

Cooperative works is second economic pillar of the nation

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—President U Thein Sein addressed the ceremony of Rural Region Development and Socio-economic Improvement in Yangon Region at National Indoor Stadium (1), here, this morning.

It was also attended by Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, region ministers, parliamentarians, departmental heads, representatives from township cooperative syndicates in the region and political parties, members of social organizations and guests.

In his address, the President said that all-out efforts had been made for implementation of political, economic and administrative reforms during a period of two years in office in order to meet the public aspiration.

While achieving success in implementing the process of ensuring peace and stability, national reconsolidation and the rule of law, the country had experienced unexpected challenges and difficulties. Nonetheless, the government is committed to surmount these challenges and difficulties with its utmost efforts.

The President pointed out that only when political stability, can economic development be realized and only when the country sees socio-economic



President U Thein Sein addresses the ceremony of Rural Region Development and Socio-economic Improvement in Yangon Region at National Indoor Stadium (1).—MNA

development, can political stability be witnessed as politics and economy are interrelated. He stressed the importance of such points to move forward to the goal of democracy aspired by the entire people.

Although the country has economic potential, appropriate size of population and territory, favourable weather patterns, a vast area of arable farmlands, workforce and full of natural resources, the country was listed as a LDC.

He stressed the need to work harder in order not to be in the list. Soon after taking the office, the government had implemented the tasks of ensuring rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme formulated by the scholars as the drive to reduce poverty rate was needed to be prioritized before prosperity.

The scheme includes two tasks—cooperative development and development of microfinance

works in private sector.

He lamented the hand-to-mouth existence of rural people who are 70 per cent of the total population and whose livelihoods depend on agricultural sector. Moreover, he identified the daily wagers and ordinary people in urban wards as the poorest ones as they are sharing their earnings with the owner and settling their debts with high interest daily and monthly.

He called for establishment of cooperative

societies for reduction of poverty rate, creation of microfinance and necessary market and ensuring them to earn daily incomes so that parallel development will be realized in their social, economic and education sectors.

He called the established cooperative societies at different levels under the Cooperatives Ministry and microfinance programme sheer contributor to poverty reduction being able to create working capital and market.

The government is committed to fulfilling the requirements with cash contribution and development loans at home and from abroad and also vowed to coordinate according to the law with organizations concerned on issue of farmers who lost their farmland for various reasons.

Microfinance programme is intended not only to create immediate breathing space for citizens but also to enable them to stand on their own feet in the future, he said, calling for the borrowers to make good use of the loans in their businesses and repay in full

when the time is due.

He demanded personal, community and institutional responsibility and cooperation to ensure no loss of loans. He called for cautious measures to make

INSIDE

Russia to send nuclear submarines to southern seas



PAGE -3

Xi vows to advance ties with Trinidad and Tobago



PAGE -3



President U Thein Sein views display of farming equipment and agricultural input for the cooperative societies.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

ACCIDENT

70-year-old woman dies after being knocked down by motorbike

SAGAING, 2 June — A 70-year-old woman was knocked down and killed by a motorbike near Ywathit village in Sagaing Township on 22 May.

Police Inspector Hsan Win said that he was informed of a road accident involved a motorbike and a pedestrian at 7 pm on that day. According to the police, a motorbike driven by U

Kyaw Thein, 39, together with Aung Kyaw Moe hit Daw Wai, 70, of Ywathit village of the township who was crossing the tarred road. The old woman sustained injuries to her head in the accident.

The victim was taken to Sagaing People's Hospital where she died of the severe injuries.

Kyemon-225

FIRE

100-year-old religious hall sees short circuit fire in Pyapon

PYAPON, 2 June — A fire broke out at Koe U rest house (a) Northern Gorpaka Hall between Htanbin monastery and Ywama monastery in front of Northern Pagoda in northern ward-1 of Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Region at about 1.05 pm on 25 May.

The fire is believed

to have started from short circuit in old wires of the 100-year-old wooden hall.

Fire crews accompanied by three fire trucks managed to bring the fire under control in cooperation with local people and the fire died down at about 1.20 pm.

MNA

Kawthoung: A pleasant town where Statue of Myanmar's hero King Bayintnaung stands



KAWTHOUNG, 2 June — There may be many people who have never been to Kawthoung located at the southernmost tip of Taninthayi Region in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Kawthoung is a pleasant town adjacent to the sea. The town has become a place of interest for foreign visitors who throng into it via

Thailand and globetrotters who visit Myanmar by air as a statue of King Bayintnaung in the town draws their attention.

With the aims of promoting patriotism and representing the national sovereignty, the statue of King Bayintnaung started building on 15 August 1994 stands on a hillock with an area of 9.347 acres in

Kawthoung. It was formally opened on 22 November 1994.

The statue built by U Han Tin is 15 feet and 10 inches in height.

The inscription carved on the statue base was written by Historians Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and U Maung Maung Tin and the stone inscription was set up in June 1996.

The statue was built with the contributions of estimated K 23.6 million by the hotelier of Tha Htay Island Hotel and K 43.7 millions from the funds of the State and the region.

Kawthoung is worth a visit as a statue of a hero in Myanmar history stands there.

Kyemon-Maung Maung Kyaw Soe (Zoology)

Woman's dead body found ashore in Dawei

YEYU, 2 June — A dead body of a woman was found washed ashore at a place on the bank of Dawei River in Yebyu of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region. The female body is believed to have been floated along

the river. Police Inspector Nyunt Wai said that he was informed of the dead body which washed ashore on the west bank of Dawei River, two-furlong south of ward (Kha) of Yebyu, at about 8.30 am on 23 May.

CRIME

According to the police, the dead body was identified as Ma Yin Yin Shein, 38, of Khonwindat section, construction compound, Dawei. Investigation is ongoing whether or not there is foul play in the case.

Kyemon-Sein Moh Win (Yebyu)

Knife-wielding armed men raid Htawpaing forest camp in Bogale Township

YEYU, 2 June — A group of knife-wielding armed men comprising about 10 carried out an armed raid on Htawpaing forest camp in Bogale Township of Ayeyawady Region on 23 May. They

on the floor.

Police Major U Zaw Min said that it was the first burglary of the year in Toungoo as more than K 23 million worth of a large number of valuable items were stolen in one place. No (1) police station opened a case and investigation is ongoing.—Kyemon-Kyawswa (Toungoo)

made a way with five suspects who were held over illegal timber extraction and five motor boats which were kept as evidence after holding up the camp.

According to Forest Officer U Zaw Min of the camp, 42, a group of men holding knives led by Khin Maung Latt of Kantmalar Chaunggyi village carried out a raid on the forest camp at about 2 am on that day while five suspects including Aung Shwe were being interrogated about illegal timber production at Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary by forest staff. They held guards

of the camp hostage and threatened that they would be killed if five suspects were not set free.

They then destroyed an engine of a motorized boat in the camp and fled the scene with five suspects and five motor boats loaded with timber logs.

Actions are being taken by Bogale police station to arrest five men suspected of committing illegal timber extraction and the armed group led by Khin Maung Latt who made a way with suspects and five motor boats.

Kyemon-Pathein Hla Kyi

More than K 23 million worth of watches stolen in burglary at shop in Toungoo

TOUNGGOO, 2 June — A burglary in which more than K 23 million worth of watches were stolen was reported at a shop on Kon-the-gyi road in Toungoo of Bago Region occurred on 31 May.

Ma Naw Lar Bwe, 31, manager of the shop, informed No (1) police station that she found a messy situation in the shop and 451 watches worth K 23,150,000 were taken from the shop when she opened the main

door of the shop at about 7.30 am on that day.

According to police, they discovered five cabinets were wide open in the shop and an exhaust fan installed on the back wall on the first floor of the shop was found

PHOTO NEWS

Photo shows an activity to fight against DHF being carried out by health staff and social organization members led by the acting administrator and the head of Health Department in ward-33 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 1 June. Preventive measures against the dengue fever disease were performed at each and every house in the ward.

KYEMON-687



Photo shows a line of vehicles stuck in traffic caused by undisciplined road users on a downtown road in Yangon recently.—KYEMON-MYO NYUNT (MAYANGON)

WORLD

African states say more work needed to reduce maternal deaths

YOKOHAMA, 2 June—Pregnancy and childbirth-related death rates remain high in African countries and more efforts are needed to spread family planning and girls' education, African leaders and a United Nations organization said on Saturday.

Speaking at an event in Yokohama, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said current progress toward reducing the rates "is just simply inadequate"

to meet the UN target of reducing the maternal death ratio by three quarters globally between 1990 and 2015.

The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate also pledged more efforts to promote family planning involving deciding when and how many children to have, noting Liberia's high birth rate is well beyond the country's ability to plan for the education and health of its young population.

"It is important to know that improvements in maternal, newborn and child care are critical to overall development of nations," said Malawi President Joyce Hilda Banda, while sharing her own experience of having suffered post-delivery bleeding.

At the same event, hosted by organizations including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Japan's Foreign

Ministry, Banda called for more investment in girls' education and economic empowerment of women to achieve the goal of reducing maternal mortality rates.

Globally, an estimated 287,000 women died during pregnancy and childbirth in 2010, more than half of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Most died because they had no access to skilled routine and emergency care, according to the UNFPA.

Kyodo News

Gov't eyes suing TEPCO over unpaid decontamination costs

TOKYO, 2 June—The Environment Ministry is considering filing a lawsuit against Tokyo Electric Power Co, seeking payment of about 16.5 billion yen in decontamination expenses since the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

The unpaid amount includes expenses for decontamination work by the government near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant undertaken based on a special measures law to deal with radioactive contamination, as well as government subsidies allocated to local governments which conducted decontamination

work, the sources said.

Under the law, the government is supposed to cover decontamination expenses first and ask TEPCO to reimburse the sum later. Although there is no deadline for the payment, TEPCO's failure to pay the expenses means that the government continues to use taxpayer money for decontamination projects. If the court orders TEPCO to pay the decontamination costs, the utility will also have to pay interest. Therefore, the Environment Ministry believes that TEPCO will soon agree to the payment, the sources said, adding that the ministry is now discussing the matter with



File photo taken in February 2013 shows workers decontaminating a residential area in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, near Tokyo Electric Power Co's crisis-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The Environment Ministry is considering filing a lawsuit against TEPCO, seeking payment of about 16.5 billion yen in decontamination expenses since the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, sources close to the matter said on 1 June, 2013. —KYODO NEWS

the Justice Ministry.

The Environment Ministry has asked TEPCO to pay the decontamination costs every three months

after finalizing the sum following the completion of decontamination projects. Of about 21.1 billion yen that the ministry requested the utility pay, TEPCO only agreed to pay 4.4 billion yen.

Reuters

Xi vows to advance ties with Trinidad and Tobago

PORT OF SPAIN, 2 June — Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks here Saturday with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago and pledged to advance bilateral friendly cooperation.

Calling Trinidad and

Tobago one of China's most important cooperation partners in the Caribbean, Xi said the two peoples enjoy a time-honored friendship and bilateral cooperation has great potential. As the two nations prepare to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

ties next year, China is ready to join hands with the Caribbean nation to further boost bilateral relations, he said. To that end, Xi made a four-point proposal.

First, the two sides should enhance exchanges of high-level visits and communication between government agencies, legislatures and political parties of the two sides.

The two countries' foreign ministries, he suggested, should consult with each other from time to time so as to promote mutual understanding and trust. The second is to actively expand cooperation in such sectors as infrastructure construction, energy and mining, while exploring new cooperation opportunities in areas such as agriculture, fishing, science and technology, investment and financing, telecommunications and new energy.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C front) and his wife Peng Liyuan meet with representatives of middle school students of Trinidad and Tobago accompanied by President of Trinidad and Tobago Anthony Carmona and his wife during their visit in Port of Spain on 1 June, 2013, the International Children's Day. — XINHUA

Russia to send nuclear submarines to southern seas



The crew of Russia's nuclear-powered submarine Yekaterinburg line up on its deck as it returns to Gadjievo base in Murmansk region, in this file photo taken on 26 Sept, 2006. —REUTERS

MOSCOW, 2 June—Russia plans to resume nuclear submarine patrols in the southern seas after a hiatus of more than 20 years following the break-up of the Soviet Union, *Itar-Tass* news agency reported on Saturday, in another example of efforts to revive Moscow's military.

The plan to send Borei-class submarines, designed to carry 16 long-range nuclear missiles, to the southern hemisphere follows President Vladimir Putin's decision in March to deploy a naval unit in the Mediterranean Sea on a permanent basis starting this year.

"The revival of nuclear submarine patrols will allow us to fulfil the tasks of strategic deterrence not only across the North Pole but also the South Pole," state-run *Itar-Tass* cited an unnamed official in the military General Staff as saying. The official said the patrols would be phased in over several years. The *Yuri*

Dolgoruky, the first of eight Borei-class submarines that Russia hopes to launch by 2020, entered service this year.

Putin has stressed the importance of a strong and agile military since returning to the presidency last May. In 13 years in power, he has often cited external threats when talking of the need for a reliable armed forces and Russian political unity.

Fears of a nuclear confrontation between Russia and the United States has eased in recent years, and the Cold War-era foes signed a landmark treaty in 2010 setting lower limits on the size of their long-range nuclear arsenals. But the limited numbers of warheads and delivery vehicles such as submarines that they committed to under the New START treaty are still enough to devastate the world. Putin has made clear Russia will continue to upgrade its arsenal.

Reuters

Italy reports confirmed case of MERS-CoV to WHO

GENEVA, 2 June—The Italian Ministry of Health has notified the World Health Organization (WHO) of a laboratory-confirmed case with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in a resident in the country, the WHO said on Saturday.

The patient is a 45-year-old man with recent travel from Jordan. He returned to Italy on May 25 with symptoms of cough and fatigue and was hospitalized on May 28 as his condition deteriorated. He is currently in stable condition, according to the WHO.

From September 2012 to date, the WHO has been informed of 51 confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV globally, including 30 deaths.

To date, the WHO has received reports of confirmed cases originating in the following countries in the Middle East, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

France, Germany, Italy, Tunisia and Britain also reported confirmed cases, which were either transferred there for care of the disease or returned from the Middle East and subsequently became ill.

In France, Tunisia and Britain, there has been limited local transmission among patients who had not been to the Middle East but had been in close contact with the confirmed or probable cases, according to the WHO.

The WHO encouraged all member states to

continue their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) and to carefully review any unusual patterns.

It said that recent travelers returning from the Middle East who develop SARI should be tested for MERS-CoV.

It also reminded health care facilities of the importance of systematic implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC).

"Health care facilities that provide care for patients suspected or confirmed with MERS-CoV infection should take appropriate measures to decrease the risk of transmission of the virus to other patients, health care workers and visitors," it said.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Telecom Italia chief says no decision on Hutchison tie-up on Wednesday



A Telecom Italia antenna booster is seen in northern Rome on 12 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

MILAN, 2 June—The board of Telecom Italia (TLIT.MI) will not make a decision on a possible tie-up with Hutchison Whampoa (0013.HK) at its next meeting on Wednesday, the Italian group's chief said in a newspaper interview on Saturday.

The group is focused on the planned spin-off of some of its network assets—valued at between 13 and 15 billion euros (\$17-\$19.4 billion)—into a separate company, which it approved on Thursday, Chairman Franco Bernabe said.

“What I say is that consolidation in the sector is desirable and necessary. We'll see when the time comes,” Bernabe told

Il Sole 24 Ore when asked about a possible Hutchison deal. “For now, the issue is not on the table: there'll be no decision at Wednesday's board meeting.

On the table, right now, there is the network.” Hutchison is targeting a majority stake in Telecom Italia in a deal that would involve merging its local unit 3 Italia into the Italian telecoms giant.

In a statement on May 8, Italy's biggest phone company had said it would take up to 30 days to assess whether it and Hutchison could bridge differences over valuations, but

Bernabe's comments suggest a decision could be delayed further. Telecom Italia plans to sell a stake in a newly created network company to state-backed fund Cassa Depositi e Prestiti. Bernabe reiterated the group would keep a majority stake—something which could complicate a deal with Hutchison due to political concerns about keeping control of the network in Italian hands.

The stock, which has risen 14 percent in the last three months, fell 5.8 percent to 0.6 euros on Friday on disappointment at a lack of detail and no timeframe for the spinoff plan put forward on Thursday.

Bernabe rejected a proposal by rival telecoms group Wind to also transfer some assets to the new company in exchange for a stake. “We don't want a company paralyzed by arguments between players with too many conflicts of interest,” he said. “For now we are open to long-term institutional and financial investors, but we do not want to become like a mini-parliament.” (\$1 = 0.7716 euros)—Reuters

Under pressure Infosys recalls Narayana Murthy as chairman

MUMBAI/BANGALORE, 2 June—India's No 2 IT services firm Infosys Ltd, grappling with disappointing results and loss of market share, has recalled founder and former chairman N R Narayana Murthy to act as executive chairman for five years. He replaces current chairman K V Kamath, who will become lead independent director. Current co-chairman S Gopalakrishnan will become executive vice chairman, while CEO S D Shibulal remains in his position, Infosys said.

“The board has taken this step keeping in mind the challenges that the technology industry and the company faces,” Kamath said in a statement on Saturday, also acknowledging calls from shareholders to strengthen leadership of the company. Infosys, for years an investor favorite for exceeding its earnings targets, has struggled in the past two years as big customers in the United States and Europe cut costs and rivals such as Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Technologies Ltd take away

market share. In April, Infosys forecast full-year sales growth that missed analyst expectations by a margin of up to 50 percent, pushing down its shares to their lowest close in a decade.” This is a drastic, some might say, welcome move,” said Ankur Rudra, sector analyst at Ambit Capital, which has a “sell” rating on the stock. “Probably, this could be a step towards a new strategic direction and leadership as well.”

Murthy has long been the dominant figure at Infosys, which he calls his

Industrial-size worm farm cuts Sydney waste

SYDNEY, 2 June—A worm farm trial in a Sydney eatery precinct has halved the total waste of a local restaurant and juice shop, saving on rubbish bills and producing fertiliser, the City of Sydney said on Friday. The Green Living Centre held a six-month trial of the farm using a 1,500 litre skip bin to house the worms at their office in Newtown, Sydney. Over the six months the farm diverted 462 kilograms, the equivalent of 6,500 hamburgers, of food waste from two local businesses, said Project Manager Mithra Cox.

The 323 litres of organic fertilizer produced by the worms was given away to local residents, and is expected to produce about 40 kilograms of compost. “The worm farm plays an important role in turning food waste into a valuable organic fertilizer, and diverting waste from landfill,” said Cox. “This trial has shown that large worm farms can handle commercial quantities of food waste and halve the amount of waste going to landfill from restaurants and food outlets,” she added.

Boost Juice Newtown owner Raewyn McCardle

said the worm farm created a feel-good vibe about recycling.” As a juice bar, we generate lots of fruit pulp. It felt great that instead of filling up our rubbish bin, our fruit pulp became a valuable resource that was turned into organic fertiliser,” McCardle said. The composting trial formed part of the city's strategy to reduce waste and methane emissions from landfill, said Sustainability Programme Officer Jonathan Boys. Food waste makes up about a third of household waste, and half of a restaurant waste. The total amount of waste generated by NSW residents and businesses was estimated at 17.1 million tonnes in 2010-11.

A report on the state's household waste found that almost 75 percent of rubbish found in garbage bins should not be going to landfill, with food accounting for 40 percent of bin contents. In 2007 to 2008, about 2,223,856 tonnes of waste from the commercial and industrial sectors were

sent to Sydney landfills. Paper and food accounted for more than half of the average garbage bag, with 303,855 tonnes of food and 177,501 tonnes of paper thrown out. In response to these figures, a five-year 465.7 million Waste and Resource Recovery Initiative was announced by the NSW government in February 2013 to reduce the state's waste and improve recycling.

The City of Sydney also launched a Zero Waste campaign to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, and promote waste as a valuable resource that can be used to create new products and even generate energy. “The city is helping business to implement simple and cost-effective ways to reduce waste from their daily operations and improve waste management,” said Boys. The next stage of the worm farm program will involve establishing trial farms on-site at restaurants and food outlets, said Cox.—Xinhua

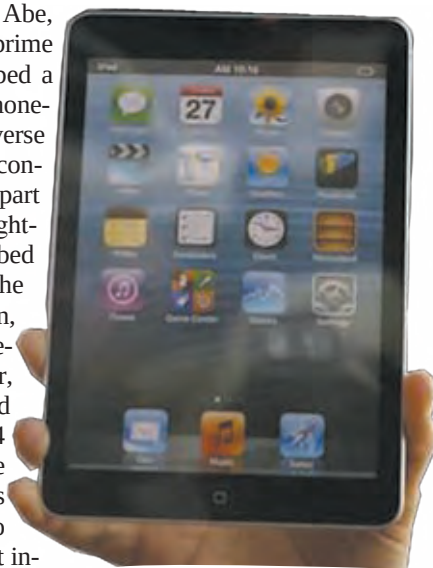
Apple joins other foreign brands in raising prices in Japan

TOKYO, 2 June—Apple Inc raised prices of iPads and iPods in Japan on Friday, becoming the highest-profile brand to join a growing list of foreign firms asking Japanese consumers to pay more as a weakening yen squeezes profit. Some US companies have inoculated themselves at least temporarily against the yen's fall through financial hedging instruments, while others are charging customers more.

The yen has fallen more than 20 percent against the US dollar since mid-November when then-opposition leader Shinzo Abe, who is now prime minister, prescribed a dose of radical monetary easing to reverse years of sliding consumer prices as part of a deflation-fighting policy, dubbed “Abenomics.” The Bank of Japan, under a new Abe-backed governor, in April promised to inject \$1.4 trillion into the economy in less than two years to achieve 2 percent in-

flation in roughly two years.

Price rises are rare in Japan, which has suffered 15 years of low-grade deflation. A few other foreign brands have also raised prices on products, providing an early sign of inflation for Abe and an indication that these companies feel consumer demand is strong enough to withstand the increases. Still, price rises would have to spread much more widely, especially to lower-end discretionary goods, to show that Abe's aggressive policies are helping reinvigorate the economy.—Reuters



A man holds up a mock model of Apple's new iPad mini as he waits for the release of the tablet in front of the Apple Store Ginza in Tokyo on 1 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

China builds first benthic observation system

GUANGZHOU, 2 June—Chinese scientists said they have finished building the country's first benthic observation system in south China's Hainan Province.

The system is located in waters near the city of Sanya and is part of efforts to build a large-scale benthic observation network, according to a source from the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The system was jointly designed by the CAS South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, the Shenyang Institute of Automation and the Institute of Acoustics.

Xinhua



N R Narayana Murthy, founder and chairman of Infosys, listens to a question during an interview with Reuters at the company's office in Bangalore on 28 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

ISS recommends vote for SoftBank's Sprint bid



A clerk works in front of a SoftBank Corp branch in Tokyo on 29 May, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 2 June — Proxy advisory firm Institutional Shareholder Services said that Sprint Nextel (S.N) shareholders should vote for SoftBank Corp's (9984.T) proposed \$20.1 billion purchase of the No 3 US mobile provider, potentially dealing a blow to a \$25.5 billion rival bid from Dish Network (DISH.O).

In its May 31 analysis, ISS said it had not yet developed a view, from a valuation perspective, on whether the offer from Dish is superior

to the SoftBank deal for Sprint shareholders, given the preliminary nature of the Dish offer, and because Dish has not yet made its offer directly through a tender. Sprint has said it would evaluate the \$25.5 billion counter offer from Dish and agreed to let it take a closer look at its books. ISS said Sprint shareholders should vote for the proposed transaction with SoftBank, given the strategic merits of the SoftBank deal, the sales and negotiation process overseen by the board,

the strength of the valuation relative to precedent transactions and the market reaction to the offer. The SoftBank deal addresses "Sprint's most compelling need: capital to acquire additional spectrum and complete the transformation of its network," ISS said, adding that the deal would enable the company to fully compete in the US market.

Sprint said on Saturday it remains focused on finalizing its signed merger agreement with SoftBank, which has been recommended by Sprint's board of directors. SoftBank said it was pleased that ISS recognized "the value proposition of our agreed transaction and the unique contributions of SoftBank's proven track record in wireless."

Dish declined to comment. Neither Sprint nor Dish have said when they expect Dish's due diligence process to be completed, but shareholders are hoping for a Sprint comment on the Dish bid before they are due to vote on the SoftBank offer on 12 June.

Reuters

Bilfinger eyes takeovers in Asia, North America in expansion

FRANKFURT, 2 June—German construction and industrial services group Bilfinger SE (GBFG.DE) is eyeing an acquisition in Asia or North America to reduce its dependence on the European market, its chief financial officer said.

"It would certainly be good for us to once again make a larger strategically significant takeover as we've done at the end of 2009, when we bought Austrian MCE with an enterprise value of 250-300 million euros (\$324-389 million)," Joachim Mueller told Germany's Boersen-Zeitung in an interview published on Saturday.

He said it would be

important for market expectations if such a move were to succeed in Asia or North America. Last month, Bilfinger's Chief Executive Roland Koch said the

company was planning to reduce its dependency on Europe by pushing expansion in Asia and the United States. Koch said then that 80 percent of the com-

pany's business currently came from Germany and Europe, adding that it had 850 million euros at its disposal for acquisitions.

On Monday, Bilfinger said it was planning to sell its division that operates public-private partnerships as part of its shift from construction-based projects to more predictable industrial services and maintenance work. The announcement pushed the group's shares to a near seven-week high. Mueller said the company was currently in the process of entering negotiations with interested parties, adding that it aimed for a sale of the unit this year. (\$1 = 0.7716 euros)—Reuters



The logo of German industrial services provider Bilfinger is pictured on their headquarters in Mannheim on 21 Jan, 2013. — REUTERS

Drug is a first to help patients with melanoma of the eye

CHICAGO, 2 June — In his first few weeks as head of the melanoma group at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre seven years ago, a young man walked into Dr Gary Schwartz's office with a rare form of the skin cancer that affects the eye. "It was horrible."

He died of metastatic disease. He was only 24. I promised him I would find a way to cure his cancer," recalls the physician-scientist of the patient who helped inspire his quest to find an effective treatment for

uveal melanoma, which affects 2,000 to 3,000 patients each year. Researchers from Memorial-Sloan Kettering on Saturday reported results of the first clinical trial ever to show that a drug helped patients with advanced uveal melanoma at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Meeting in Chicago.

The mid-stage clinical trial led by Dr. Richard Carvajal, Schwartz's colleague, found that an experimental drug from Astra-Zeneca called selumetinib

shrank tumours in half of all treated patients and doubled progression-free survival, a measurement of the amount of time a medicine controls cancer before it starts to grow again."

This represents the first real victory in medical oncology for patients with uveal melanoma," said Schwartz, who is chief of the New York hospital's melanoma and sarcoma service. Melanoma of the eye is far different from other forms of the deadly skin cancer, and attempts to treat

it in the past have largely failed. Out of a total of 157 patients treated in eight different prior clinical trials, only two patients had significant tumour shrinkage.

Like skin melanoma, uveal melanoma is caused by specialized, pigment cells called melanocytes, but biologically it is "completely distinct from skin melanoma," Carvajal said in a telephone interview. "Nothing has ever been shown to help patients with metastatic uveal melanoma before," he said. —Reuters

Old Virginia town famed for ham uneasy about Chinese bid

SMITHFIELD, Virginia, 2 June — Painted pig statues grace the picturesque brick sidewalks of this small Virginia river town of 8,000, and its slogan, "Hams, History and Hospitality," probably tells visitors all they need to know about Smithfield and its relationship with Smithfield Foods, the world's largest hog producer. Earlier this week, Smithfield Foods (SFD.N) received a \$4.7 billion buy-out offer from a Chinese food company. News that an agreement had been

reached and was awaiting US government approval sent a shiver through the community, where it is the largest employer with a payroll of nearly 4,000 people. Worldwide, Smithfield employs 46,000.

Ham is the town's primary industry, followed by tourism. The hope, community leaders say, is that Smithfield Food's new owners will invest in the community, not cut jobs. Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd's agreement to buy Smithfield would

be the largest acquisition of a US company by a Chinese one. The bid is part of an effort to feed growing demand in China for US pork. "The best news here is that the operation stays, and at least for now the company has committed to keep the management here," said John Edwards, editor of the weekly newspaper, the Smithfield Times, as he started his day recently over coffee at the Main Street Restaurant.

"All you can do is keep your fingers crossed, hang tight and be positive about the whole thing," Edwards added. Smithfield Foods, which processed 27.7 million hogs in 2012, built its headquarters on a sprawling campus of colonial-style buildings on the Pagan River in the center of Smithfield.

It is the cultural and economic heart of the town, which was founded in 1752.

On the outskirts is a plant where hams are produced.

Reuters



The Taste of Smithfield restaurant and gourmet market is seen in Smithfield, Virginia on 30 May, 2013.

REUTERS

Merck KGaA's Erbitux beats Avastin in bowel cancer trial

FRANKFURT, 2 June —Merck KGaA's cancer drug Erbitux was shown to be more effective at prolonging the lives of bowel cancer patients than Roche's Avastin, Merck said. In a drug trial, the two drugs were each given in combination with Folfiri chemotherapy to patients whose colorectal cancer had started spreading to other organs.

The results showed the Erbitux group survived on average nearly four months longer than the Avastin group. The trial was conducted by an independent research collaborative of the German Association of Medical Oncology (AIO) and sponsored by Germany's Merck.

Only patients whose tumors contain the normal,

or wild-type, version of a gene called KRAS took part in the trial.

Erbitux is only approved in this patient subgroup, which accounts for about 60 percent of colorectal cancer cases. The trial data presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago this weekend showed that overall survival was a median 28.7 months in the Erbitux arm and 25 months in the Avastin arm.

There was little difference, however, between the two groups in how long it took before the disease got worse, so-called progression-free survival, which was about 10 months for both. Merck declined to comment on the additional sales potential from the results.—Reuters



WORLD

Gov't urged to review criteria for Minamata disease recognition

TOKYO, 2 June—The government should relax the current strict criteria for official recognition as Minamata disease patients so more people can receive state compensation, panelists at a symposium on the mercury-poisoning disease argued Saturday.

Recognizing a deceased woman posthumously as a victim of Minamata disease in a landmark ruling in April this year, the Supreme Court called for providing relief to a wider range of people suffering from it.

But the Environment Ministry, which is in charge of the Minamata issue, has refused to review the 1977 criteria that require a combination of sensory disorders plus other symptoms for a person to be officially recognized as a Minamata disease patient and to receive redress.

At the symposium in Tokyo, Masanori Hanada,



Panelists at a Tokyo symposium on June 1, 2013, discuss how to deal with issues related to the Minamata mercury-poisoning disease.—KYODO NEWS

director and professor at Kumamoto Gakuen University's Open Research Center for Minamata Studies, said, "The Supreme Court has apparently rejected the recognition criteria, but the Environment Ministry has outrageously ignored it."

"The government's aim must be to disregard sufferers to bring down the curtain on the Minamata issue," he told around 130 people at the symposium, sponsored

by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations. "But it is now a question of how the government will respond to the Supreme Court's decision and how we, as citizens, push the government to follow it."

In the face of the ruling, JFBA President Kenji Yamagishi issued a statement saying the state has disregarded many Minamata disease victims under the strict criteria and urged it to

pave the way toward completely resolving the issue.

Another panelist, Tokyo-based lawyer Takahiro Suzuki, said, "The too strict criteria result in sufferers being disregarded, not recognized as patients. Therefore they are unfair."

"It is a denial of Japan's judicial system if the Environment Ministry maintains its irreverent stance," said Suzuki, who has been involved in pollution-related lawsuits. Minamata disease, caused by mercury-tainted water dumped by chemical maker Chisso Corp into the Shiranui Sea, an inland sea surrounded by Minamata in Kumamoto Prefecture and other cities, was officially recognized in 1956. Since then, only around 3,000 people have officially been recognized as patients under the state recognition criteria, including some in Niigata Prefecture where a similar disease was detected.—Reuters

US warning against Americans' visit to pyramids "unjustified"

CAIRO, 2 June—Egyptian minister of antiquities described the recent warning issued by the US embassy in Cairo that American citizens should avoid visiting the pyramids as "unjustified," state-run news agency MENA reported.

Antiquities Minister Ahmed Eissa said the embassy issued the warning without any trustworthy evidence that the area is insecure.

The US embassy on Friday urged its nationals to "elevate their situational awareness when traveling to the Pyramids, avoid any late evening or night travel, utilize a recommended or trusted guide and closely guard valuables," saying the embassy is "aware of in-

creasing number of incidents at or near the Pyramids Plateau area." The warning cited a recent incident in which unknown individuals allegedly pounded on the vehicle carrying tourists and attempted to open the door of it.

The Egyptian minister stressed that neither the tourism police nor the ministries of antiquities and tourism received any reports or verbal complaints from tourists visiting the Pyramids area.

"On the contrary, the visitors of the Pyramids increased by 10 percent in May 2013 compared with the same period last year, which reflects security improvement and stability in Egypt," he said.

Xinhua

US militants jailed for Internet threats are still posting from prison

WASHINGTON, 2 June—American Islamist militants jailed for threatening violence over the Internet are still posting political writings on the Web—while serving time in federal prison.

Jesse Curtis Morton, a convert to Islam who writes under the name Yunus Abdullah Muhammed, posted a lengthy tract opposing US drone policy, on 21 May, on the www.islampolicy.com website that he launched in 2010. Morton is serving a prison term of more than 11 years in a Pennsylvania federal prison after pleading guilty in 2012

to conspiring to solicit murder, make threatening communications and "use the Internet to place others in fear." Morton, from Brooklyn, New York, and previously a student at Columbia University, was jailed for threatening the writers of the satirical television show "South Park" for their depiction of the Prophet Moham-

med in a bear outfit.

Morton wrote in his latest essay that US use of lethal drones against al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Yemen had encouraged homegrown Islamist extremism.

"The drone assassination of Anwar Awlaki in Yemen, an Islamic preacher with tens of thousands of ardent Western followers, has yet to be avenged but his popularity has only risen after death," Morton wrote, referring to the American Muslim preacher killed in a 2011 US drone strike in Yemen.

Another American militant, Zachary Chesser, who was found guilty of conspiring with Morton to encourage attacks via the Internet on the creators of "South Park," has also posted material while in prison.

His postings appear on another website www.aseerun.org and mainly air personal grievances, along with some political material.

Reuters

Georgia to re-pay all World Bank, IMF loans by 2015

TBILISI, 2 June—Georgian Finance Minister Nodar Khaduri said Saturday that his country would become part of the European economic family and repay its debt to international financial institutions by 2015.

"Georgia is in a unique time. Important measures are taken for overcoming the difficult situation in the country," Khaduri said at an annual meeting with representatives from the Holland-Belgium group under the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"Despite successes, our country could not achieve important breakthrough for the last years. We'll do everything to break through in the nearest future. This will be achieved through implementation of optimal, monetary and fiscal policies by the Georgian government," said the minister.

The World Bank has since 1992 helped fund 55 projects in the South Caucasus country, with a total value of some 2 billion US dollars. The Georgian government has also got some 1.5 billion dollars for budgetary support, according to the Georgian finance ministry.

Xinhua

More than 1,000 killed in Iraq violence in May

Baghdad, 2 June—More than 1,000 people were killed in violence in Iraq in May, making it the deadliest month since the sectarian slaughter of 2006-07, the United Nations said on Saturday, as fears mounted of a return to civil war. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in the last two months as al-Qaeda and Sunni Islamist insurgents, invigorated by the Sunni-led revolt in Syria and by Sunni discontent at home, seek to revive the kind of all-out inter-communal conflict that killed tens of thousands five years ago.

"That is a sad record," Martin Kobler, the UN envoy in Baghdad, said in a statement. "Iraqi political leaders must act immediately to stop this intolerable



Iraqi security personnel inspect the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad, on 30 May, 2013.—REUTERS

bloodshed."

The renewed bloodletting reflects worsening tensions between Iraq's Shi'ite-led government and the Sunni minority, seething with resentment at their treatment since Saddam Hussein was overthrown by the US-led invasion of 2003

and later hanged. Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on Saturday met leaders from across Iraq's sectarian divide to try to resolve the crisis. Leaders emerged smiling, but there were only initial talks that did not address fundamental Sunni discontent.—Reuters

Japan grants Africa medical awards to Uganda, Belgium doctors

YOKOHAMA, 2 June—The Japanese government granted Hideyo Noguchi Africa awards to doctors from Uganda and Belgium on Saturday to honour their medical achievements in Africa.

Peter Piot, 64, from Belgium received the award and prize money for co-discovering the Ebola virus while leading a worldwide response action against AIDS, and Alex Godwin Coutinho,

53, from Uganda, was recognized for his pioneering work in treating AIDS patients and preventing the spread of HIV.

The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize is named after the Japanese biologist who made his name in bacteriology and died of yellow fever in Ghana in 1928 while researching the disease. It was established in July 2006 to encourage the advancement

of medical research and services on the continent.

"Dr Piot and Dr. Coutinho have bravely challenged fears and prejudices, and have continued their research and activities in Africa," said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the award ceremony held on the sidelines of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama.

Kyodo News



A man types on a computer keyboard in Warsaw in this on 28 Feb, 2013 illustration file picture.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

US tech firm introduces traffic laser in Myanmar

YANGON, 2 June—US top technology company Laser Technology Inc introduced Traffic Over Speed Enforcement Laser that would easily track down the over-speed cars for effective traffic rules enforcement on accident-prone highways in Myanmar at Sedona Hotel here on 30 May.

Accompanied by Handheld Photo/Video Enforcement Laser, the tool would help Myanmar traffic authorities record both photo and video of over-speed motorcars.

The type of vehicle and the licence plate can clearly be caught by the High Resolution Image Camera of the equipment

which has special data protection system to prevent loss or destruction of recorded data. It has the weight of 1.5 Km and uses 12V battery.

The mile-per-hour rate could be set at the tool which took only 0.33 second to record a vehicle with the record of 99 percent foolproof result.

TruFlash is used for nighttime picture capturing and location and time will be shown with the help of GPS system.

The equipment could reduce traffic accidents and prevent loss of lives if equipped by roads of busy cities and highways in Myanmar.

MMAL-Aung Thura



US technology company Laser Technology Inc introduces its Traffic Over Speed Enforcement Laser that can record over-speed cars on busy roads and highways.

CRIME

Murder suspect pleads guilty

YANGON, 2 June—A murder suspect voluntarily pleaded guilty before Deputy Judge of Thongwa Township Court of Yangon Region on 31 May while under the police custody on 31 May.

Tin Maung Myint (a) Kayingyi (a) Ko Thet said he had an affair with Ma San San Hlaing, the daughter-in-law of the victim, who was

accused to conspire with him as U Tin Hla found them together in the home on 25 May.

They beat U Tin Hla and threw the body into the lake just after he accidentally realized their affair.

The police also held Ma San San Hlaing and kept her under the custody.

MMAL-Chit Saya

Dala police arrests two gambling suspects

YANGON, 2 June—Yangon Region police arrested two gambling suspects of two/three-digit illegal lottery in a house in Thakhin Pho Hla Gyi street in Yazathingyan ward in Dala Township in Yangon South District on 21 May.

Ma Htay Htay Win and

Maung Shwe Tha Oo were detained by the police at their father U Myint Swe's house with the illegal lottery tickets and vouchers and K 40130.

The Dala police will prosecute the suspects for illegal gambling.

MMAL-Than Htay-Dala

NATIONAL SPORTS

Waso Chinlone Festival in Mandalay reaches 85th anniversary milestone

MANDALAY, 2 June—It has been 85 years since Myanmar's traditional Waso Chinlone (Cane ball) festival is held in landmark Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

The festivals were well participated by local cane ball professionals and amateurs and foreign cane ball amateurs. It has gained global significance during previous years.

Chairman of Maha Muni Buddha Image Board of Trustees U Thein Toe said in 85th cane ball event festival opening ceremony that he would not want the traditional sport which enshrines both teamwork and health.

The event is aimed at nurturing new faces of Myanmar cane ball sport and attracting foreigners

interested to the cane-balling.

The festival has a time-honoured tradition of offering robes, flowers and lights to the Buddha Image on 1st waning of Waso.

Chairman of Waso Chinlone Festival organizing committee U Tin Than, Chairman of the Image Board of Trustees U Thein Toe and secretary U Kyaw Thein formally launched the festival.

A total of 1650 teams are exhibiting their skills at the festival that started on 6th waning of Kason and runs through 1st waning of Waso (23 July).

The 55-day event is being held daily from 9 am to 12 noon.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mandalay house burnt down by fire

MANDALAY, 2 June—Fire broke out in a house in 89th street between 17th street and 18th street in Minde Eikin ward in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay Region at 9.05 am on 31 May.

The fire at the home of U Zaw Tun and Daw Yi Htay was ignited by the overheated iron.

Firefighters put out the fire at 9.20 am with the use of 20 fire engines and one administration vehicle.

The house was reduced to ashes, amounting the loss to K 736,000.

The police station has filed a lawsuit against the owners for reckless use of electricity.

MMAL-042



BUSINESS

Mandalay Region CCI meets Thai businessmen

MANDALAY, 2 June—Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with representatives of seven companies and businessmen of Department of International Trade Promotion of Thailand at Hotel Mandalay in Aungmyethazan Township here on 30 May.

Vice-President

of Mandalay Region Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Soe Myint and a Thai housing development firm's President Dr Patchara Tantayanyong elaborated on purposes of the meeting.

The meeting focused on the fundamental regulations of the trade between the two countries.

MMAL-Kyaw Htoo

Bago FSD keeps public on alert for flood

BAGO, 2 June—Flash flood and inundation are common in coastal areas and creek-side areas in monsoon in Myanmar which has a heavy rainfall record.

Bago Region Fire Services Department is ensuring every vessel in operation in rivers and creeks

have enough life jackets. The department has also urged households in risk areas to keep adequate life jackets.

Bago Region used to suffer from inundations and floods in rainy season as it is one of Myanmar's high rainfall area.

MMAL-121

Furnishings donated to schools in Ponnagyun

PONNAGYUN, 2 June—Education support team of Thet village Basic Education Middle School in Ponnagyun Township in Rakhine State donated furnishings for 2013-2014 academic year for convenience of schoolchildren at the donation ceremony at Waithali Hall of BEMS on 27 May afternoon.

The ceremony was

attended by village-tract administrator U Kyaw Hla Nyo and party, townselders, schoolchildren, officials of the education support group, the headmaster and teachers. Leader of the education support team U Aung Tun Zan presented five desks, 10 tables and 55 plastic chairs worth about K 500,000 on behalf of the donors.

MMAL-Lay Wadi (Rakhine State)

FIRE

Yangon paper shed catches fire



A fire engine fighting fire at the paper warehouse in Hline Township in Yangon.

YANGON, 2 June—Fire broke out at the paper warehouse owned by Daw Tin Tin Aye in Bo Sein Hman street in No (16) ward in Hline Township in Yangon West District in Yangon

Region at 9.15 pm on 30 May.

The fire started by wire shock was put out by 10 fire engines at 9.40 pm.

MMAL-Yan Naing Win (Hline)

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 3 June, 2013

Historic evolution in Asia

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

Periods of transition are always fraught with risk. But the government knows the aspirations of the people of all backgrounds, and how much they want this transition to succeed. In fact, the people really want to see democracy take root, put behind decades of isolation, catch up with other Asian economics, end all violence and fighting. Everyone accepts that this is the direction our country must take.

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

We all believe what we are trying to achieve in Myanmar is quite unprecedented. We are transitioning from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one and from a centralized economy to one based on a free market. At the same time, we are engaged in a political dialogue process and national reconciliation. We are also reengaging with many governments and international institutions from which we are witnessing fruits.

Our transformation is not taking place in a vacuum. Asia is changing fast and a part of the world that was once a by-word for war and poverty is now entering perhaps its greatest period ever of peace and prosperity. A new generation, free from the burdens of colonialism and ideological conflicts of the past, is taking charge. Perhaps more than anything else, Myanmar must fully join this historic evolution in Asia.

Cooperative works is second economic...

(from page 1)

the microfinance programme successful and sustainable, learning from the success and loss stories of other countries.

Cooperative works is second economic pillar of the nation, he noted, calling for adoption of appropriate policies to develop cooperative works through improvement of cooperative societies. Such cooperative societies as production, trade and industrial farming are to be established to drive the economy, he stressed, urging to take example of US, India and Japan which have nurtured successful cooperative societies.

He called for joint efforts to enhance the living standard of grassroots, reduce poverty rate, and contribute the national economy by one way or another, taking example of the legacies of cooperative societies in the past.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan elaborated on provision of small loans for rural development and socio-economic improvement by the ministry, Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe on employment and poverty alleviation measures of the region government, followed by provision of subsidies to cooperative societies in the region.

Chairman of Central Cooperative Union and Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye handed over farming equipment, vehicles, sidecars and sewing machines, jointly sold by Cooperatives Ministry,

Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia seeking diplomatic means to protect Myanmar citizens

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June— On 30 May morning, a Myanmar worker working at a vegetable shop on his way back home from Selayang market in Malaysia came under gang attack of unidentified motorists and is undergoing treatment at Selayang regional hospital in Malaysia.

Another Myanmar worker working at NSK Pasar Borong met the same fate at night the same day on his way back home from work and was also



Photo shows booths of equipment, farming input and technologies required in promoting the cooperative societies displayed at the ceremony.—MNA

Central Cooperative Union and CB Bank on installment, to cooperative societies. Member U Myint Shwe of Padauk Kwe Transportation Cooperative Society spoke words of thanks to end the event.

A total of K 2336.64 million loans were granted to 39609 members of 577 cooperative societies from 44 townships in Yangon Region for the second time on the occasion after the first batch of loans were fully repaid.

In addition, 209 units of farming equipment, 53 units of vehicle, 180 units of trishaw and 683 units of sewing machines worth K 926.82015 million were sold to 114 cooperative societies in 38 townships on hire purchase system.

The President then looked around documentary photos on activities of the Cooperatives Ministry and display of equipment, farming input and

technologies required in promoting the cooperative societies. The President in meeting with taxi and trishaw drivers urged them to grasp the opportunities, which come from the government subsidies, to their benefits and to the public benefits and to repay the loans according to the regulations.

The Cooperatives Ministry has adopted and been implementing two objectives and five programmes for rural development and better socio-economic status. It aims to ensure sustainable development of microfinance programme, one of the five work programmes, by enabling the borrowers to be able to stand on their own feet in the following four to five years from the date of the first borrowing.

Microfinance Bank will be established to accumulate funds and international aids and loans will also be requested. Moreover, cooperative societies will

be upgraded to be able to effectively contribute to the national economy and improve the socio-economic status of the members.

Employment Committee is formed separately in Yangon Region by the region government to create job opportunities for urbanites as the urban residents account for 70 per cent of the population. The region is arranging employment both for urban and rural residents. While microfinance programme of the Cooperatives Ministry cannot cover the entire region, interest groups are formed in wards and villages that are out of the reach of microfinance programme of the ministry and provided with small loans under the arrangement of the region government. Those interest groups are said to be reorganized into cooperative societies and be provided with access to small loans.

MNA

Myanmar migrant worker dies in worksite accident

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — A Myanmar worker died as 40-ft container from a forklift truck fell on him at Port Klang MALCO-NREP DEPOT (M)/S/B in Malaysia yesterday.

The 40-ft container fell on Maung Zaw Win, 31, while he was driving back a 20-foot Forklift truck as his truck hit another forklift truck.

The victim is from Aung Gyi Village, Nyaunglebin Township, and he had been working in Malaysia since 10

September, 2010, at the factory where about 30 Myanmar workers are working.

The employer of the factory arranged to carry the body to Mortuary of the Klang Hospital.

Labour Department has already informed the accident to the family of Maung Zaw Win and has contacted Myant Swe Mon Employment Company, which sent Maung Zaw Win to Malaysia, to obtain compensation for the victim.

MNA



LOCAL NEWS

Thai embassy donates cash to fund of MRCS



DONATION

YANGON, 2 June—The Royal Thai Embassy donated US\$ 145,642 to the fund for activities of Myanmar Red Cross Society by holding three main events which are seminar on “Thailand and Myanmar traditional textiles: Hidden treasures shared wisdoms”, exhibition on “Textile of the two lands” and “Textiles of the two lands charity gala dinner”, at Chatrium Royal Lake Hotel, Yangon, on 29 May.

The donation was aimed at celebrating the 65th anniversary of the establishment of Thai-

Myanmar diplomatic relations this year, holding the auspicious occasion of the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand and raising the fund of human activities of the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, made the welcoming remarks and donated US\$ 145,642 to Professor Dr Tha Hla Shwe, President of MRCS.

Later, the president of MRCS presented a certificate of honour and spoke words of thanks.

Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM

SANITATION

Sanitation at drains along Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road

YANGON, 2 June—In order to prevent the streets and wards from flooding in the rainy season, workers of Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon North District Development Affairs

Committee carried out sanitation and dredged silt and sand in the drains for proper flow of water along both sides of Kyaikwaing pagoda road in Mayangon township on 29 May.

Zawgyee (Manita)-Kyemon



Mosquito repellent sprayed in Ahaya Thukha Market

PYINMANA, 2 June—As the monsoon is approaching, preventive measures against DHF were carried out on 30 May in Pyinmana Ahara Thukha Market under the supervision of markets department under the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

In-charge of Ahara Thukha Market U Maung Maung explained spraying

of mosquito repellent, Ahaya Thukha Market is the major crocery wholesaler as well as retailer in Nay Pyi Taw. We dredge the drains in, outside and around the market to ensure proper flow of water on a regular basis. Sellers here joined together to spray mosquito repellent as mosquito is the root cause of DHF.

Kyemon-688



Outstanding staff honoured in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 2 June—A prize presentation ceremony for outstanding staff took place at the in-charge office of Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department in Kyimyindine Township in Yangon North District yesterday morning. It was attended by Deputy Head of Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department U Hla Win Aung, District Head U Yan Nyein Chan and Deputy District Head U Bwe Kyone.

Deputy Head U Hla Win Aung in his speech said that YCDC cleaner Daw Thin Myat Soe found one .38 Pistol, 91 rounds

Heroin seized from drug addict suspect

PINLEBU, 2 June—Heroin was seized from a man suspected of being a drug addict in ZediU Village in Pinlebu Township Katha District on 30 May.

In response to a tip-off, Pinkyaing Village-tract administrator U Poe Pya, ZediU Village 100-household head U Thein Tun and 10-household head U Myint Than searched Aung Htwe, 44, ZediU villager as he was walking down the street in ZediU Village. Three penicillin bottles of white powder suspected to be heroin weighing 0.5 gram was uncovered from him who fled the scene when being investigated.

The police rushed to the scene to take the evidence and are attempting to corner the suspects, blocking escape routes.

Kyemon-Katha District IPRD

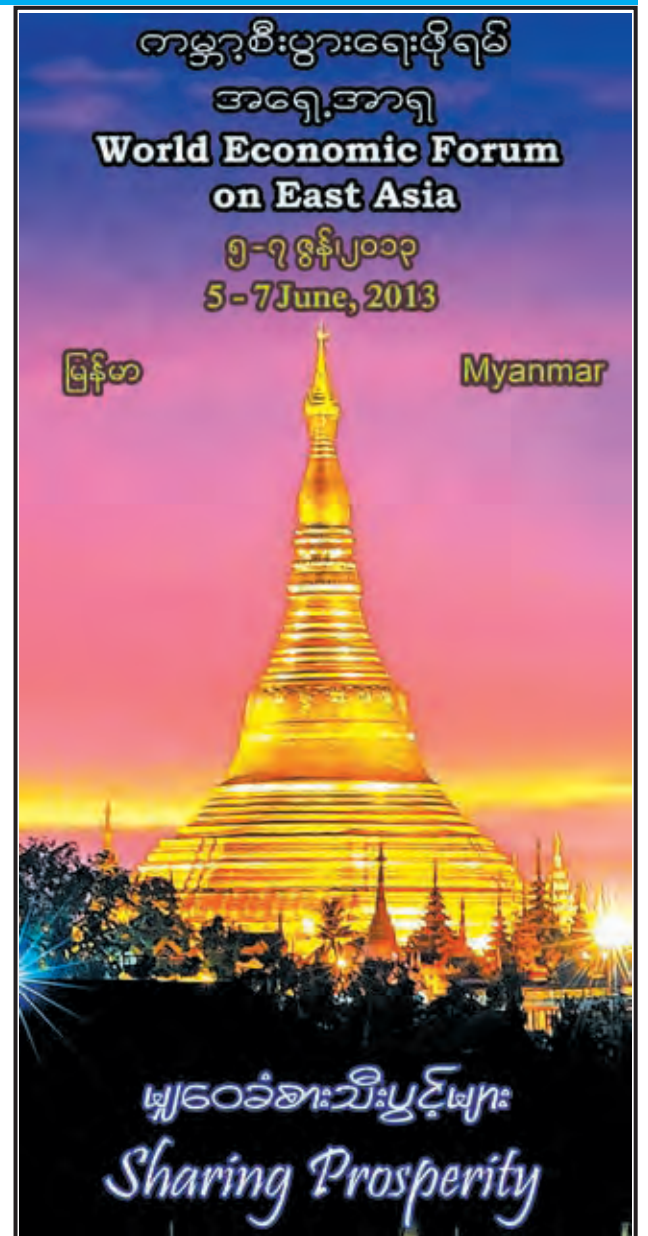
of ammunition and related materials in the garbage box No. 057 at the corner of Bo Thura and Padaukpin streets in East Ward in Kyimyindine Market on 20 May. She informed the case and handed over the items through Township Sanitation In-charge U Myo Min Aung, he added. He also urged those present to inform of such suspicious cases and illegal



Refresher courses for divers, bus conductors opened in Yangon



YANGON, 2 June—Opening ceremony of refresher course No. 17/2013 for drivers and bus conductors who have over two years experience from the bus-lines in Yangon was held at All Private Bus-Line Control Committee (Central) of Yangon Region in South



matters to the departmental heads as soon as possible. Then, District Head U Yan Nyein Chan presented cash assistance to Outstanding Staff Daw Thin Myat Soe.

Kyemon-597

HRD



Okkalapa Township on 30 May morning.

Committee Chairman U Hla Aung gave a speech on the occasion.

Then, the officials of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and Road Transport shared knowledge about traffic rules,

preventative measure against traffic accidents and other facts using reference books and projector.

It was attended by about 140 drivers and bus conductors of some bus-lines running in Yangon from 9 am to 4 pm.

Kyemon-Shwe La Min

Oil executives tune out the call of the wild Arctic

NY-AALESUND, 2 June—The high Arctic, once the irresistible frontier for oil and gas exploration, is quickly losing its appeal as energy firms grow fearful of the financial and public relations risk of working in the pristine icy wilderness.

The Arctic may hold 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and 30 percent of its gas, but a series of blunders and failures there are making executives fight shy of such a sensitive area and turn their attention back to more conventional resources and the shale revolution.

The turning point likely came on New Year's eve, when Royal Dutch Shell's drillship ran aground in

rough waters off Alaska, setting off a public relations storm that inflicted much pain on the firm, made more acute by how little it had to show for the \$4.5 billion (2.9 billion pounds) it has spent on the Arctic since 2005.

Shell promptly cancelled plans to drill off Alaska in 2013, and signals about its going back in 2014 are fading.

"The whole Arctic, especially the American Arctic, was set back because of Shell's issue," Choo Chiau Beng, the Chief Executive of Keppel, the world's biggest rig maker, told *Reuters* in the world's northernmost settlement.

The accident caused



The town of Ny-Aalesund in Norway's high Arctic as seen from the top of the nearby Zeppelin mountain, on 28 May, 2013.—REUTERS

little damage and no spill, but it was a big lesson for firms looking for Arctic resources.

"The interest to develop oil and gas is very high, but nevertheless there is more and more concern about the environment and the risk part of it," said Harald Norvik, a board

member at ConocoPhillips and a former CEO of Statoil, a pioneer in the Arctic.

"We have been focusing on areas in the Arctic. Now we put our priorities into other areas, like Tanzania, Argentina and Texas. That is the logical development," he said.

Reuters

Four Mexican tourists killed in bus accident in Egypt's Sinai

CAIRO, 2 June—Four Mexican tourists were killed and 17 were injured, two of them critically, in a bus accident on Friday in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, the governor of South Sinai said.

The tourists were travelling on a bus owned by a local tour company near Saint Catherine's monastery in central Sinai when their bus overturned and caught fire, medical and security sources said.

At least 40 tourists, all from Mexico, were inside, the state news agency *MENA* reported.

The injured tourists were transferred to three hospitals in the area, governor Khaled Fouda said.

He said they had been travelling to the monastery, a popular tourist destination, from the town of Taba, which borders Israel.

The 2011 uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak and the turmoil that followed has dented Egypt's tourism sector - a major employer and source of foreign currency which accounted for more than 10 percent of gross domestic product.

The sector has been further damaged by kidnappings in Sinai and high-profile accidents, including a hot air balloon crash near Luxor in February that killed 19 tourists, most of them Asian and European.

Reuters

Official warns of youth disengagement in Europe

BRUSSELS, 2 June—The European Union's youth and culture commissioner Androulla Vassiliou on Friday warned of young people's disengagement in the continent's political affairs largely due to unemployment and lack of communication channels.

"I see a clear danger that unemployment, poverty, disengagement and the lack of effective upward channels of communication to political actors lead to polarization, disengagement or extremism," Vassiliou said at the event of the EU's

youth programmes marking its 25 years' anniversary.

According to the commissioner, the EU's first youth programme was launched back in 1988, at which time Europe was seeking its way out of an economic crisis with its youth unemployment standing at around 20 percent.

"Today, as 25 years ago, youth unemployment is again a great concern," she said.

After several years of economic crisis and sovereign debt crisis across Europe, unemployment, and in particular youth unemployment, has become an urgent concern for policymakers

at European and national levels.

In Europe, young people not in employment, education, training, or the so-called "NEETs", show less interest in politics and less willingness to vote or engage in social participation, according to a recent survey.

Another recent Eurobarometer survey shows that less than 50 percent of young people have a positive image of the EU, and most of them consider the current political system neither sufficiently listening nor sufficiently adapting to their needs.

Xinhua

At least four US firefighters killed battling hotel fire in Houston

HOUSTON, 2 June—At least four firefighters were killed while battling a hotel fire in the fourth largest US city of Houston on Friday, officials said.

A spokesperson for Houston Mayor Annise Parker said at least four firefighters have died, and five others were injured, making this one of the deadliest days in history for the Houston Fire Department, according to local TV channel ABC13.

The fire broke out at the Bhojan Restaurant about 12:09 pm local time and engulfed the neighboring Southwest Inn in southwest Houston, according to *USA Today*.

There was no immediate word on whether all 45 hotel guests, employees and others had been accounted for, the report said.

However, earlier media reports said all patrons and employees of the restaurant got out safely.

Video footage showed thick black smoke coming from building. The feeder road was closed to inbound traffic.

More than 100 firefighters were reportedly on the scene, and the Red Cross was also there providing assistance.

It was unclear what sparked the fire, according to reports.

Xinhua



Residents wait to be subjected to a medical test of carbon monoxide in their lungs at a stand placed by the Buenos Aires city's government on the Florida pedestrian walkway, in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 31 May, 2013. The campaign was held under the framework of the World No Tobacco Day.—XINHUA

Four dead as two small planes collide in mid-air in Arizona

PHOENIX, 2 June—Four people were killed when two small planes crashed after a mid-air collision in the Arizona desert north of Phoenix on Friday that apparently left no survivors, authorities said.

No one on the ground was injured in the accident, which occurred at about 10:30 am local time roughly 15 miles (24 kms) west

of Deer Valley Airport.

"We arrived on the scene and found four people deceased," said Captain Larry Nunez, a Phoenix Fire Department spokesman.

Nunez said one of the planes burst into flames and television footage showed it was completely destroyed. The other plane appeared to be intact. Names of the vic-

tims were not immediately available.

The accident was reported to authorities by a pilot who witnessed the collision, said Ian Gregor, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman. An investigation is underway by the National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA, he said.

Reuters

Russia to conduct over 500 military drills this summer

MOSCOW, 2 June—The Russian Armed Forces will conduct more than 500 drills starting from 1 June a senior defence official said on Friday.

"We are going to hold in summer over 500 drills of various capacities," First Deputy Defence Minister Arkady Bakhin told reporters. The intensive exercises were needed because a

number of problems have been found during the recent inspections and unplanned exercises, Bakhin said.

"We'll take them into account during the summer training with the ground troops, air and naval forces performing tasks jointly," the *Interfax* news agency quoted him as saying.

The "West 2013" joint

training with Belarus in September will be the climax of the summer training, according to the general.

President Vladimir Putin made an unscheduled inspection of troops from the Southern Federal District and Airborne Forces on 13 May and urged the army to be prepared around the clock.—*Xinhua*



A water bomber helicopter battles a brush fire at Green Valley as the fire has burned more than 1,400 acres since Thursday in the Angeles National Forest just north of Castaic, in California, the United States, on 31 May, 2013.

XINHUA

REGIONAL



A street parade is held to celebrate the 150th birthday of the oldest department store "Kirkcaldie and Stains" in New Zealand's capital of Wellington, 1 June, 2013.

XINHUA

Philippine Mayon volcano exhibiting abnormal behaviour

MANILA, 2 June — Alert Level on Mayon Volcano in northern Philippine province of Albay has been risen to Level 1 after exhibiting abnormal behaviour, a state agency said on Saturday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said that in the past 36 hours, three weeks after phreatic explosion on 7 May, fumes and crater glow were observed.

"PHIVOLCS is raising

the alert status of Mayon from Alert Level 0 to Alert Level 1 as a precaution to the public that the volcano is exhibiting abnormal behaviour," it said in a Bulletin issued as of 5:00 pm local time on Friday.

With this, the agency is warning the public from entering the six-kilometer radius permanent danger zone due to perennial danger of life-threatening rockfalls, avalanches, ash puffs and sudden phreatic or steam-driven eruptions.

Mayon's alert level status may further change if significant changes in monitoring parameters occur, it said.

PHIVOLCS also advised residents around the volcano to remain vigilant and to keep abreast of updates on Mayon's condition through local and national officials. On 7 May, Mayon's phreatic explosion killed seven people, four of them foreigners, who were climbing the cone-like volcano.—Xinhua

Pakistani party formally nominates Nawaz Sharif for PM slot

ISLAMABAD, 2 June—Nawaz Sharif was on Saturday formally nominated as candidate for the position of Pakistan's prime minister by newly-elected members of the parliament, party sources said.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party won majority seats in the 11 May general elections and is in a strong position to form the government.

Lawmakers of the PML-N, who met in Islamabad, formally nominated Nawaz Sharif to lead Pakistan for the third time.

Sharif's name was recommended by a senior party leader, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, during the meeting and was subsequently approved by the parliamentary party. Nawaz Sharif has served twice as prime minister and was elected member of the National Assembly after 14 years.

Xinhua

Cambodian PM confident in winning upcoming election

PHNOM PENH, 2 June—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Saturday that his Cambodian People's Party would definitely win a landslide victory in July's general election and advised his ministers to prepare for the implementation of the next five-year action plan in the forthcoming new term of government.

"It's no doubt, no one can defeat the Cambodian People's Party," the premier said during the celebration of the 64th anniversary of the International Children's Day at the Diamond Island Grand

Theater in Phnom Penh.

"It is clear that I will still be the prime minister in the government's next five-year term (2013-2018) after the forthcoming election," said Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia since January 1985.

On Thursday, US-backed International Republican Institute unveiled a survey result, according to which 79 percent of the Cambodian people believed that Cambodia was headed in the right direction under the leadership of Hun Sen.

According to the sur-

vey, conducted early this year, 79% of the 2,000 respondents said that the country was moving in the right direction because the government had built more roads, bridges, schools, health clinics, pagodas, irrigation systems and worked towards poverty reduction.

Twenty-one percent of the respondents said the nation was in the wrong direction, citing corruption, illegal immigration, nepotism, damage to environment and fisheries, low crop prices for farmers, land grabbing, and poverty, it said.—Xinhua

Photo shows a heart shape created by the Blue Impulse flight team from the Air Self-Defence Force in the sky above Fukushima City on 1 June, 2013, after the team performed aerobatics as part of a local festival.

KYODO NEWS



India plans \$111 bil outlay for new military corps to counter China

NEW DELHI, 2 June—India plans to establish a "mountain strike corps" to counter China, saying it will spend 6.2 trillion rupees (\$111 billion) in the coming years, *The Times of India* reported Saturday.

The corps will consist of nearly 40,000 personnel in a bid to counter China's growing military presence along the Line of Actual Control, the de facto border between India and China.

According to the report, the money will be spent over five years, with India's Cabinet committee on security soon expected to give its approval. The Indian Army has proposed a mountain strike corps, two independent infantry brigades and two independent armored brigades.

The entire buildup would, however, take several years longer and billions of dollars more, spilling into the "13th Plan" from 2017-2022.

India established two new infantry divisions in the Lekhapani and Missamari areas in the northeastern state

Assam in 2009-2010.

They are now operational and tasked to defend the northeastern state Arunachal Pradesh.

The Times of India said, "The ambitious plan will for the first time give India the capability to also launch offensive action into the Tibet Autonomous Region in the event of a Chinese attack. The corps will have two high-altitude divisions for rapid reaction."

India began to match Chinese military and infrastructural power only in the past decade, and is now beefing up its missile and fighter capabilities along the border.

China is known to have at least five fully operational airbases, an extensive rail network and thousands of kilometers of roads in Tibet, which borders India.

This would allow it to move more than 30 divisions, each with more than 15,000 soldiers, to the LAC and outnumber Indian forces by at least three to one.

Kyodo News

Soldiers set up a children's park in makeshift houses in Longmen Township of Lushan County in Ya'an City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 1 June, 2013. Children in Lushan, which was severely hit by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake on 20 April, 2013, spent their children's day here in makeshift houses on Saturday.

XINHUA



GENERAL

Russia tries to kick habit with anti-smoking law

Moscow, 2 June—Tobacco restrictions came into force in Russia on Saturday which President Vladimir Putin hopes will create a healthier workforce and help reverse a population decline, but they face stiff opposition in a country where four in ten people smoke.

The measures, part of a law Putin signed in February, include a ban on smoking at schools and universities, museums, sports facilities, hospitals and on public transport — in many cases places where it is already prohibited.

A minimum price for cigarettes is expected to be set next January and the biggest challenge to Russia's cigarette culture will come in June 2014: a ban on smoking in cafes, restaur-

ants and hotels, and on tobacco sales at street kiosks.

Nearly 40 percent of Russians smoke, compared with 27 percent in the United States and 30 percent in France, according to the World Health Organisation's latest figures.

The average Russian life expectancy is 69, against 79 in the United States and 82 in France, according to the World Bank.

There are doubts about enforcement, and widespread debate among Russians over the impact of the new law.

Adopting it was the right thing to do, said Moscow resident Alexander. "I plan to quit smoking and hope this will help."

But opponents say it will not work and infringes on the rights of smokers.



Men tap ash from their cigarettes while smoking on the balcony of an office building in Russia's Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk on 24 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

"Our country is not ready for this law," said prominent legal expert Mikhail Barshchevsky, likening it to former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's unpopular effort to crack down on drinking under his "perestroika" reforms of the late 1980s.

"This is not a law about fighting smoking, it's a law on genocide against smokers."

He said fines ranging from 500 to 1500 roubles (\$15-\$50) could lead to bribe-taking by police.

The law is designed to gradually bring the country in line with an international tobacco control pact and wean its citizens off a habit that Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has said kills almost 400,000 Russians every year.

Reuters

Syrian army captures sarin containers with rebels in Hama

DAMASCUS, 2 June—A Syrian military source said Saturday that army troops seized two cylinders of the poisonous agent sarin after raiding a rebels' den in the central city of Hama, according to state-run SANA news agency.

The rebels were entrenched at al-Faraieh neighborhood in Hama when the army raided their den, said SANA, giving no further details.

The Syrian government has accused the rebels of using chemical weapons during an attack on the pro-government town of Khan al-Asal in northern Syria.

The opposition groups, for their part, also accused the government forces of using chemical weapons in their fight against the rebels.

The issue has caused confusion and discrepancy

in international reports.

The French *Le Monde* claimed its reporters "witnessed" forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad using chemical arms in their conflict with the rebels for several days in a row on the outskirts of Damascus.

Earlier in May, Carla del Ponte, who serves on the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, said there were "strong, concrete suspicions but not yet incontrovertible proof" about the rebels' use of agent sarin, adding that her "suspicions" were based on testimonies of victims. Analysts said the West's motive behind stirring up fears of chemical weapons is to set a stage for foreign intervention in case it decides to get involved militarily in toppling the Assad administration.

Xinhua

Spain celebrates Armed Forces Day without much fanfare due to cuts

MADRID, 2 June—Austerity has bitten into Spanish military life as the country downplayed its celebration of its Armed Forces Day on Saturday without much fanfare due to spending cuts.

The cuts imposed as a result of the economic crisis means that Saturday's was a downbeat affair with no traditional military parade, nor the re-enactments of a battle or maneuvers which usually mark the occasion.

The budget for the day had been slashed from

200,000 euros (260,000 U.S. dollars) last year, to just 90,000 euros this year, about 3 percent of that of 2008 when the current economic crisis began.

Saturday's solemn and low-key event was held in the Plaza de la Libertad in Madrid. King Juan Carlos of Spain and his son, Prince Felipe de Bourbon, make their first official appearance together since the King underwent a back operation at the start of March.

Queen Sofia, as well as Minister of Defense Pe-

dro Morenes and Minister for the Interior Jorge Fernandez Diaz and Mayor of Madrid Ana Botella, also attended the event.

The King gave a brief speech in which he expressed his "recognition, gratitude and affection" to the armed forces.

"All of the Spanish feel very proud of you," he said to the assembled military forces, who had greeted his arrival with applause and shout of "Viva el Rey," (Long live the King).

Speaking to Spanish

television, Defense Minister Pedro Morenes insisted that spending cuts are not affecting the country's capacity to defend itself.

"Spain's security is guaranteed," he said, adding that "austerity is a military virtue above all others." The minister also said that the military would be taking extra precautions in the light of the murder of a British soldier by an extremist in London a week ago and the recent stabbing of a French soldier in Paris.

Xinhua



An African artist draws during the African Fair 2013 in Yokohama, Japan, on June 1, 2013. More than 300 companies from 46 African countries participated in the African Fair 2013, an official event sponsored by Japan's trade ministry and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) under the TICAD V.—XINHUA

Unemployment shadows future of Italian youth

BAGHDAD, 2 June—Iraq's Defence Ministry said on Saturday that it has busted an al-Qaeda cell that allegedly had worked to produce poisonous gas to stage chemical attacks home and abroad.

The Iraqi military intelligence arrested the cell's five members after monitoring them for three months, Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Askari told a Press conference.

The group built two facilities in Baghdad and a third one in an undisclosed province to produce sarin and mustard gas for making chemical weapons, Askari said. According to their confessions, the five people had plotted to use chemical agents inside Iraq, and they also had a network to transport them into neighboring countries, Europe and North America, he said.

Four of the suspects,

wearing hooded outfits, were present at the press conference. Tools and materials that were allegedly used to make chemical weapons were also shown to reporters.

The al-Qaeda front in Iraq is responsible for most of the massive attacks in the country, raising fears that the terrorist group and other militias could return to stage widespread violence.

Xinhua

ROME, 2 June—With a pale face and drenched hair, 23-year-old Angela Rossi who has been hunting for a job returned home empty-handed again on Friday night.

Rossi, a third-year student majoring in foreign languages and economics at University of Bologna, could not go back to campus before finding a job to pay her rent.

"My father is a worker and my mother lost her job years ago, and they can not afford my room rent of about 400 euros a month," she told Xinhua.

She left Bologna four months ago and moved back to her hometown Matera, roughly 720 km away. "At first my aunt paid my rent, but then she stopped paying and I can no longer afford to live in Bologna

anymore," she said.

"Every morning, I scan job vacancies in newspapers and online advertisements, and go out in the afternoon for interviews," she said, adding that she was also preparing for her exams, "I have to study at home and go to Bologna to take the finals."

Studying by herself, Rossi can hardly pass the exams, let alone getting the scholarship, her mother said.

Rossi's case is not alone. She said about 15 percent of her friends are facing the same predicament.

Unemployment is casting a shadow over the future of the Italian youth. Marcello Squarcia, a young man who hasn't had a formal job for two years, said his dream was to work in

a travel agency but did not know when he could realize it.

The 24-year-old graduated from a tourism economics major two years ago and is now a nurse for old people.

According to the latest data from Italian National Statistics Institute (ISTAT), unemployment rate among young people, aged between 15 and 24, rose to 41.9 percent in the first quarter of 2013, the highest since the government started to issue such statistics in 1977. Fulvio Fammoni, president of research institute Bruno Trentin, which was founded by Italy's biggest labor union Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL), attributed the high unemployment to the country's poor economy.—Xinhua



Bicycle fans ride on the street during a publicizing activity for the World Environment Day in Xinyu City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 1 June, 2013. More than 300 bicycle fans from 9 bicycle clubs in the city rode on the streets on Saturday in celebration of the World Environment Day that falls on 5 June.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Beyonce headlines sell-out UK gig to promote gender equality

LONDON, 2 June—US singer Beyonce performed a set full of female anthems on Saturday at a London concert to raise funds for women's health, education and justice. The concert, which organizers hoped would reach a billion viewers, was staged by Chime For Change, a charity started by Italian fashion house Gucci which crowdfunds donations for projects to advance gender equality in more than 70 countries.

The "If I Were A Boy" singer was joined on stage by husband and rapper Jay-Z for "Crazy In Love", but sang stirring anthems of

female empowerment for which she is best known alone. She told the audience that the charity gig had already raised \$4 million dollars, and urged them to go online and do more during a set lasting 40 minutes that also included short films about women's issues starring Beyonce. Performances from Florence + The Machine, John Legend and Jennifer Lopez with a surprise duet with Mary J Blige, entertained the audience of more than 50,000 at Twickenham stadium, west London.

Beyonce walked on stage wearing a black leather body suit with sequin

shoulders as the crowds chanted her name, and an all-female troupe of violinists played the opening chords of "A Change Is Gonna Come". Tearful but smiling, she then sang "At Last", originally by Etta James, and pleased a dancing crowd with an energetic performance of "Run The World (Girls)". The Song For Change concert was broadcast live to 150 countries, and on primetime TV in the United States the following day, organizers said.

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is one of the eight goals set out by the United Nations at the turn of the

millennium, yet inequality remains with just 21 per cent of seats in national parliaments held by women, according to the Chime For Change website. Leading human rights activist and anti-apartheid campaigner Desmond Tutu appeared in a video message and called for men to stand up for girls and women.

Reuters



US singer Beyonce

Genelia D'Souza treats Grand Masti cast to home cooked food



Actress Genelia D'Souza.

MUMBAI, 2 June—Actress Genelia D'Souza has been a regular on the sets of her actor-husband Riteish Deshmukh's Grand Masti, and much to the delight of everyone, she got home-cooked food.

"To make the environ-

ment even more homely, Genelia would usually come around lunch time with yummy home-cooked food -- from aamti, puran poli, Kolhapuri fish to shrikhand and that too in such large portions that the entire unit would pig out,"

said a source from the movie's sets.

Producer Ashok Thakeria says it was "very generous and sweet" of Genelia. "She got such grand portions that the entire unit would enjoy the home food and Maharashtrian delicacies. It used to be a total Grand Masti with a grand spread, thanks to Genelia," Thakeria said in a statement.

Grand Masti reunites Riteish, Aftab Shivdasani and Vivek Oberoi seven years after they featured in "Masti". They have been bonding well thanks to their long shooting schedules. The film, directed by Indra Kumar, also features Karishma Tanna, Manjari Phadnis and Sonali Kulkarni.—PTI

Madhuri Dixit: Dharmendra the most handsome person



Madhuri says she is a huge fan of Dharmendra's dancing style.—PTI

MUMBAI, 2 June—In her about three-decade career Bollywood dancing star Madhuri Dixit has worked with many good looking and talented actors like Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, and Sanjay Dutt, but she finds yesteryear star

Dharmendra the most handsome. "I think he is one of the most handsome persons I have ever seen on screen," Madhuri said while talking about Dharmendra's good looks, and added she is also a huge fan of his trademark dancing step.

"We do so many steps, different steps to win the people's heart, but he did it (won the heart of people) with his one step. So you can understand what kind of reverence he has for us also," said Madhuri on Monday at the launch of the sixth season of Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa. Dharmendra made his dance style popular with the song Main jat yamla pagla deewana in the 1975 movie Pratigya.

Madhuri is set to judge at the sixth season of the dance reality show along with filmmaker Karan Johar and choreographer-director Remo D'Souza, which is set to go on-air on 1 June with 12 contestants fighting for the crown. Dharmendra will be seen in the first two episodes of the show.—PTI

Cambodia hosts int'l film heritage festival

PHNOM PENH, 2 June—The 1st international film heritage festival kicked off here on Saturday night, aiming at encouraging interest in preserving classic films, an organizer said. About 40 classic films from around the world will be viewed on 35-mm screening equipment at Chaktomuk Theater and the Bophana Center for 9 days with free access for all, said Rithy Panh, president and founder of the Bophana Center at the opening ceremony. He said among those classics are two films produced by late King Father Norodom Sihanouk. They are Apsara made in 1965 and the Joy of Living in 1969.

Besides, there are classics from various countries such as India, Japan, Argentina, France, Spain, the United States, Germany,

Russia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand. "Films are endangered everywhere in the world if they are not well preserved," he said. "Over 90 percent of films around the world made before 1929 are lost forever". He said as films are part of the memory of a nation and humanity, they need to be taken care of—that means collecting them, searching for them when they are considering to be lost and preserving them in safe locations.

King Norodom Sihamoni was among 700 local and foreign spectators who watched classics on Saturday, the first day of the festival at the capital's Chaktomuk Theater. The international film heritage festival focused on cinema and all films produced in

Cambodia or elsewhere before the early 1980s. In a message to congratulate the occasion, Prime Minister Hun Sen said that the festival represented an encouraging historical come back for Cambodia.

"We are delighted that Cambodia finds itself at the heart of international and cultural dialogue," he said. "We wish for these exchanges to become lasting contributions which will work towards Cambodia's influence throughout the world". Tourism minister Thong Khon said the ministry of tourism strongly supported this festival, which was a vehicle for Cambodia to be known worldwide. "It is a bridge between past and present, between Cambodia and the world," he said in a message.—Xinhua

Oprah Winfrey receives honorary doctorate from Harvard University

LOS ANGELES, 2 June—TV mogul Oprah Winfrey donned the traditional black-and-red graduation regalia as she was handed an honorary doctorate at the prestigious Harvard University. The 59-year-old received a Doctor of Laws degree from the Ivy League college in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and she took to the stage to deliver a speech to graduates, reported Ace-showbiz.

"Oh my goodness. I'm at Harvard! Not too many girls from rural Mississippi have made it all the way here to Cambridge," she exclaimed.

Winfrey also told the Class of 2013, "You now have a chance to better your life, the life of your



Oprah Winfrey shot to fame with The Oprah Winfrey Show.—PTI

neighbours and that of your country...When you do that, that's when your story gets

really good. You want to max out your humanity."

PTI

SPORTS

Ruler Of The World triumphs in Epsom Derby

EPSOM, 2 June—Late developer Ruler Of The World belied his racecourse inexperience and lived up to his name and impeccable breeding to land a fourth English Derby for Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien at Epsom on Saturday. The 7-1 chance, the latest Classic winner to emerge from O'Brien's Ballydoyle stable with a bloodline to the cream of the sport, proved too strong for 11 rivals under jockey Ryan Moore.

Unraced as a two-year-old and having only his third run, the unbeaten colt had 1-1/2 lengths in hand at the line over Libertarian

(14-1), with Galileo Rock (25-1) third in the 234th running of the famous race. The major disappointment was hot favorite Dawn Approach (5-4) who came home last. Ruler Of The World is the son of Galileo who provided the County Tipperary-based O'Brien with his first Derby victory in 2001. He also won the blue riband of British flat racing with High Chaparral in 2002 and Camelot last year.

Every season O'Brien has the offspring of flat racing's top stallions at his disposal thanks to the Coolmore breeding empire



Ruler of the World ridden by Ryan Moore (L) races for the finish line to win The Derby during the Epsom Derby festival in Epsom, southern England on 1 June, 2013.—REUTERS

and the deep pockets of his backers, owners John Magnier, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith. "We are so lucky to be in the position we are in. To get such horses," O'Brien, who sad-

dled five in the race, told reporters. "They are incredibly bred horses and, even before they are mated, the dream is for this to happen."

Reuters

Deja vu for Rose in bid to blossom again at Memorial



Justin Rose of England watches his second shot on the 15th hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio on 1 June, 2013.—REUTERS

DUBLIN, (Ohio), 2 June—Former champion Justin Rose had a sense of deja vu after battling through tricky, gusting winds to end Saturday's third round at the Me-

morial Tournament three strokes off the pace. Three years ago, the Englishman trailed by four shots going into the final round here at Muirfield Village Golf

Club and went on to claim his first victory on the PGA Tour by firing a flawless six-under-par 66 in shifting breezes. "When I won this thing a few years ago, I was chasing on Sunday," Rose told reporters after carding a one-under 71 to finish at five-under 211, three behind pacesetter American Matt Kuchar. "It was similar conditions, and I got it done."

"This course has a history of the wind swirling. But obviously when it's blowing this hard, it plays a little more consistent. That's the only good thing I can say about it. "The rest is very tough. The greens are rolling perfectly, but quick, but there's no let-up. You have to hit good shot after good shot, which is how it

should be." Asked whether memories of his 2010 Memorial triumph would give him any possible advantage going into Sunday's final round, world number four Rose replied: "Well, it matters. "Anytime you've done it, you can draw strength from that. I had a pretty specific game plan going into the final round in 2010, being four back. And I'm sure that will play again this week."

While five-times PGA Tour winner Kuchar took over at the top of the leaderboard by carding a 70 as winds gusted up to 32 mph, Rose was delighted to rebound from three bogeys around the turn with three birdies in his last seven holes.

Reuters

Miami leaders urge Beckham to create MLS team



David Beckham.

MIAMI, 2 June—David Beckham was urged to help bring a Major League Soccer team to Miami at a meeting with key political leaders and sports business representatives on Saturday. Beckham, accompanied by Bolivian born billionaire Marcelo Claure, who wants to team-up with him in owning a new fran-

chise, visited two potential stadiums and met with the mayor of Miami-Dade County Carlos Gimenez, who handed him the keys to the city.

The former England captain, who retired from football last month, played in MLS with LA Galaxy and his contract included an option to create a new team for \$25 million and he is understood to have other locations in mind as well. Miami Dade County commissioner Jose 'Pepe' Diaz said there was real backing for a team in Miami.

"There is huge political support. It is not only from the county, it's 100 percent support from the municipalities, the mayors and the commissioner, the counselors from the different cities, they are also extremely supportive," he told Reuters. Beckham visited Sun Life stadium, home to the NFL's

Miami Dolphins, whose owner Stephen Ross recently set up a soccer division, and met with the Dolphins chief executive Mike Dee.

Sun Life holds around 75,000 fans and has hosted several international friendlies in recent years but may be considered overly large for an MLS team. Together with British entrepreneur Simon Fuller, whose management company XIX Entertainment, handles Beckham's business affairs, Beckham later visited a 20,000 stadium at Florida International University (FIU).

Claure, owner of Bolivian club Bolivar, is a member of the board of trustees of FIU and has previously promoted the idea of an MLS team playing at the venue. The FIU stadium underwent major renovations in 2007 and is home to the University's American football team.—Reuters

Hampton upsets Kvitova as American quartet reach last 16

PARIS, 2 June -- America's Jamie Hampton upset seventh seed Petra Kvitova in the French Open on Saturday as four American women made it through to the last 16 of a grand slam for the first time since 2004. Hampton won 6-1 7-6(7) to join top seed Serena Williams, Sloane Stephens and Bethanie Mattek-Sands in the fourth round.

The last time four players from the US reached the same stage was at the US Open in 2004 when Williams was joined by her sister Venus, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsey Davenport.

"It's impressive, huh?," Hampton said about America's successful quartet. "We have got a unique group I think between Serena, obviously the best player in the world, and Bethanie, Sloane, and myself." Three different players with very unique games, it's cool." Czech

Kvitova, Wimbledon champion in 2011 and French Open semi-finalist last year, came into Roland Garros on the back of some poor claycourt results and was lost for words after. "I did a lot of mistakes and I really didn't know what was happening on the court," she said.

The charismatic Mattek-Sands, known for her frequently outrageous outfits, came through her third round clash against Paula Ormaechea 4 6, 6 1, 6 3, while Stephens beat New Zealand's Marina Erakovic 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-3.

"I'm so happy that US tennis is coming on strong," Mattek-Sands said. "I think there are a lot of young guns coming up that will be dangerous. To have 13 women in the main draw here at the French Open, more than any other country, is awesome. I'm proud."

Reuters



Jamie Hampton of the US hits a return to Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic during their women's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 1 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Djokovic wins then hears of ex-coach's death

PARIS, 2 June—Novak Djokovic moved into the fourth round of the French Open on Saturday but then suffered the emotional blow of learning that the coach who nurtured his fledgling career had died. The Serb beat Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 but discovered after the match that Jelena Gen-

cic, his first coach and the person who recognized his talent, had died in Belgrade on Saturday aged 76. The world number one broke down in the locker room after his victory and cancelled his post-match media commitments.

It was a sad end to what had been an otherwise routine day for Djokovic,

whose French Open campaign gathered momentum with another impressive victory. In contrast to his opponents in the previous rounds, Dimitrov was meant to provide a stern challenge and perhaps even cause an upset, having beaten him at the Madrid Open in May. But Djokovic broke in the very first game and never looked like easing off as he raced to the first two sets for the loss of just four games, capitalizing on a string of errors.

Perhaps the only concern during an emphatic display was an injury timeout in the third set, when the trainer was called on court to massage a problematic shoulder. That was overshadowed, however, with the news that followed. It was the second time Djokovic had found out about the death of someone close to him in the middle of a tournament.—Reuters



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 1 June, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Struggling Woods balloons to a 79 at Memorial

DUBLIN, (Ohio), 2 June — A frustrated Tiger Woods matched the second worst score of his professional career as he battled to a seven-over-par 79 in Saturday's weather-delayed, wind-buffed third round at the Memorial Tournament.

Woods, a five-times winner at Muirfield Village Golf Club where he is the defending champion, once again struggled with his putting on lightning-fast greens to finish well down the leaderboard at eight-over 224. He recorded a bogey, two doubles and a triple to reach the turn in eight-over 44, his worst nine as a professional, and declined to speak to reporters after bogeying his final hole, the par-four ninth, to come home in one-under 35. Woods's 79 matched his second round score at the 2010 Quail Hol-



Tiger Woods of the US hits his third shot on the ninth hole during the third round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio on 1 June, 2013.

REUTERS

low Championship and is eclipsed only by his 81 in brutal weather conditions during the third round of the 2002 British Open at Muirfield in Scotland. "It was a rough day," world number one Woods later told a PGA Tour official after totaling

30 putts for the third successive round for his worst ever score at Muirfield Village. "It was tough out there from beginning to end.

"We didn't hit that many bad shots starting out the day and the next thing you know we are quite a few over par. It was a tough day. I tried to fight back on the back nine, just didn't quite materialize." A distant 10 strokes off the pace when the second round was completed earlier on Saturday, Woods began his third round at the 10th as organizers tried to get the tournament back on track with a two-tee start.

Reuters



Kenyan children chorus during a military parade to celebrate the 50th Madaraka Day in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on 1 June, 2013. Kenya formed its self-government and attained the right to manage its own affairs from British colonialists on 1 June, 1963. —XINHUA

Egypt receives technical report on Ethiopia dam

CAIRO, 2 June —Egypt received on Saturday a report from the tripartite technical committee on Ethiopia's Renaissance Dam intended to be built on the River Nile, official news agency MENA reported.

"Copies of the report have been sent to the Egyptian presidency, the ministries of foreign affairs, water resources ministry and irrigation as well as other institutions concerned with the Nile water issue," MENA quoted a well-placed source as saying.

Egyptian state TV said on Saturday that the report urged more consultations between the three concerned states on the issue, recommending more sufficient studies on the dam.

On Tuesday, Ethiopia

started diverting the course of the Blue Nile, one of the River Nile's two basic tributaries, as a preparatory step for building the Grand Renaissance Dam, a move that raised concerns in Egypt over its share of water as a downstream Nile Basin country besides Sudan.

A technical committee of the three countries, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, has been studying the dam and its effects on water shares of Nile Basin countries.

On Friday, Egyptian Prime Minister Hesham Qandil held talks with his Ethiopian counterpart Hailemariam Desalegn in Japan on the sidelines of an international conference on African development, where they exchanged views on the dam.

Xinhua

Veteran Haas outlasts marathon man Isner to win five-setter

PARIS, 2 June—German veteran Tommy Haas passed up 12 match points and gave away a two-set lead but still outlasted marathon man John Isner 7-5, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-7 (10) 10-8 in the third round of the French Open on Saturday.

Haas, the oldest man left in the draw at 35, looked down and out after missing countless opportunities to close out the match in the fourth set but somehow mustered the energy from his ageing limbs to finish off his opponent.

Isner, who played in the longest match in professional tennis at Wimbledon in 2010, had come through

another epic five-set battle against Ryan Harrison two days ago.

The big-serving Amer-

ican was barely able to move as Haas served out to win in four hours 37 minutes.—Reuters



Tommy Haas of Germany hits a return to John Isner of the US during their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 1 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Africa will be at heart of effort to end poverty

YOKOHAMA, 2 June — The World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said Saturday that Africa will be at the heart of the effort to end poverty and boost shared prosperity at the opening session of the international conference on African development held in Yokohama, Japan.

"Africa will be at the heart of the effort to end poverty and boost shared prosperity," Kim said in the meeting, the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD V, in Yokohama

near the Japanese capital.

According to the World Bank chief, Africa has seen impressive growth, which has had impact on poverty -- the poverty rate has been falling at one percentage point per year. The absolute number of people living on below 1.25 US dollars a day is falling—by 9 million in three years.

However, extreme poverty issue remains acute in Africa, Jim Yong Kim added. Extreme poverty rate is higher than 60 percent in more than 10 African coun-

tries.

"We will join forces to end absolute poverty worldwide by 2030," Kim vowed. But he admitted that ending extreme poverty is not enough, adding people must also boost shared prosperity. The World Bank will track progress by monitoring income growth among the poorest 40 percent of people in African countries, Kim said. Kim also pledged to work with countries to foster economic growth that favors the disadvantaged in every country.—Xinhua

NZ National Museum Te Papa to showcase US late artist Andy Warhol's works

WELLINGTON, 2 June — The works of US pop artist Andy Warhol took center stage in Wellington with a new exhibition opening in New Zealand National Museum Te Papa on Saturday.

More than 150 of Warhol's pieces have been brought together for the exclusive exhibition, which focuses on the artist's obsession with his friends, celebrities and himself.

Te Papa curator Sarah Farrar said she wanted to get a sense of the breadth of Warhol's work.

"I wanted to find out about his obsession with people and how that played out across drawings, screen tests, paintings, magazines and MTV episodes," she said.

"To get a sense of just how prolific he was and how he was really leading the way in terms of leading new media."

The works span from the beginning of his career

as a commercial artist in the 1940s through to his final pieces made before he died in 1987.

Te Papa Chief Executive Michael Houlihan said, "This is a rare opportunity for us to be able to select specific works that show the breadth of Andy Warhol's talent, his use of different media and to explore how his work evolved over his lifetime."

"This is the first major Warhol exhibition seen in New Zealand for some time and many of these works have rarely been seen in this part of the world before."

The "Warhol: Immortal" exhibition focuses on Andy Warhol's obsession with people throughout his career from early drawings through to some of the last works he ever made. It documents the development of Andy Warhol's personal image through a selection of self-portraits.

There are also portraits

in various media produced between the 1940s-1980s including friends, movie stars, celebrities, socialites and politicians.

The exhibition also features his work as a commercial artist, the installa-

tion Silver Clouds created in 1966 and a selection of black and white film portraits or screen tests created in the mid-sixties.

The exhibition runs from June 1 until Aug. 25.

Xinhua



Farmers carry oranges at Chenjiawan Village of Xi-eta Township in Zigui County, central China's Hubei Province, on 1 June, 2013. —XINHUA

World Bank (Yangon branch) opened

YANGON, 2 June—World Bank (Yangon branch) was opened at the building No. 57-B on Pyay Road in Hline Township, here, yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane,

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein and Mr. Axel

van Trotsenburg and Ms Karin Finkelston, Vice-Presidents of World Bank cut the ribbon to open the branch. Afterwards, the Deputy Minister gave a speech and Country Director Ms Annette Dixon spoke words of thanks.—MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein and Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg and Ms Karin Finkelston, Vice-Presidents of World Bank cut the ribbon to open World Bank (Yangon Branch).—MNA

Rail Transportation Ministry to provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—“The Ministry of Rail Transportation will provide technical and mechanical assistance to private entrepreneurs so that they can manufacture spare parts meeting set standard while implementation of private sector development in progress as the fourth-stage reform process of the nation”, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung said at the seminar on manufacturing of locomotive engines, coaches and other

spare parts at home and exhibition at Locomotive Shed (Insein) of Myanmar Railways yesterday.

The Union minister called for cooperation between the private sector and Myanmar Railways that has manufactured various kinds of spare parts since 1992.

Next, officials concerned elaborated on spare parts for locomotive engines and coaches and diesel motorized units and on display at the exhibition.

Then Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin answered the queries raised by experts, entrepreneurs and responsible persons of the companies.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party viewed round spare parts on display at the hall of Insein Locomotive shed.

Next, they observed a welding demonstration with the use of Flash Butt welding machine and Thermit welding machine.

MNA

Joint Seminar focuses on establishment of stock exchange

YANGON, 2 June—The Joint Seminar on Capital Market Development under the title of listing on the stock exchange from a legal view was held at Traders Hotel, here, on 29 May morning.

The seminar was aimed at establishing the stock market in Myanmar in 2015.

In this seminar, U Maung Maung, Deputy Director-General of Central Bank of Myanmar, made

an opening speech. Mr Shinsuke Goto, Director of Daiwa Securities Group gave his presentation on listing procedures and a function of each player, Mr Koichiro Miyahara, Senior Executive Officer of Japan Exchange Group, listing criteria and examination and U Soe Thein, member of the Myanmar side working group, Myanmar's securities and exchange law and Mr Satoshi Nakamura,

Esq., member of Japan side working group, basic of the securities and exchange law. Then, they replied to questions.

The seminar, jointly organized by CBM, Daiwa Institute of Research and Japan Exchange Group, Policy Research Institute of the Ministry of Finance of Japan, was attended by 150 attendees from government and private organizations.

Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM

Mr Sushant Palakurthi Rao, Asia Head of WEF: We are very confident with this excellent forum

By: Maung Maung Myint Swe

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Myanmar will host the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw from 5 to 7 June while speeding up its momentum of development.

recognition and forge warm relations with international community due to its reforms.

To ensure the success of the forum, committees, sub-committees and supporting

participants will attend this forum and which issues will be discussed in the forum?

A: “We are an organization based in Geneva. Around 1000 members which represent the famous global entrepreneurs in the world will come. Many other community leaders, young leaders, academic leaders, will come together to discuss the different global challenges, different regional challenges and find ways for working together to resolve some of the most top issues in the world.”

“We are collaborating very closely with the government of Myanmar as well as members of both ASEAN and Myanmar, to ensure the success of this forum.”

“This is the 22nd time for our organization, but it is the highest number of participants in the history of this forum in east Asia. That means many more people will come to Nay Pyi Taw.”

preparing the forum?

“Initially there were some challenges about accessibility but in the mean time, we will be able to enhance connectivity to Nay Pyi Taw, increase the hotel rooms. That is important for government. We are very confident with the excellent meeting.”

Dr Than Htut, Deputy Director-General of

National Planning and Economic Development Ministry

Q: Why Myanmar hosts this forum, who will participate in the forum and which benefits Myanmar can get from it?

A: “We hosts this forum under the directives of President of U Thein Sein. So far, 904 participants from 56 countries have registered to

participate in this forum. Out of forty-one participants from 13 countries, 30 are from presidential to deputy minister level. Besides, delegates from UN agencies, international organizations and prominent leaders. This forum would also help us to ensure the success of our chairmanship for ASEAN in 2014.

Trs: AMS



Mr Sushant Palakurthi Rao, Asia head of WEF.
(WEF Photo)

Over 1000 participants including community leaders, young leaders and academic leaders will gather at the forum setting a record number of participants in the history of WEF in east Asia reflecting the tremendous interest of the international community in the developments in Myanmar which has won

groups are set up for holding the forum and preparations are being made at Myanmar International Convention Centre where the forum will take place.

We interviewed those who are in the process of preparing for the forum.

Mr Sushant Palakurthi Rao, Asia head of WEF

Q: How many

Q: Any challenges for



Workers prepare for 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 at MICE in Nay Pyi Taw. (Photo Kyaw Thu Win)