as part of an economic growth strategy

which the government will adopt in June —urges government agencies to prepare to establish and publicize high-quality tourism resources as part of the "Japan Brand."

The government and private sectors should cooperate to increase foreign television programs covering Japan, the plan says.

It also calls for easing visa conditions within this year for travelers from Southeast Asian countries and considering long-stay visas for wealthy foreigners.

The government aims to attract travellers from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries in the wake of a substantial decline since last fall in Chinese travelers due to a bilateral territorial row.

The plan also calls on the government to make Japan Asia's largest sponsor of international conferences. And it urges the government to consider developing a new railway network linking Haneda and Narita airports and central Tokyo, based on a feasibility study in fiscal 2014.

The draft indicates the government expects to attract many more travellers, particularly from fast-growing Southeast Asian countries.

The UN World

Tourism Organization estimates the number of international travelers globally will double to 1.81 billion in 2030 from 2010, with robust growth expected in travel to Northeast Asian countries including Japan, and to Southeast Asia.

"Growing low-cost carriers are leading to a rise in the number of people who can afford to enjoy international travel," said Takeshi Sakimoto, associate professor of tourism at the Osaka University of Tourism.

Kyodo News

India inducts new Swiss-made trainer-aircraft

NEW DELHI, 1 June—The Indian Air Force officially inducted a new Swiss-made basic trainer Friday to augment the air force's training capacity.

Junior Defense Minister Jitendra Singh inducted the *PC-7 MkII* trainer at a ceremony at an academy in Hyderabad, a Press release from the Defence Ministry said.

India has contracted for 75 of the aircraft from Switzerland and the first flight of cadets is expected to be trained in the planes from July.

Singh said the *PC-7 MkII* is an important

"landmark" as India modernizes its armed forces.

"The aircraft, with its excellent handling characteristics, user friendly onboard instrumentation and modern navigation systems, is ideally suited for IAF's training requirements," Singh said. "I assure the nation that no effort will be spared to equip IAF with the latest training aids and infrastructure."

The *PC-7 MkII*s are to be used for basic training of all pilots in the air force as well as navy and coast guard pilots.

Kyodo News



A staff member introduces bamboo-made electronic products at China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services (Beijing Fair) in Beijing, capital of China, on 31 May 2013. XINHUA

Vietnam decides to take part in UN peacekeeping operations

SINGAPORE, 1 June—Vietnam has decided to send military personnel to the UN peacekeeping force, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said on Friday.

Speaking at the opening of an annual Asia security forum known as the Shangri-la Dialogue, Dung said Vietnam's initial participation will be in the areas of "military engineering, military medicine and military observation."

"It is our desire to establish strategic partnerships with all the permanent members of the UN Security Council once the principles of independence, sovereignty, non-interference in the internal

affairs of each other, mutual respect, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation are committed to and seriously implemented," Dung said.

The United Nations currently has peacekeeping operations in regions including Africa, the Middle East, Europe and South Asia.

The Vietnamese leader maintained, however, that his country "will not be a military ally to any country," nor will it allow any country to set up military base.

"Vietnam's defence policy is that of peace and self-defence. Vietnam will not ally itself with any country to counter another," Dung said.

Kyodo News



Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera speaks at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, on 1 June 2013. The 12th Shangri-La Dialogue kicked off in Singapore on Friday. — XINHUA

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GSA APPOINTMENT

Applications are invited for appointment of General Sales Agent in Myanmar. Interested Agencies are requested to send their applications to Manager Agency & Interline, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Balaka, Biman Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh within 10 working days from publishing of this advertisement in prescribed questionnaires available in the web-site of Biman Bangladesh Airlines (www.biman-airlines.com).

Mohammad AlkasMollah
Manager Agency & Interline

Three killed, four injured in explosion in Manila

MANILA, 1 June—Three people were killed and four others, including a foreigner, were injured on Friday night in a loud explosion in a posh apartment in Taguig City, Manila, Philippines, authorities said.

The blast happened at around 8:10 pm at Two Serendra, Global City, Fort Bonifacio, a shopping and residential area in Taguig City.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar

Roxas confirmed, in a news briefing, the death of the three people on board a delivery van that was hit by a slab from Unit 501 of Two Serendra.

He withheld the identities of the victims as their next of kin would be informed first.

Those injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, he said.

Roxas asked the public not to speculate as to the cause of the explosion since investigation has been ongoing. "This could be an accident, the explosion could



Workers gather shattered glass after an explosion in Taguig City, the Philippines on 31 May, 2013. Three people died in the explosion, while four people were injured according to reports.—XINHUA

be from a chemical, it could be anything," he said.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III went

to the explosion site and ordered all concerned agencies to help in the investigation.—Xinhua

Japan renews commitment to Somalia by resuming direct aid



A special meeting dedicated to discussing issues confronting Somalia is held in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 31 May, 2013, ahead of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development on 1 to 3 June.

KYODO NEWS

YOKOHAMA, 1 June—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe renewed Japan's commitment to supporting Somalia's nation-building efforts on Friday, saying Tokyo will resume direct aid to the East African nation that is seeking to revive its economy and government following two decades of civil strife and political turmoil.

At a special meeting in

Yokohama dedicated to discussing issues confronting Somalia, Abe said Japan's new assistance to the country will focus on enhancing its socio-economic conditions, maintaining law and order, and invigorating the country's fragile industries.

"The stability of Somalia is important for the stability and prosperity of East Africa and indispensable for

solving Somalia's piracy problem fundamentally and ensuring the safety of one of the world's major sea arteries, which connects the Indian Ocean with the Red and Mediterranean seas," Abe told participants.

The one-day meeting, held on the sidelines of a conference on African development involving leaders mostly from the continent that will take place from Saturday through Monday, also drew dignitaries such as Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

In his remarks, Mohamud expressed his determination to strengthen the resilience of Somali society by securing cooperation from the people of Somalia and assistance from the international community.

Kyodo News

Economic cooperation, partnership framework dominate Canada, Chile leaders' meeting

OTTAWA, 1 June—Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with Chilean President Sebastian Pinera here on Thursday, with bilateral economic cooperation and the renewal of a strategic framework at the top of their agenda.

At a joint news conference held in the Parliament building, Harper noted bilateral trade has more than tripled since Canada signed a free trade agreement with Chile in 1997 — the first such a deal that Chile had struck with a developed country. Merchandise trade between the two countries reached almost 2.5 billion US dollars last year, according to the Canadian Prime Minister's Office.

"Canada has also become the largest source of new direct investment in

Chile over the past decade," Harper said.

The two countries agreed to several joint initiatives, including cooperation in the energy sector and a "strong commitment to responsible resource management" — a prickly point picked up by the media.

Pinera was asked about the Chilean government's decision last Friday to fine Barrick Gold Corp. 16.4 million Canadian dollars (15.91 million US dollars) and suspend the Canadian

company's multibillion-dollar mining operation in the Andes Mountains for causing environmental damage.

The Chilean president said that while Canada was the "most important" foreign investor in his country, Barrick failed to comply with an environmental impact assessment, but had since agreed to improve its "behaviour with respect to the environment" in 23 areas identified by Chile.

Xinhua

Hacker group Anonymous warns Japan not to conduct whaling

WASHINGTON, 1 June—The hacker group Anonymous has warned the Japanese government not to hunt whales in a message recently posted on the video-sharing website YouTube.

"This is not just a

warning," Anonymous said in what appears to be the first verbal offensive the group has taken over the issue. It also urged the people of Japan not to "follow the idiotic belief of your government."

The Japanese govern-

ment is aware of the message posted on Wednesday and braced for following actions, an official said.

The group criticized Japan for "actively participating in the destruction of marine life worldwide," posting undated movies that

show Japanese ships hunting whales using harpoons in an unnamed sea.

The group warned last year of cyberattacks on the Japanese government to protest against revision of the country's copyright laws.—Kyodo News



Tourists stroll through a hill covered by moss pink flowers, called shibazakura in Japanese, in full bloom at a park in the town of Ozora, Hokkaido, on 31 May, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT

Canadian songwriter-producer David Foster honoured with star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES, 1 June—Canadian songwriter and producer David Foster received a star on the fabled Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday, crowning a prolific career which spanned more than four decades. The popular musician, who has won 16 Grammy Awards from 47 nominations, received the 2,499th star at an event held in front of the Capitol Records building where his “Skylark” album was launched in 1972.

Outgoing Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined a group of speakers including Leron Gubler, President and

CEO of Hollywood Chamber of Commerce which hosted the ceremony, and popular daytime television host Dr Phil McGraw to congratulate Foster on the occasion. “It’s an honor to be here to celebrate David Foster, a good friend and one of the most talented people I know,” said Villaraigosa. “We don’t call this the Walk of Fame for nothing. Here are the stars, here are the people who touched our lives and stirred our hearts with their talents.”

Foster, recollecting the time when he arrived in Hollywood more than 40 years ago to launch his

career, was moved. “This is an extremely fantastic day for me, obviously, and it also a reflective one.” Foster, born 1 Nov, 1949, in Victoria, British Columbia, began studying piano when he was 4 years old.

A keyboardist for the former Canadian pop group Skylark, Foster was instrumental in discovering Celine Dion, Josh Groban, Michael Buble and Andrea Bocelli. He also worked with a starry pack of superstars including Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Madonna and Stevie Wonder and

helped them to realize their musical dreams.

The iconic musician’s 16 Grammys include three for producer of the year, in 1984, 1991 and 1993. He also earned nominations for best original song Oscars for “The Karate Kid, Part II” in 1986, “The Bodyguard” in 1993 and “Quest for Camelot” in 1998. “Today Hollywood honours award-earning songwriter and producer David Foster,” said Gubler. “David is one of the most successful songwriter and producer in history creating album sets collectively sold hundreds of millions.”—Xinhua



Canadian songwriter and producer David Foster.

Jennifer Lopez’s TV show inspired by her life



Jennifer Lopez.

raising adopted, biological and foster children — was inspired by her own “non-traditional family”. Jennifer Lopez’s personal life inspired her new show.

The 43-year-old singer is producing “The Fosterers” for ABC—which features a same-sex couple raising adopted, biological and foster children — and Jennifer, who has twins Max and Emme, five, with ex-husband Marc Anthony, admitted she has taken some inspiration

from her own situation. She told ABC News: “I am a non-traditional family. Me being a single

mom, their dad doesn’t live at home with them. They have three stepbrothers from two moms...that’s not traditional. Do I want my children to feel weird about that? No I don’t. ... So putting a show like this one to me is, look, there is no perfect (image of) what family is supposed to be.”

While Jennifer — who is currently dating dancer Casper Smart — has three failed marriages behind her, she says the only thing that matters to her is that her children are healthy and loved.

She explained: “The show is about love and that’s what I constantly remind myself of because I kind of let society get inside my head, ‘Oh, it shouldn’t be like this. I did this, I did that. I failed.’ And it’s like, no. They’re happy, they’re healthy, they’re loved more than anything in the world and they’re going to be fine. I want them to know that.”

Xinhua

‘After Earth’ leaves critics cold ahead of competitive weekend

LOS ANGELES, 1 June—Will Smith may be one of Hollywood’s most bankable action stars, but his new film, “After Earth,” in which he stars with his 14-year-old son Jaden, has opened to cold reviews from critics and faces stiff competition in a busy box office weekend.

“After Earth” is a futuristic post-apocalyptic tale of a father and his teenage son in which the young boy must embark on a life-saving mission. Sony Pictures Entertainment, a division of Sony Corp., spent about \$130 million to produce the movie, making it one of the studio’s biggest summer releases.

The story is centered on the father-son relationship and the dynamic of a father passing the mantle



Will Smith

to his son is mirrored both on screen and off, as the younger Smith leads the action. Will Smith, 44, who wrote the initial story and was the executive producer of the film, said the project gave him valuable time to spend with his son, with whom he first starred in the 2006 family drama, “The Pursuit of Happyness.”

“Filmmaking and entertainment is our family business,” Smith said at a recent news conference. “So, it really gave us an op-

portunity for the last year to spend ten or twelve hours a day together, every day. And for me it’s just the best way, for me at least, to parent.”

Jaden Smith bears a strong resemblance to his famous father and won over most critics as the lead in 2010’s reboot of “The Karate Kid.” However, he has not been received as warmly for his performance as ranger Kitai Raige in “After Earth.”

Reuters

Jesse Eisenberg explores world of street magic for heist film

LOS ANGELES, 1 June—Actor Jesse Eisenberg may be best known for his Oscar-nominated performance as Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, but in his latest film, the fast-talking actor

explores the underground world of magic for comedy heist caper, “Now You See Me.”

The film, out in theaters on Friday, sees a group of street magicians come

together as the “four horsemen,” staging large scale magic shows during which they rob a bank and distribute the money among the audience. Eisenberg plays silver-tongued sleight-of-hand expert J Daniel Atlas, a role he said he was drawn to because of the character’s confidence and his own need to overcome stage fright in 2011 while performing in an off Broadway production called “Asuncion,” which he had also written.

“I thought it’d be like a perfect challenge for me, and maybe help me deal

with some of the stage fright I was dealing with. My character is the greatest magician in the world and he has an attitude of someone who’s earned that, so I forced myself to feel and behave like him,” the actor explained. In the film, which co-stars Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Mark Ruffalo, Eisenberg joins forces with three other street magicians, played by Isla Fisher, Woody Harrelson and Dave Franco, to stage a complex and captivating series of shows.

Reuters



Cast member Jesse Eisenberg poses during the premiere of the film “To Rome with Love” by US director Woody Allen in Rome on 13 April, 2012. REUTERS

SPORTS

Santos sack coach Ramalho



Santos coach Muricy Ramalho.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 June—Santos have sacked coach Muricy Ramalho, just days after selling Brazil starlet Neymar to Barcelona. The role will be temporarily filled by the Brazilian club's under-20 coach Claudinei Oliveira until a permanent replacement is found, Santos said on Friday.

"The management

committee decided Muricy Ramalho is no longer coach of Santos FC's professional team. The trainer was told of the decision on Thursday," the club said in a statement. The announcement follows the club's 2-1 defeat to Botafogo in Brazil's Serie A championship on Wednesday.

Ramalho, who took charge of the club in April

2011, led Santos to their third Copa Libertadores trophy, two Paulista championships and the South American Supercup. His departure, and that of 21-year-old Neymar to the Camp Nou, marks the end of arguably Santos's most successful era since Pele made the club famous in the late 1950s and 60s.

"Santos are beginning a reformulation process after one of the best periods in the 101-year history of the club," the statement said. Former Corinthians and Brazil boss Mano Menezes and Atletico Bilbao's Argentine manager Marcelo Bielsa have reportedly been short-listed as candidates for the vacant position.

Xinhua

Ex-NBA player Mookie Blaylock in critical condition after crash

ATLANTA, 1 June—Former NBA player Mookie Blaylock was in critical condition at an Atlanta hospital on Friday after being involved in a car crash that killed another person, police said. Jonesboro Police Chief Frank Allen told Reuters that Blaylock, 46, was taken off life support when his condition stabilized.

Atlanta Medical Centre spokeswoman Nicole Gustin said Blaylock, who played most of his career with the Atlanta Hawks, was listed in critical condition at the facility, but she could not release other details. Blaylock was behind the wheel of a 2010 Cadillac Escalade on Friday in



Former NBA player Mookie Blaylock.

Clayton County, south of Atlanta, when he crossed over the center line into oncoming traffic and struck a minivan head-on, Allen said.

"We have reason to believe he may have suffered a seizure," Allen said. "He had been previously treated for a seizure disorder." A husband and wife in the minivan were injured along with Blaylock, and all three people were transported to Atlanta Medical Center, where the woman later died, Allen said. The man in the minivan suffered injuries that were not life-threatening, police said.

Blaylock played in the National Basketball Association from 1989 to 2002. His ability to shut down opposing players twice earned him a place on the NBA All-Defensive First Team. He played with the Hawks from 1992 to 1999 and also spent time with the New Jersey Nets and Golden State Warriors. An arrest warrant for Blaylock was issued on 21 May for failure to appear in court on drug possession and drunken-driving charges, Allen said.

Reuters

Bucks reach agreement with Drew to become head coach

TORONTO, 1 June—Former Atlanta Hawks coach Larry Drew has been named head coach of the Milwaukee Bucks, the National Basketball Association team said on Friday.

Drew, who led Atlanta to playoff berths in each of his three seasons there, reached an agreement in principle to replace Jim Boylan, who stepped in on an interim basis after the Bucks and Scott Skiles parted ways in early January.

"It was clear to us that Larry's track record in Atlanta, along with his experience as an assistant coach and player, make him the

right choice to lead our club," Bucks general manager John Hammond said in a statement. "We look forward to what he will bring to this franchise and we welcome him and his family to Milwaukee."

Drew, 55, who had an 11-year playing career that included stints with the Kings in Kansas City and Sacramento and in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers, has a 128-102 record as a coach. He takes over a Bucks team that was swept out of the first round of the playoffs by the defending champion Miami Heat.—Reuters



Atlanta Hawks head coach Larry Drew makes a call in the first half of their first-round Eastern Conference playoff NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Atlanta, Georgia on 3 May, 2013.—REUTERS

New Zealand spurns big rule changes as it preps for America's Cup



Emirates Team New Zealand sails in San Francisco bay on 31 May, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 June—The head of New Zealand's America's Cup team has sharply rejected the idea of major changes to the sailing competition's high-tech catamarans in the wake of an accident that killed a British sailor.

Grant Dalton, managing director of Emirates Team New Zealand, told Reuters on Thursday that he supported new safety rules put forward last week by event organizers. But he dismissed suggestions by some sailors, including members of the Artemis Racing team that suffered the accident, that big changes such as smaller sails or power-assisted on-board controls were necessary.

Reuters

Vulnerable Nadal needs to find form against flashy Fognini

PARIS, 1 June—After two lacklustre performances and an out-of-character rant at organizers all eyes will be on Rafa Nadal to see if the claycourt matador or this week's vulnerable impostor shows up to face Fabio Fognini on Saturday. Seven-times champion Nadal let his feelings be known after Parisian downpours and lopsided scheduling left him with only one day's rest before facing the showman Italian, who has had an extra 24 hours recuperation.

After being taken to four sets by Daniel Brands in round one and Martin Kližan on Friday, Nadal expects Fognini, with his flashy winners, to be in better shape. "Probably my opponent is better than me, talking about physical performance, but the only thing I can say is I'm

going to work as much as I can to be 100 percent ready," Nadal said.

"Tomorrow will be a really tough match, and I need to play better than today. I need to do it." In contrast to Nadal, Novak Djokovic

looked imperious in his second-round victory over Argentina's Guido Pella, but in Grigor Dimitrov he faces a player who beat him in the second round of the Madrid Masters this month.

Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return to Martin Kližan of Slovakia during their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 31 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Haas takes Memorial lead, Woods labors to 74

Bill Haas of the US hits his second shot on the 13th hole during the second round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio on 31 May, 2013.—REUTERS



DUBLIN, 1 June—Rejuvenated by the recent birth of his first child, American Bill Haas rebounded from successive missed cuts on the PGA Tour to grab a three-shot lead in Friday's weather-hit second round at the Memorial Tournament. While five-times cham-

pion and last year's winner Tiger Woods battled to a two-over-par 74 in gusting winds at Muirfield Village Golf Club to sit 10 strokes off the pace, Haas putted superbly on lightning-fast greens to fire a five-under-par 67.

Though Haas bogeyed

his final hole, the par-four 18th, after hitting his approach over the back of the green, he was delighted to take control of the popular PGA Tour event hosted by Jack Nicklaus with a nine-under total of 135. "I've been very fortunate," Haas told reporters after a round which included five birdies, an eagle at the par-five fifth and two bogeys to finish three ahead of compatriot Matt Kuchar (70).

"I hit a couple of loose shots. On number 11, the wind was right-to-left and I hit a provisional, I thought it was out of bounds there. "We got out there and it (his first tee shot) must have hit a tree and it was fine. I ended up making birdie.

Reuters

GENERAL



A Vietnamese dealer poles his raft to sell Vietnamese goods at the Detian Waterfalls scenic spot on the border between China and Vietnam, in Shuolong Township of Daxin County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 28 May, 2013. Small amount of border trade in the first four months in Guangxi has seen a jump of 50.8 percent year on year to 3.03 billion US dollars, according to the latest statistics from the Nanning Customs. —XINHUA

Experts see Ghana's pension funds as catalyst for growth in capital market

ACCRA, 1 June— Experts claim ongoing reforms in Ghana's Pension Regulations could be a potential catalyst for growth of the country's capital market and rapid economic transformation.

They called on the authorities on Friday to develop the capital market and bond market into which pension funds could be invested to realize its full potentials.

Sam Pee Yalley, chief executive officer (CEO) of the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPROA), believes the pension funds, if developed well, could become the main catalyst for the growth of Ghana's bond market.

He said pension funds, which are long-term investment funds sought by government, is the right type of alternatives for foreign loans.

"Most countries that Ghana borrows from just lend Pensions Funds to us because pension is a long-term commitment; so if we also streamline our pensions well, and Ghana can sell long-term bonds of between 10 and 30 years, pensions funds would be available for these projects," he told *Xinhua* in an interview here on Friday.

Ghana's new Three-tier Pensions Scheme became functional on 1 Jan, 2010 under the new Pensions Law, the National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766) passed on 12 Dec,

2008.

It requires that out of the total contribution of 18.5 percent of one's monthly income, the employer will remit 13.5 percent to a restructured Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) towards the first tier pension scheme, out of which 2.5 percent will be National Health Insurance (NHI) levy.

Xinhua

London launches festival to make good neighbourhoods

LONDON, 1 June— London's world-famous arts centre Southbank Centre launched its summer-long festival of neighbourhood, which will open on Saturday.

The festival, which will last for three months until 8 Sept, celebrates neighborhoods and communities, and explores the concept of what makes a good neighbourhood and what it means to live side by side.

"With this festival, we try to create an appetite that neighborhood is joyful," said Jude Kelly, artistic director of the Southbank Centre.

A series of 42 flags adorning the roof of the Royal Festival Hall, one of the venues in the centre, raised questions about the meaning of neighbourhood.

"My idea would be if people sang their responses to the flags and addressed the Royal Festival Hall, which has been broadcasting and singing to the neighbourhood since 1951," said Bob and Roberta Smith, the artist who came up with the idea. —*Xinhua*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-6-13 09:30 am ~
2-6-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * The World's Largest Book
- * News
- * Lannakha Waterfall
- * News
- * "Those who never give up" (Part-I) (Zaw Win Myint)
- * News
- * "Those who never give up" (Part-II) (Zaw Win Myint)
- * News
- * The History of Mrauk U Pagoda
- * News
- * Amarapura, Origin of Hand Loom Weaving
- * News
- * Me N My Travel (Episode-1) Pyin Oo Lwin
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes (Spiced Crab)
- * Myanmar Movies "A Joker's Heart"

Myanmar TV

(2-6-2013, Sunday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:40 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 16. Documentary |
| 6:25 am | 3:00 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 17. News |
| 6:35 am | 3:15 pm |
| 3. Song & Dance of National Races | 18. Documentary |
| 6:45 am | 4:00 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 19. News |
| 7:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 5. News/ Weather Report | 20. Dance & Song of National Races |
| 8:00 am | 4:25 pm |
| 6. News/ International News | 21. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Philosophy) |
| 8:25 am | 5:00 pm |
| 7. Documentary | 22. News |
| 9:00 am | 5:15 pm |
| 8. News/ International News | 23. Sing & Enjoy |
| 9:20 am | 6:00 pm |
| 9. Mono Classical Songs | 24. News/ Weather Report |
| 10:00 am | 6:20 pm |
| 10. News | 25. Cartoon Series |
| 10:15 am | 7:00 pm |
| 11. TV Drama Series | 26. News |
| 11:00 pm | 7:15 pm |
| 12. Science & Environment | 27. TV Drama Series |
| 11:10 pm | 8:00 pm |
| 13. Gltadahale Phintbaohn | 28. News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 14. News/ International News/ Weather Report | 29. Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 12:25 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 15. Round Up of The Week's International News | 30. News |
| | 31. Tamyetmar Takwetsar |
| | 32. New Melody |

Brazil striker Fred declares fitness for England friendly



Brazil striker Fred

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 June—Brazil striker Fred has declared himself ready to start in Sunday's international friendly against England at the revamped Maracana stadium, despite nursing a broken rib. The 29-year-old Fluminense frontman suffered the injury during the early stages of his side's 2-1 defeat to Olimpia in Rio on Wednesday, a result that eliminated the Rio outfit from the Copa

Libertadores.

"It's difficult but it's important to make the sacrifice," Fred said during Brazil training at Flamengo's Gavea base on Friday. "Pain is normal. Every player knows what it's like to play through it. I am able to play normally. If I cop a knock I will have to grin and bear it until the end." England also have their share of injury concerns with forwards Jermain Defoe (Achilles),

Danny Wellbeck (knee) and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (calf) in doubt for Sunday's match.

The team's dearth of attacking options means coach Roy Hodgson could deploy Arsenal's Theo Walcott as a central striker and Rooney in a deep-lying role. Walcott trained in an advanced position at the Urca military base on Friday and admits he would relish the opportunity be England's target man at the Maracana. "It will be fantastic. I said I wanted to play up front," Walcott said. "People say I have played up front, but I have had limited opportunities this year I have played on the wing and got most of my goals from there."

"Playing for England in any position is a dream. The manager picks the team and whoever plays will go out and do a job and hope to win. —*Xinhua*



Image provided by Chile's National Service of Geology and Mining (Sernageomin) and Chile's National Emergency Office (Onemi) shows Copahue volcano spewing ash near Chile's southern town of Alto Biobio, on 24 May, 2013. Some 1,400 Chilean residents near Copahue Volcano have been evacuated after an alert was issued on an imminent eruption, a local official said on 31 May, 2013. —XINHUA

Myanmar Engineering Council draft law discussed prior to its submission to parliament

YANGON, 1 June — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivered an address at a coordination meeting on Myanmar Engineering Council draft law at Hluttaw Office (Yangon) on Thanlwin Road, here, this afternoon.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Soe Tha, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Swe, U Htay Myint, Deputy Ministers U Aye Kyu, Dr Win Myint, Dr Zaw Min Aung, U Han Sein, U Chan Maung and U Thaung Tin, Yangon Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo, committee secretaries and members, departmental officials, rectors of the Technological Universities, President of Myanmar Engineering Society U Win Khaing and members, officials from YCDC and MCDC and guests.

In his address, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that he was informed of a plan to enact Myanmar Engineering Council

Law through a report by Myanmar Engineering Society and officials concerned about two years ago. Today's coordination meeting was meant to hold discussions on the draft law prior to its submission to the parliament, he added. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker stressed the importance of the enactment of Myanmar Engineering Council Law as engineering works would play a certain role in industrial sector and construction projects when construction of Thilawa Industrial Zone and Dawei Industrial Zone started and foreign investments entered the country. He continued that unless the law was promulgated, Myanmar engineers would be appointed to inferior positions below their counterparts from foreign companies; and that the enactment of the law was required to avoid it. He stressed the need to work harder to be professional engineers, urging Myanmar engineers to be dutiful ones by taking the same amount of responsibility like foreign engineers in implementing the industrial zones and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets those present at the meeting on Myanmar Engineering Council draft law at Hluttaw Office (Yangon).—MNA

other sectors.

He continued that the parliament's main function was to make laws for the sake of the country and its people; that listening to the voices of people and understanding their wills was necessary for enactment of laws; that the parliament had to listen to

the voices and inspirations of engineers as they were among the people; that the parliament was charged with enacting laws to protect the rights of the people and to enjoy more benefits; and that the parliamentarians were willing to discharge their duties.

The Pyithu Hluttaw

Speaker called for mass participation in the legislative processes and capacity building of Myanmar engineers. He vowed to continue holding discussions on the draft law to be able to submit it to upcoming parliament session.

Next, the region minister

and the MES president discussed the draft law and Union Minister U Aye Myint elaborated on amendment and modification of the draft law. Those present took part in discussions and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

MNA

22nd WEF to focus social, economic development opportunities and challenges of Myanmar, East Asia

As part of efforts for opening up development opportunities in Myanmar, seeking advices from world business leaders, giving them the chance to understand Myanmar's reform in depth and building relations with leaders from governments and organizations, Myanmar will host the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia from 5 to 7 June at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw for the first time.

We interviewed some

officials and staff preparing for the WEF at the MICC.

U Myint Kyaw, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department and Head of Information Centre for the forum

Q: What are the objectives of Myanmar to host this international forum?

A: "We host the forum with the aim of promoting FDI in Myanmar, getting advices from world's business leaders to help Myanmar's economic development, promoting relations between Myanmar and foreign countries and ensuring foreign countries to understand and witness Myanmar's reform."

Q: How can the forum help Myanmar?

A: "The forum would help us ensure opening up opportunities for attracting foreign direct investment, get advice from the world economic leaders through



U Myint Kyaw, Director of Information and Public Relations Department

friendships between Myanmar and international countries during the forum. Besides, the forum would benefit Myanmar a lot because the representatives of the governments can witness the reform of Myanmar."

Q: Is there any challenges for Myanmar to host the international forum?

A: "We have no big challenges because we have experience of this type of work. We hosted BIMSTEC, conferences etc. Maybe we can face

some challenges but they are good lessons for us. Because they can train us how to overcome such kind of challenges in the future."

Q: How about the future economic opportunities of Myanmar due to the forum?

A: Myanmar would see more opening up of its



Michel Meca

economy and would see more investment opportunities when the foreign direct investment flows into the country. The increase in FDI will bring about better social and economic development opportunities in Myanmar."

Q: How many journalists at home and

abroad will cover the event?

A: So far, we have issued visas to 287 journalists from foreign countries. Over 130 local journalists have been permitted to cover the event. **Quek Zi Ying, Sound Engineer, Overall Sound In-charge, Trio Av Pte Ltd, Singapore**

Q: What is your role in preparing the forum?

A: I am one of the sound operators for the rooms. We have to manage more than 10 rooms.

Q: Can you talk about

any challenging thing from sound perspective?

A: There are many backup rooms, more than 10 rooms to manage. So, frequency for microphone is very important.

We have to check in frequency because we will have leaders talking in the forum.

We have to make sure that we take down all frequencies for all the rooms and check in so that they are not intervened with each other.

(See page 9)



Quek Zi Ying



Sound engineers prepare for the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia.