

Contribution of forum helps Myanmar reintegrate into international community



A Symbol of Myanmar handed over.

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—President U Thein Sein together with Philippine President Mr Benigno Aquino and Chairperson of World Economic Forum 2013 Prof Kalus Schwab took part in a special round table discussion, at Myanmar International Convention Center, here, this afternoon.

The forum chairperson tried to find out the benefits of Myanmar's reform process, poverty reduction scheme

and holding of the forum; and the Philippine President expressed his opinion on ongoing development undertakings of Myanmar, comparing with changes and ongoing reforms of Philippines.

The Myanmar President explained progress in ensuring peace and the rule of law, ending of armed conflicts, implementing poverty alleviation scheme, the need for foreign investment, technology and

human resources, and acquisition of technologies, contribution of the forum to help Myanmar reintegrate into international community, experience and advice from outside world during the forum. He

also praised the success stories of the Philippines in three decades, describing Philippines' reforms in education system and success stories as a good example for Myanmar.

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LOCAL NEWS

Fire engines, hoses donated to fire brigade in Dala

DALA, 7 June—Kyansittha Ward Lake and Water Supervisory Committee of Dala Township donated two fire engines and hoses and Daw Hnin Le Phyu of Lovely Friends Co Ltd one fire engine and hose to Kyansittha Ward Auxiliary Fire Brigade on 2 June.

On the occasion, the township administrator said that the fire engines and hoses will be kept

at the office of the ward administrator so as to easily put out the fire if necessary. It is because fire engines cannot get easy access to some narrow and carving lanes.

After that, the township administrator accepted documents related to the fire engines donated by wellwishers.

The fire engines and hoses were worth K 600,000.—Kyemon-611

Trap cameras to cover nature of wildlife at Htamanthi Sanctuary

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—Life of tigers in the Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary could be covered from Trap Cameras installed in the sanctuary. The video documentary and photos were found in March 2013.

Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Hkamti and Homalin townships of Sagaing Region. It is one of the regions giving priority to tiger conservation in

Myanmar.

As of December 2012, the Forest Department and Britain-based British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has been jointly conducting the primary survey on nature of wildlife in the parks and sanctuaries including Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary by installing trap cameras. Their works are aimed at broadcasting the series of wildlife documents of Myanmar based on their observations.

To do so, the joint group

installed 40 Bushnell Trophy Camera (model 119435) models trap cameras.

The devices can catch the images through infrared. They installed the cameras at the trees and posts on the routes of wildlife. The

durable batteries are used in the cameras.

Depending on the species of wildlife, the cameras are to be kept on their routes from seven days to 45 days.—Kyemon-Forest Department



NATIONAL SPORTS

Myanmar Senior PGA Championship kicks off



YANGON, 7 June—The 1st Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 2013 organized by Myanmar Senior PGA kicked off at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) in Insein Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Patron of Myanmar

Golf Federation Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Rtd), Chairman of Myanmar Senior PGA U San Naung, Vice-Presidents of MGF U Min Thein and Secretary of Yangon Golf Club U Aung Kyi teed off at the opening ceremony to launch the first round.

A total of 27 golfers are

taking part in the Myanmar Senior PGA.

The tournament was sponsored by Tiger Golf, Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd, KM Golf Centre, 100 Plus, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water and Yangon Golf Club.

Kyemon-Shine Htet Zaw

2nd Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 2013 kicks off

YANGON, 7 June—Under the supervision of Myanmar Golf Federation, the 2nd Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 2013 was opened at the City Golf Club (Ngwe Thawda), here, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was

attended by Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi, U Min Thein and U Tint Oo, General Secretary U Aung Hla Han and executives, guests and golf enthusiasts.

Yangon City Development Committee

Secretary U Kyaw Soe, Committee member U Soe Si, Vice-Presidents U Aung Kyi and U Tint Oo teed off the championship.

A total of 36 golfers participated in the competition.

MNA

Over 3400 globetrotters visit Shwedagon Pagoda within five days

YANGON, 7 June—A total of 3400 globetrotters visited Shwedagon Pagoda within five days.

From 1 to 5 June, 3417 tourists visited there. So, the pagoda board of trustees fetched US\$ 17055 and FEC 30 as entrance fee from them.

The most of the tourists

were 619 from Thailand, 372 from the US, 249 from Japan, 248 from Britain and 241 from Republic of Korea. The least visitors were five from Cambodia, 11 from Laos, 17 from Sri Lanka, 23 from Norway and 45 from Sweden.

Although now is rainy

season, the globetrotters are still interested in visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Last month, a total of 24427 tourists visited the pagoda with 788 on monthly average.

In May, the pagoda board of trustees collected US\$ and FEC 122,135 as entrance fees from the foreign visitors and received US\$ and FEC 11126 as donations.—Kyemon-Htet

Illegal commodities seized on Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa Road

TAMU, 7 June—Under the leadership of District Management Chairman under the supervision of Sagaing Region Government, the mobile team was formed with personnel of Customs Department, Myanmar Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation, Special Anti-Drug Corps, Forest Department, Transport Department, Agriculture Department and UMFCI and media persons at Tamu border area.

On 29 May, the mobile team discharges duty of checking vehicles where they carried the loads of unlicensed and illegal commodities at the checkpoint on Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa Road, six miles

from Tamu.

The team seized 20 India-made illegal Hero brand bicycles from the vehicle and 1.5 million rupees from the motorbike driven by U Ciin Lyan Thang on the road. They also found illegal commodities such as rice cookers, radios, aluminium buckets, torch lights, steel food carriers

without owners which were stockpiled beside the detours near the border areas. They also saw India-made medicines in four boxes worth K 1.6 million. Action was taken against Indian rupee possessor U Ciin Lyan Thang at Tamu Police Station and action was taken over the seized commodities.

Kyemon-Win Naing (Tamu)

HEALTH ACTIVITY

DHF prevention conducted in Insein Township



YANGON, 7 June—Anti-mosquito campaign and sanitation were carried out in Nathagon Ward of Insein Township of Yangon North District yesterday.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint, local authorities, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, local people, health staff led by Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Naw Thandar Swe and personnel participated in the tasks of sanitation

at drains and roads, fumigating for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Likewise, under the arrangement of the Township General Administration Department, local people joined the tasks to clean basic education schools and environs in the district and chlorinated the water tanks.

Similar activities were undertaken at BEPS No. 14 and No. 15 in Myothit C Ward of Insein Township.

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WORLD



French President Francois Hollande (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before their meeting at Abe's office in Tokyo on 7 June, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

Japan, France to agree to discuss dual-use exports

TOKYO, 7 June—The leaders of Japan and France are set to agree on Friday to start intergovernmental talks on exports of dual-use items that can be diverted for military purposes, with Japan hoping to stem exports of such items from France to China.

After their meeting in Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and French President Francois Hollande are expected to release a statement on joint development of defence equipment and research cooperation on nuclear power-related technology, according to Japanese officials.

Their meeting comes amid Japanese concern over a deal between France and China that came to light late last year involving the sale of equipment needed for helicopters to land on ships.

France, for its part, has been seeking joint development of defence equipment with Japan, something which has been made possible by Tokyo's decision in December 2011 to relax

its ban on arms exports. Friday's deal would make France the third country to enter into such an arrangement after the United States and Britain.

Besides strengthening bilateral security ties, Japan and France, which possess the world's leading nuclear power technology, will also seek to promote exports of nuclear power plants to emerging economies.

During a meeting in Ankara in early May, Abe and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan welcomed the granting of the exclusive negotiating right for construction of the Sinop nuclear power plant in northern Turkey to a joint venture between Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd and France's Areva SA.

During his three-day trip to Japan through Saturday, Hollande, who is visiting the country for the first time ever and doing so as a state guest, is expected to deliver a speech in the Japanese parliament on Friday afternoon.—Kyodo News

Obama administration defends massive phone record collection

WASHINGTON, 7 June—The Obama administration on Thursday defended its collection of the telephone records of millions of Americans as part of US counter-terrorism efforts, re-igniting a fierce debate over privacy even as it called the programme critical to warding off an attack.

The admission came af-

ter Britain's *Guardian* newspaper published on Wednesday a secret court order authorizing the collection of phone records generated by millions of Verizon Communications customers.

Privacy advocates blasted the order as unconstitutional government surveillance and called for a review of the program amid

Xi-Obama summit to focus on “big picture” of China-US ties

WASHINGTON, 7 June—Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Barack Obama, are scheduled to meet on Friday and Saturday for the first time since both countries completed their latest leadership change.

During the summit, arranged at the Sunnyslands estate, California, the two leaders will focus on the “big picture” of leading bilateral relations forward while taking care of both sides' interests, US ana-

lysts say. Through informal working meetings and face-to-face interactions, observers say, the leaders of the world's top two economies will also cultivate a closer personal relationship.

“I think it is a very timely initiative, and a very much needed one,” former US National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski said of the summit in a recent interview with *Xinhua*.

“The American-Chinese relationship is the most important bilateral relation-

ship of the world. Global economic stability and global security very much depend on the healthy, friendly, cooperative and mutually accommodating relationship between America and China,” he noted. In the eyes of former US Ambassador to China Stapleton Roy, the fact that the get-together is their first since Xi became president and Obama was re-elected “makes the meeting all the more significant.”

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping.
XINHUA



Workers lay out pieces of shark fin to dry on a rooftop of a factory building in Hong Kong on 2 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

EU agrees to tighten its ban on “shark finning”

BRUSSELS, 7 June—The European Union agreed on Thursday to tighten an existing ban on “shark finning”, or slicing fins off sharks often while they are still alive, which environmental campaigners say is cruel and threatens the survival of some species. Once the change comes into effect, the ban will forbid shark finning by all vessels in EU waters and by all EU-registered vessels anywhere in the world, a move its supporters believe will put

pressure on countries where the practice is common.

“Shark finning is one of the main threats to the shark population,” said Sandrine Polti, policy adviser to the Shark Alliance. “We're now in a much better position to push for a global shark-finning ban.”

A surge in demand for shark fins, mostly for soup and traditional medicine in Asia, and in particular China, means they can fetch up to 1,000 euros (841.5 pounds) each. The proposed

new law, approved by EU ministers and expected to come into effect later this year, closes a loophole in EU rules by which fishermen with special permits are still allowed to remove fins from shark carcasses at sea. Under the tighter rules, fishermen will have to land all sharks with their fins attached, although they will be allowed to slice partly through each fin and fold it against the carcass for ease of storage and handling.

Reuters

Next US trade chief to ask Japan for more access to auto market

WASHINGTON, 7 June—The top US trade representative-nominee on Thursday indicated he would urge Japan to expand US access to its auto market through negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact.

Mike Froman told a congressional hearing that the US government has re-

garded domestic calls for expanded U.S. access to the Japanese market through reduction in nontariff barriers as “a central focus” during preparatory talks toward Japan's joining the TPP negotiations.

Froman, who now serves as deputy security adviser for international economic affairs to President

Barack Obama, made the remarks during a hearing at the Finance Committee of the Senate on endorsement of Obama's naming him as next trade chief. Froman also said the TPP gives the United States the opportunity to protect its gains in the auto industry and build on “that strength going forward.”—Kyodo News

UN chief Ban welcomes talks between North and South Korea

NEW YORK, 7 June—UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed an agreement by North and South Korea to engage in government to government talks, his spokesman said Thursday. The UN chief considers the move to be “an encouraging development towards reducing tensions and promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula,” Ban's spokesman, Martin Nesirky said.

The new development follows months of heightened tension in the region, including the third underground nuclear test carried out in February by the North and the shutting of the jointly administered Kaesong Industrial complex in April.

South Korea on Thursday accepted North Korea's call for the talks aimed at normalizing two suspended inter-Korean economic business ventures and tackling other pending issues between the two sides and offered to host a ministerial dialogue in Seoul next Wednesday.—Kyodo News



A photo illustration shows the Verizon wireless logos on a mobile phone screen in Encinitas, California on 6 June, 2013.—REUTERS

renewed concerns about intelligence-gathering efforts launched after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The revelation also put a spotlight on the handling of intelligence and privacy issues by President Barack Obama's administration, which already is under fire for searching the telephone

records of Associated Press journalists and the emails and phone records of a Fox News Channel reporter as part of its inquiries into leaked government information.

“The United States should not be accumulating phone records on tens of millions of innocent Americans. That is not what democracy is about.”—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ariane 5 lifts off with record-setting Automated Transfer Vehicle payload

PARIS, 7 June—The record-breaking Ariane 5 has successfully lifted off from the Spaceport in French Guiana at 21:52 GMT on Wednesday with a heavy-lift mission to orbit Europe's fourth Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV-4) for servicing of the International Space Station, media reported on Thursday.

This new launch mission, designed Flight

VA213 in Arianespace's series, used an Ariane 5 ES version equipped with a storable propellant upper stage, with a flight time of just over one hour.

During the mission, the upper stage performed two burns that were separated by a ballistic coast phase, after which the ATV was injected into a circular orbit at 260 km altitude, about 64 minutes after liftoff.

"I am delighted with this success, the 69th launch of an Ariane 5 and—as importantly—the 55th consecutive success for this launcher, which continues to set records not only for reliability, but also for its availability—as demonstrated once again with a perfect countdown this evening," said Stephane Israel, Arianespace Chairman and CEO from the Spaceport's control room.

The Ariane vehicle delivered a total lift performance of 20,252 kg, which included 19,887 kg for ATV, making this resupply spacecraft the largest payload ever to be orbited by an Ariane launcher.

The ATV-4, orbited by Ariane 5 and named after German-born physicist Albert Einstein, carries a record payload of 2,480 kg dry cargo with more than 1400 items.—Xinhua



The Ariane 5 rocket lifts off at Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, on 14 May, 2009.

REUTERS

Facebook pares ad options, simplifies marketing tools



A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. —REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 June—Facebook Inc is eliminating various types of advertisements on its website in an effort to simplify a system that it acknowledged was confusing marketers.

The world's No 1 social network, which is seeking to revive revenue growth, will still display ads inside users' newsfeeds and on the right-hand side of its web pages. But it will sharply reduce the options marketers can choose for those so-called ad units.

"What we realized is that even though every ad product is really good on its own, the whole is less than the sum of its parts. It should really be simpler," Fidi Simo, a Facebook product manager for ads, said at an event at the company's Menlo Park, California headquarters on Thursday.

The changes will be rolled out over the coming weeks and months. Facebook said the streamlined system would not affect pricing on its ads, but would not comment when asked how the changes could affect overall revenue.

Advertising accounts for 85 percent of Facebook's revenue, and it is trying to reinvigorate revenue growth following a

sharp slowdown early last year.

With consumers increasingly accessing Facebook on mobile devices such as smartphones, Facebook has scrambled to roll out new types of ad formats suited to small mobile screens. Facebook has also begun letting advertisers show ads based on users' Web browsing history and has introduced tools that allow marketers to better measure ad effectiveness.

The company is widely expected to introduce video ads this year, but it made no mention of them at the event on Thursday.

Facebook shares have fallen about 15 percent so far this year, compared with the Dow Jones industrial average's 14 percent rise.

As part of the changes, marketers will no longer be asked to choose from a list of 27 different ad units. Instead, marketers will pick from six or seven objectives, such as driving foot traffic to a real-world store or generating "likes" for a company's page.

"Offers" ads for product discount coupons, for example, will no longer be a separate category for online merchants. Instead, a general ad unit will include the link for a coupon.

Reuters

"Dust trap" help create planets

WASHINGTON, 7 June—An international team of researchers reported on Thursday they have discovered an intriguing clue that could help solve a long-standing mystery about how dust particles grow to larger sizes so that they can eventually form planets.

By imaging the outer regions of a young solar system known as Oph IRS 48, which resides approximately 390 light-years from our Earth, astronomers have discovered a crescent-shaped structure

known as a "dust trap." The researchers speculate that this newly discovered feature is actually a protective cocoon where the critical early steps of planet formation can take place.

Astronomers now know that planets around other stars are plentiful, but when they try to model the evolution of dust grains into pre-planetary bodies, such as pebbles and boulders, they run into a problem. Once dust grains grow to a certain size, they tend to self-destruct, either by colliding with other grains

or by being drawn into their central star.

"There is a major hurdle in the long chain of events that leads from tiny dust grains to planet-sized objects," said Til Birnstiel, a researcher at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, and co-author on the paper published in the journal *Science*.

"In computer models of planet formation, dust grains must grow from submicron sizes to objects up to ten times the mass of the Earth in just a few million years. But once parti-

cles grow larger enough, they begin to pick up speed and either collide, sending them back to square one, or slowly drift inward, thwarting further growth," Birnstiel said in a statement.

To save dust grains from this fate, astronomers have proposed that a vortex, essentially a "bump" in the disk, would produce a region known as dust trap that enable dust particles to cling together, eventually setting the stage for the formation of larger and larger objects.—Xinhua

European cyber cop declares Microsoft's Citadel bust a success

AMSTERDAM/BOSTON, 7 June—Europol said a global effort led by Microsoft Corp to stop one of the world's biggest cyber-crime rings has succeeded in wiping out the malicious computer networks that the gang used, known as the Citadel Botnets.

Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit, with help from authorities in more than 80 countries, on Wednesday cut off the servers controlling as many as 5 million infected PCs that belonged to the Citadel cyber crime operation, which is believed to have stolen more than \$500 million from bank accounts over the past 18 months.

"Basically the Citadel bug is now clean," Troels Oerting, head of Europol's European Cybercrime Center, said on Thursday.

The details are still emerging about the individual roles that dozens of countries across Europe and Asia played in bringing down the estimated 1,400 botnets that were part of the Citadel operation.

Andy Archibald, interim Deputy Director of Britain's National Cyber Crime Unit, said on Thursday that his agency had seized "a number of servers" as part of the effort and was closely working with the FBI on its investigation into Citadel.

Archibald said foren-

sics experts were examining the servers.

Microsoft said on Wednesday that it had collected forensic evidence from two US-based Internet hosting providers, under a federal court order that the company obtained by filing a civil lawsuit against the unknown operators of Citadel.

An FBI spokeswoman said she could not immediately say whether the evidence collected had brought investigators any closer to catching the culprits behind Citadel.

Citadel was used against dozens of financial institutions by stealing passwords with key logging software. The victims include American Express, Bank of America, Citigroup, Credit Suisse, eBay's PayPal, HSBC, JPMorgan Chase, Royal Bank of Canada and Wells Fargo, Microsoft said.

Botnets are armies of infected personal computers, or bots, which run software forcing them to regularly check in with and obey "command and control" servers operated by hackers.

Reuters

Russian Arctic-mapping satellite malfunctions

MOSCOW, 7 June—A Russian satellite launched last year to map the Arctic has stopped working, a space industry source told the *Interfax* news agency on Thursday, in the latest disappointment for the country's once-pioneering space programme.

The orbiter, *Zond-PP*, was the first of five Earth-mapping satellites being developed by Russia. Launched in July 2012, it was expected to have a three-year life span.

"*Zond-PP* is declared lost due to a technical malfunction," the source told *Interfax*, but added experts were working to try to revive the probe.

The satellite was equipped to monitor ocean salinity levels and land humidity to help Russian meteorologists model ocean currents and ice floes in the Arctic. It was also intended to test imaging systems to detect oil and benzene spills.

Reuters



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

REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Retailers' sales rise in May, spending stays moderate

NEW YORK, 7 June—Major US retail chains, including Costco Wholesale Corp (COST.O) and Victoria's Secret, on Thursday reported sales increases for May that suggested consumer spending continues to improve moderately.

Costco said sales at stores open at least a year, or same-store sales, rose 5 percent last month, coming in slightly below Wall Street forecasts because of lower gasoline prices. Fresh food and tools for home repair were strong categories, Costco said.

L Brands Inc (LTD.N), parent company of Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works, said same-store sales rose 3 percent, compared with Wall Street's expectations of 3.2 percent. The company expects a similar jump in June. Gap Inc (GPS.N) results were lifted by brisk sales at its namesake chain and at lower-price chain Old Navy, with company-wide same-store sales up 7 percent, well above expectations.

Same-store sales for the 11 US chains that report May sales rose 4.8 percent. Wall Street was expecting a 3.7 percent increase for the four weeks ended on 2 June, according to Thom-



Shoppers push a trolley outside a Costco Wholesale store in Los Angeles, California on 6 March, 2013.

REUTERS

son Reuters. Gap accounted for almost all of the outperformance.

Shares in the S&P Retail Index (.SPXRT) closed the day up 1.2 percent.

A drop in gas prices, a steadily improving job market, higher home values and a jump last month in the stock market have contributed to improvement in consumers' mood and willingness to spend, an analyst with Accenture said.

"People who are in a job are comfortable with what they have, and stability leads to optimism," Chris Donnelly, a managing director at Accenture, told Reuters.

But the economic recovery is still not all that robust: private employers added 135,000 jobs in May, the ADP National

Employment Report said on Wednesday, which was much less than expected.

So, shoppers are still cautious and price conscious, Donnelly said.

At its peak in 2006, the monthly same-store sales index included 68 companies ranging from Wal-Mart Stores Inc to Starbucks Corp, making it a much more significant gauge of consumer spending than the current index of 11 companies.

The International Council of Shoppers Centres expects same-store sales to rise 3 percent to 3.5 percent in June, the same pace as recent months.

Costco, which offers members deep discounts on everything from gas to gardening tools, has been one of the big winners in

the recession and the slow recovery that has followed.

Stein Mart Inc (SMRT.O), a chain that offers low-cost fashion, has also benefited. Its same-store sales were up 8.2 percent, well above the 2 percent rise analysts projected.

Discount general merchandise chain Fred's Inc (FRED.O) showed a smaller-than-expected fall in sales, while teen retailer The Buckle (BKE.N) and drugstore chain Walgreen Co (WAG.N) also reported better than expected sales.

American Apparel Inc (APP.A) continued its turnaround and reported a 10 percent jump in same-store sales, the biggest gain among the companies reporting.

In addition to Fred's, two other chains reported a drop in May same-store sales. Cato Corp (CATO.N), said same-store sales fell 2 percent, a smaller drop than expected.

Rite Aid Corp (RAD.N) same-store sales fell 1.5 percent, largely because of the introduction of several generic drugs, which are less expensive for consumers, in the last year. But sales of general merchandise like toothpaste and greeting cards at Rite Aid rose.—Reuters

US reports 61 hepatitis A cases linked to frozen berries

WASHINGTON, 7 June—At least 61 people in seven US states have been infected in an outbreak of hepatitis A connected to frozen berries, the US Centres for Disease Control and Infection said on Thursday.

The cases, which are now seen in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah, are expected to grow in numbers as the investigation continues, the CDC said on its website, adding that 11 people have been hospitalized but no deaths have been reported.

The outbreak, which began in April, may be linked to the Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berry and pomegranate mix sold by an Oregon-based company called Townsend Farms, the CDC said.

Earlier this week, the

company voluntarily recalled the frozen berry mixes, which were sold to Costco under the product name Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend, and Harris Teeter stores, under the product name Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend, according to the Food and Drug Administration. The company suspected that the culprit in the frozen berry mixes may be pomegranate seeds processed in Turkey, the FDA said.

Hepatitis A usually occurs when an infected food handler prepares food without appropriate hand hygiene. However, food contaminated with the hepatitis A virus, as is suspected in this outbreak, can cause outbreaks of disease among persons who eat or handle food.—Xinhua



frozen berries linked to hepatitis outbreak

The Pill tied to lower ovarian cancer risk

NEW YORK, 7 June—Women who use birth control pills are less likely to develop ovarian cancer later in life, a new analysis of past studies suggests. Researchers pooled data from 24 studies and found Pill users had a 27 percent lower risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. And longer use seemed to be tied to more protection.

"It reinforces that there is a positive relationship between the use of oral contraceptives and ovarian cancer prevention in the general public," said Dr. Laura Havrilesky, who led the study at the Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina.

"I think it adds some scientific weight to that relationship." However, the review paper can't prove that using oral contraception lowers a woman's risk of disease—because there could have been other, unmeasured differences between women who took the Pill and those who didn't, researchers noted.

About one in 72 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer during her lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society.

The disease is often caught at an advanced stage, and the majority of women who are diagnosed will die from ovarian cancer. So researchers are ea-

ger to find ways to lower a woman's chance of developing it in the first place.

Eating a healthy diet and maintaining a normal weight may be one way to do that. Some studies have suggested that using birth control pills—which contain the hormones estrogen and progesterone or progesterin only—may also lower a woman's risk over the long run. To clear up that picture, Havrilesky and her colleagues combined data from 24 studies that compared thousands of women who took the Pill for various lengths of time, at a range of ages, with those who didn't use oral contraception.

Any use of the Pill was linked to a lower risk of ovarian cancer, they found. Women who were on birth control pills for 10 years or longer were half as likely to develop the disease as those who didn't use them at all, the study team reported Wednesday in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

If the Pill itself was responsible for that reduced risk, the researchers cal-

culated that 185 women would have to use it for five years to prevent one case of ovarian cancer.

But, because none of the studies randomly assigned women to take the Pill or not—each woman made the decision with her own doctor—it's not clear that the contraceptives, themselves, explain the whole cancer difference.

The researchers said there hasn't been enough time to study how the specific hormone formulations in contemporary birth control pills affect ovarian cancer risk decades down the line.

Because of that and other limitations, women should use "considerable caution" when figuring the new findings into their own personal decisions about the Pill, they wrote.

What's more, other research suggests women who take the Pill are at a higher risk of developing cervical cancer, said Eduardo Franco, head of cancer epidemiology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.—Reuters

LightInTheBox makes first Chinese IPO in US in 2013

NEW YORK, 7 June—LightInTheBox Holding Co, Ltd, an on-line retailer that delivers products to global consumers, held its initial public offering (IPO) on Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, marking the first Chinese company IPO in the United States in 2013.

The company, under the symbol of LITB, priced its IPO of 8.3 million American depositary shares (ADSs), with each ADS representing two ordinary shares of the company, at 9.50 US dollars per ADS, for a total offering size of approximately 78.85 million dollars, assuming its underwriters do not exercise their option to purchase additional ADSs.

"LightInTheBox is a B2C e-commerce company serving global consumers. Its direct access to a global market and provision of excellent user experience based on multiple technologies are the two advantages of the company," said Quji (Alan) Guo, co-founder,

chairman and chief executive officer of the company, told Xinhua.

"At present, all suppliers of LightInTheBox are from China," Guo said, stressing that "a great number of good and competitive Chinese suppliers have emerged in the process of China's reform and opening up over the past decades. They are able to provide a lot of attractive products to consumers around the world."

The company chose to go public in the United States because the US capital market is definitely one of the most active capital markets in the world, Guo said. "Through communications with US investors, the company got recognition from many US investors with a focus on the internet industry," he added.

Shares of the company surged 28.95 percent to trade at 12.25 dollars a share in midday on Thursday after its debut.

Xinhua



An illustration picture shows a woman holding a birth control pill at her home in Nice on 3 January, 2013.

REUTERS

WORLD

Austria to quit UN's Golan force over Syria violence



An Israeli soldier gestures as a tank maneuvers in the Israeli occupied Golan Heights near the Quneitra border crossing, close to the ceasefire line between Israel and Syria on 6 June, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 7 June—Austria said on Thursday it would pull out of a UN force on the Golan Heights after battles between Syrian troops and rebels there, in a blow to a mission that has kept the Israeli-Syrian war front quiet for 40 years.

Israel, anxious for the international mission to remain in place, worried that the Golan could become a springboard for attacks on Israelis by Islamist militants fighting to oust Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. "While appreciating Austria's longtime contribution and commitment to peacekeeping in the Middle East, we nevertheless regret this decision and hope that it will not be conducive to further escalation in the region," the Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

But the departure of the Austrians, who make up about 380 of the 1,000-member United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), threatens the whole operation. "Austria has been a backbone of the mission, and their withdrawal will impact the mission's operational capacity," said UN spokeswoman Josephine Guerrero.

"The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the risk that all military activities in the area of separation conducted by any actor pose to the long-held ceasefire and the local population," the UN council said in a statement. The Security Council will meet on Friday to discuss the Austrian withdrawal.

Reuters

Crews end search at Philadelphia building collapse site

PHILADELPHIA, 7 June—Rescue workers on Thursday ended their search for survivors of a downtown Philadelphia building collapse, a day after a structure under demolition collapsed on shoppers and staff at a neighbouring thrift store, killing six people and injuring 14 others.

The effort was called off at 4:30 pm EDT (2130 GMT), following an around-the-clock search for life amid a mountain of crumbled concrete and splintered wood, said Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers.

Late on Wednesday, 12 hours after the morning collapse, a 61-year-old woman was pulled from the debris and rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

Earlier, six people were found dead and 13 others were rescued with minor injuries.

"All of the despair with the people who were deceased, that person being pulled out alive is what every rescue is all about," Ayers said on Thursday.

Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the collapse of the four-story building, which collapsed onto a neighbouring Salvation Army Thrift Store, burying shoppers in the debris. On the scene



Rescue workers search through rubble following a building collapse as seen in this aerial still image taken from video courtesy of NBC10.com, in Philadelphia on 5 June, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 7 June—Prince Philip was taken to a London hospital on Thursday for a planned operation on his abdomen, Buckingham Palace said, in the latest round of medical treatment for the Queen's 91-year-old husband. The British monarch's consort of more than 65 years, who turns 92 on Monday, is expected to spend two weeks at the London Clinic after undergoing "an exploratory operation following abdominal investigations", the palace said in a statement.

A palace spokesman said the prince's admission had been planned and was not an emergency. He was driven to hospital in his own car and walked into the building. Earlier in the day, the prince, who also has the title of the Duke of Edinburgh, attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace with his 87-year-

old wife. Television footage showed him in a grey top hat and tails, smiling as he chatted to guests.

Royal aides said there would be regular updates on his condition but asked media to refrain from speculating about the operation and the length of stay in hospital. Philip has needed hospital treatment four times since Christmas 2011, including for a bladder infection during the queen's Diamond Jubilee a year ago, which took some of the gloss off nationwide celebrations for the generally popular monarch.

He spent Christmas 2011 in hospital where he underwent an operation to clear a blocked heart artery after suffering chest pains.

The longest-serving consort in British history has won admirers for his charity work and his steadfast support of his wife, but is also prone to make verbal

gaffes in public.

"My best wishes to the Duke of Edinburgh who is in hospital tonight. I hope he has a swift recovery," Prime Minister David Cameron said on Twitter.

The queen needed hospital treatment in March for gastroenteritis. In May, Buckingham Palace announced she would not at-

tend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting later this year in Sri Lanka, the first such gathering she has missed for four decades, as part of a review of her long-haul travel. Son of the exiled Prince Andrew of Greece, Philip married Princess Elizabeth in 1947.

Reuters



Queen smiles as she attends the Epsom Derby with Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in Epsom, south of London, in this photo taken on 1 June, 2013.

REUTERS

Deadly hot air balloon crash in Egypt blamed on human error

HONG KONG, 7 June—Egyptian officials on Thursday blamed human error for the hot air balloon crash in the Egyptian tourist hub of Luxor in February, which killed 19 people.

Among the victims were visitors from Hong Kong, Japan and several European countries.

According to an Egyptian crime report carried by China's official Xin-

hua News Agency, Luxor's first prosecutor Mohamed Fahmi said the "fire that broke out in the balloon crash was caused by a gas leak from one of the pipes installed by an unskilled worker."

Fahmi added the pilot and the maintenance engineer "did not make necessary technical checks before take-off."

According to the

report, the pilot and the alternate airport director have been detained over charges of negligence.

A family member of two Chinese victims said he was shocked to hear that human error was to blame for the crash. "How come an unqualified worker installed the pipes and the pilot did not perform a check before flying?" Siu Chi-keung said on Chinese TV.

He also blamed the tour group operator, Kuoni Travel, for picking Sky Cruise, which reportedly has bad flying records.

The crash occurred on 26 February, when the hot air balloon carrying 21 people exploded in mid-air and crashed near the ancient city of Luxor, forcing the tourist hub to ban hot air balloon flights for nearly two months.—Kyodo News

EU naval warship rescues 14 Indian sailors after hijack

NAIROBI, 7 June—The European Union anti-piracy taskforce has rescued 14 Indian sailors who were about to be hijacked by Somali pirates on Wednesday.

Operation Commander of the EU Naval Force Somalia (EUNAVFOR) Rear Admiral Bob Tarrant, said the Indians were rescued by the EU warships after the pirates who took control of their cargo vessel abandoned the attack in the Gulf of Aden.

"What is important is that 14 Indian sailors are now safe and able to return to their families, after what must have been a terrifying ordeal," Tarrant said in a statement issued in Nairobi. "This latest attack once again shows that the threat from piracy is real. We must all remain vigilant."

These "mother vessels" are usually hijacked dhows or ocean going fishing

vessels. In the past Somali pirates have also tried to use hijacked merchant vessels. The Indians were rescued after EU Naval Force warship *HSwMS Carlskrona*, together with NATO counter piracy Dutch warship *HNLMS Van Speijk*, closed in. "This type of cargo vessel, known as a dhow, has been used in the past by pirates as a 'mother ship,' to enable them to sail far out to sea to attack passing merchant ships," Tarrant said.

He said the master of the Indian dhow sent out an alert on Wednesday morning, saying that it was under attack from 12 armed pirates. He said the Royal Swedish Navy warship, *HSwMS Carlskrona*, which has been part of the EU's counter piracy mission, Operation Atalanta, later closed the scene after hearing the alert and as darkness

fell, maintained a constant watch on the vessel.

"As the Swedish helicopter from *HSwMS Carlskrona* overflew the scene, the pirates, now under increasing pressure from the military forces, forced the master to close the Somali coast so they could abandon the vessel in the dead of night," Tarrant said.

"Shortly afterwards, it was with a great sense of relief that the Indian master was able to report to the EU Naval Force that all the pirates had left his ship and that none of his crew were injured." Piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden reduced drastically in 2012 as only 75 incidents including 14 hijackings were attributed to Somali pirates who continue to threaten an extended geographical region, according to a global maritime watchdog.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

BUSINESS

UAB opens Mandalay branch



MANDALAY, 7 June—United Amara Bank (UAB) opened its Mandalay branch in 84th street in Yadanabhummi west ward in Maha Aungmye Township in Mandalay Region on 3 June.

Township Administrator U Myint Oo, chairman of Daw Thi Thanakha and KT Construction U Kyaw Thet Hlaing and Chairman U Tun Lin Aung of Eternal Green Co Ltd which is the sole agent of Loajia motorcycle formally opened the bank branch, unveiled the signboard and sprinkled

scented water on it.

The officials and guests viewed round the 17th branch of UAB.

UAB has linked with Kanbawza Bank, Cooperative Bank, Myawady Bank, Myanma Yadanabank, and Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank for banking services.

UAB will provide remittance services in cooperation with Western Union and billing services in cooperation with GIRD.

MMAL-Tin Maung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Boiler explosion causes noddle factory fire

YANGON, 7 June—The fire outbreak of Hong Kong Noddle Factory in No. 2 Industrial Zone in Nyaung village-tract in Hlinethaya Township is ignited by the explosion of boiler.

Three buildings in the fire that broke out at 6.20 pm on 4 June were reduced to ashes.

The firefighters could prevent further outbreak of fire as they could withdraw 17 barrels of fuel oil. Hlinethaya Police charged U Tin Tun, in-charge of the factory with reckless handling of fire.

MMAL-Mindatathar

Python handed over to Forest Dept



BHAMO, 7 June—A Python Molurus which is one foot round and nine feet long was handed over to Bhamo District Forest Department by the Maha Mingyi monastery in Thonemine Shwepyitha ghetto in Bhamo recently.

Assistant Director

of Bhamo District Forest Department U Aung Naing, Township Staff Officer U Ye Htay and officials collected the python which will be

then transferred to the Zoological Gardens.

Twenty eggs were also transferred by the department.

MMAL-Mindatathar

Pobbathiri Tsp Sangha Nayaka Office opened



NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—The opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Office was held in Wegyi Pariyatti Monastery on 4 June.

Chairman of Pobbathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Adicavamsa of Wegyi Monastery and other executive monks attended the ceremony.

Pobbathiri Township Police Force commander Police Major Min Zaw presented the gazette of the formation of Pobbathiri Township Sangha Nayaka Committee to the chairman Sayadaw.

Religious officer of Pobbathiri Township U Sein Lin supplicated on religious affairs.

The office is situated in Kyakan Monastery in Ywada.—MMAL

Pyinnya Alinn Library opened in Hsipaw

HSPAW, 7 June—To promote reading habits of rural people, Pyinnya Alinn Library of Sanphaik Village in Shanphaik Village-tract, Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State, was opened at in front of the library, here, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Hsipaw Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw, Head of Hsipaw Township Information and Public Relations Department U Sai Tun

Thein and Chairman of the Library and Sanphaik Ward Administrator cut the ribbon to open the library.

The Hsipaw Township Administrator and the Head of Hsipaw Township IPRD spoke words of thanks at the ceremony.

The library, one-story brick noggin building, was built at a cost of K 3 million totally—K 1 million by the Government and K 2 million by the people.

Kyemon-Sai (Hsipaw)

IRRIGATION

Kaboe diversion weir irrigating farmlands in KhinU

KHINU, 7 June—Thaphanseik Dam is irrigating farmlands in KhinU Township in Sagaing Region.

Khan Thit village-tract put 991 acres of farmlands under summer paddy out

of 8490 acres by the whole town. It is a few days away from harvest of summer paddy. Despite low rainfall in later May, Kaboe diversion weir irrigated the farmlands for successful harvestation.

MMAL-010



Mandalay schools collect more than 20000 high school students



MANDALAY, 7 June—Basic education schools in Mandalay District of Mandalay Region have accepted 20,457 high school students, 69,712 middle school students and 99,321 primary school students in 2013-2014 academic year.

The district has 37 high schools, 26 middle schools, 281 primary schools, eight affiliated high schools, 18



affiliated middle schools and two affiliated primary schools in seven townships.

This year, school children from grade 1 to grade 5 received stipends of K 1000 and six exercise books each.

MMAL-Aung Thura

Upgraded BEHS opened in Aunglan

AUNGLAN, 7 June—A ceremony to upgrade Basic Education High School (branch) in Aunglan in Magway Region to No. (3) Basic Education High School under the permission of No. (2) Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education took place on 3 June.

There were formerly two full-fledged Basic Education High Schools both

in the northern part of the town.

The new school lies in the southern part of the town on Yangon-Pyay highway.

Headmaster U Win Bo, teachers, parents and students are happy with the opening of the newly upgraded school as it has eased difficulties of the students in the southern outskirts.—MMAL-119

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 8 June, 2013

Share to fight malnutrition

Malnutrition contributes to 45 per cent of the global deaths of the children under the age of five, suggests a research published in the Lancet medical journal, corroborating the claim of UK charity Save the Children just a few days ago that says chronic malnutrition has put a quarter of the world's children at the risk of underperforming at the school.

Again, a recent report of the United Nations has put the spotlight on the problem of malnutrition as it says malnutrition is estimated to cost the world \$ 3.5 tn in health care and lost productivity, ahead of a summit on nutrition today in London.

Poor nutrition has resulted in the deaths of about 3.1 million under-fives annually, according to the Lancet, adding the first 1,000 days of life—from conception to two years—have lasting impact on health. In Myanmar, “wrong idea about breastfeeding and healthy meal for children” is still common in many parts of the country where grandmothers with their long-held traditional beliefs forbids the mothers-to-be as well as babies to have a balanced diet, often leading the children to grow up smaller and shorter.

Malnourished children suffered irreversible damage; they grew up smaller and weaker and the brains might not fully develop, and malnourishment is driving a literacy and numeracy crisis in developing countries, says the charity.

It is welcome news that Young Global Leaders (YGLs) will expand its child nutrition programme into South-East Asia, starting with Myanmar. Children in Myanmar will be the first beneficiaries of the Table For Two (TFT), a Japan-based non-profit initiative of the YGLs, in South-East Asia as the initiative pays for children's school meals in developing countries.

It is just ironic that while the haves are wasting the foods, the have-nots are starving to death. Perhaps, the spirit of sharing will heal the wounds and make the world much better.

Private companies offer mobile and money exchange services at WEF

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—Private companies offered mobile services and money exchange services to the guests of 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia held in Nay Pyi Taw, on 5-7 June.

Elite Tech Co sold MPT-GSM FEC SIM cards, CDMA, top-up cards and mobile handsets. Kanbawza Bank (branch-1) and CB Bank in Nay Pay Taw opened money exchange counters at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) where the forum is held.

“The guests can take out money with the use

of ATM machine, Master Card and Visa Card and exchange foreign currency for Myanmar kyats. Almost 100 customers use exchange counter a day. Plans are under way to provide services at the coming Gem, Jade and Pearl Emporium and other grand ceremonies,” said Ko Hein Htet Myat from Marketing and Customer Service Promotion Department.

“I recognized success of that forum. And I am very pleased with Myanmar's hospitality including security, information and communica-

tion and monetary sector. Successful holding of that forum is directly related with Myanmar's favorable environment and better services, said Ms Julia Nesheiwat from US who attended the forum.

Moe Thu Zar Soe

Myanmar to focus on capacity building of young workforce

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—Myanmar should focus on education and capacity building for its young workforce as the country is opening up for business,

processes had four steps—(1) handing over of administrative power to civilian government from Tatmadaw government; (2) ending decades-long armed conflicts; (3) emergence of good governance and clean government; and (4) development of private sector.

Economic sector was being implemented on the foundation of three pillars—private sector, cooperatives sectors and State-owned sector, where private sector accounts for 90 percent. Due to two-decade-long economic sanctions, there were so many needs for revival of country's economic sector. Myanmar prioritized poverty alleviation and rural development tasks as 70 percent of the country's population were living in the rural areas. Rural areas development was crucial as Myanmar was an agro-based country. The country had food sufficiency for current population and food surplus, which accounts for 30% of export. Myanmar had set target for food sufficiency of future population.

Agricultural business-

es alone could not make the country rich. The country had welcomed Establishment of industrialized country needed capital and technologies. The country had enacted Foreign Investment Law for foreign investors. And Myanmar could ensure easing of economic sanctions and EU's reinstatement of GSP rights. The rest of works would be decided only at the Congress as the US administration lifted its economic sanctions against Myanmar, he added.

It was the best time for foreign investors to make investments in Myanmar. Mutually-beneficial Foreign Investment Law covered prescriptions that protect investors. For country's economic development, there was a bag of challenges and difficulties as well as other opportunities. Myanmar was like a bridge that connects South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia. And Myanmar shared borders with China, India, Bangladesh and ASEAN countries which is a big market with a population of 2000 million. Resource-rich Myanmar

with a population of 60 million had favorable climate, fertile soils and adequate workforce.

Myanmar citizens had to work in foreign countries as the country had fewer job opportunities. Those people would return home if there were so many job opportunities. Combination of foreign capital, technology and human resources with Myanmar's natural resources and labour strength would lead to the win-win-win situation—for the country, its people and the investor. That was the reason why Myanmar invited local and foreign investors, he said.

The President and the Union ministers replied to the queries raised by those present on Myanmar's reform processes, investments in agriculture and tourism industry, human resources development, investment policy, foreign investment law and citizen investment law.

The meeting between the President and the leaders of world's top companies would bring the fruitful results to the country.—MNA

tional Cooperation Agency (JICA) signing a USD 500 million grant, the report said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee called for quick wins in vocational training for the people.

Sagarwah



President U Thein Sein meets leaders of world's leading companies, at World Economic Forum on East Asia at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC).—MNA

NATIONAL

WEF Founder pledges continued assistance for Myanmar's reform process



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host a dinner to participants of World Economic Forum at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—President U Thein Sein received Prof Klaus Schwab, founder and chairperson of World Economic Forum and co-chairpersons at anteroom in Mani Yadana Jade Hall here yesterday evening.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw.

Prof Klaus Schwab and co-chairpersons promised to continue to support Myanmar's reform process and assist in her bid for development.

They said the intention of holding WEF in Myanmar is not only for economy but for "socio-economic development of Myanmar people" and to enable the world countries know more about investment opportunities in Myanmar.

The Myanmar President thanked for their support for Myanmar's reforms, saying that the country, though being an agro-based economy, is

working toward to the end of an industrialized nation for development and prosperity by inviting foreign investment as the country is lacking capital, technologies and human resources. He hoped that the World Economic Forum would draw foreign investment. He again expressed his gratitude toward the WEF chairperson and co-chairpersons for fulfilling the requirements of Myanmar.

The President and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to the participants of WEF at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

Present at the dinner were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Union ministers, Hluttaw affairs committee chairpersons, deputy ministers, departmental heads and delegates to WEF on East Asia.

Artistes from Culture Ministry entertained the guests with traditional songs and dances.

MNA

India offers capacity building training to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textile of India Mr Anand Sharma, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here this noon.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Union Minister for National

Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads.

They held talks on promotion of economic cooperation and comprehensive cooperation, cooperation in pharmaceuticals production, training for Myanmar on capacity building in various sectors including in textile and trade, implementation of joint special economic zones, and increasing the number of border trade camps for development of border regions.

MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textile of India Mr Anand Sharma.

MNA



Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines agree to set up ASEAN Common Smart Tourism

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines and Cambodia signed a letter of intent to set up smart visa system on a mutually beneficial basis.

Travel and tourism ministers from the four countries signed the letter of intend during the final day of the World Economic Forum on East Asia which ended today.

By signing this letter of intent, ministers and tourism authorities have agreed to work hand-in-hand for the implementation of the system.

Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and

Creative Economy of Indonesia, says "Considering that tourism is a priority sector under the ASEAN Economic Community and that it constitutes a significant contribution to the integration of ASEAN countries, it is important to be 'smart' about visa facilitation for travel."

"By recognizing the importance of the connectivity in tourism activities, the statement of intent expresses our desire to give a boost to the tourism sector by facilitating the movement of tourists across borders; by going towards a smart visa through

adopting best practices; and maximizing the use of technology to reduce the inefficiencies of the traditional visa application process," stated Ramon R. Jimenez, Secretary of Tourism of the Philippines.

"Facilitating travel to stimulate economic growth and job creation is one of the pillars of the summit, and is a core activity of the Forum's Industry Partners and Members of the Global Agenda Council on New Models for Travel & Tourism," said Thea Chiesa, Director, World Economic Forum.

NLM

Vietnam takes quick step to invest in Myanmar's unexploited hospitality industry

YANGON, 7 June—A groundbreaking ceremony for Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Center was held on 5 June on Kaba Aye Street in Bahan Township, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe who promised necessary assistance to Hoang Anh Gia Lai Group of Vietnam in construction process.

The region chief minister, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe, Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Mr Vu Huy Hoang, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Mr Dao Quang Thu, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr

Phan Thanh Dung, Chairman of Hoang Anh Gia Lai Group Mr Doan Nguyen Duc and Chairman of Association of Vietnam Investors into Myanmar (AVIM) Mr Tran Bac Ha drove the stakes.

The first phase of the centre is scheduled to be complete in 2015, the second phase in 2017 which means Vietnam has become the first to invest in Myanmar's hotel industry with the announced investment of \$ 440 million.

The region chief minister attended the discussion on Yangon Urban Development Project at Chatrium Hotel, requesting the Japanese government and JICA technicians to push ahead

with work plans by fully cooperating with the staff from Myanmar side.

Resident representative of JICA Mr Masahiko Tanaka explained works of the JICA in Myanmar and personnel of the JICA on Yangon urban development project. The region chief minister then attended the Myanmar-Vietnam Investment Cooperation Seminar at Sedona Hotel. He invited the investment of Vietnamese businessmen in Myanmar on mutually beneficial terms, followed by discussions between Myanmar and Vietnamese businessmen.

MNA

NATURAL DISASTER

Heavy rain damages road section on Pathein-Monywa Highway



KYANGIN, 7 June—The strongly heavy rains caused flooding of Kyaukphyuyoe Creek around Hmyinwataung Village-tract of Myanaung Township of Ayeyawady Region at 10 am on 5 June.

The flood eroded the road section from mile posts 109/7 to 110

on Betye-Yekyi Road of Pathein-Monywa Highway. In the incident, the flood destroyed an RCC box culvert and its surrounding parts and about 15 feet long road section. That was why the transport route caused blockage.

Assistant Engineer U Phone Hlaing of Road

Construction Special Group No 2, SAE (Special) U Than Myint Aung and JE-II U Ngwe Aung supervised the repairing of the road.

On 5 June, there was 9.9 inches of rainfall in Myanaung Township.

Kyemon-Htay Min (Kyangin)

Mayan Village to have access to electricity



MEIKTILA, 7 June—Mayan Village, a remote village 16 miles northwest of Wundwin Township in Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, thanks to solar electrification of the region government, will have access to electricity after

years of out of the reach of national power grid.

The village in Nyaungto Village-tract has a population 400 with 148 households. Every household will be provided with two solar panels, one bulb and one battery by the

region government and the solar panel have already arrived, said the village-tract administrator.

The solarelectrification was jointly brought to the village by the region government and police Company under the poverty alleviation and rural development of the State.

Chan-Tha-Meiktila IPRD-Kyemon

West Bank Village gets Knowledge Bank

PAPUN, 7 June—West Bank Village in Papun Township, Papun District, Kayin State got a library named Thuta Padetha literally as Knowledge Bank on 29 May. The library was formally opened by Kayin State Finance Minister U Saw Win Htein, Kayin State Information and Public Relations Department Head U Tin Maung Aye and the Papun District Deputy

through Advocate U Kyaw Aye Ko.

So far, the wellwisher families have donated over K 700 million to the funds for development tasks of the regions across the nation and construction of the religious buildings.

Kyemon-364

Knowledge shared to farmers for cultivation of high yield paddy strain

MAWLU, 7 June—The talks on boosting production of monsoon high yield paddy was held at the hall of Mawlu model village administrator office in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on 3 June morning.

It was attended by Village administrator U Win Sein, Head of Indaw Township Agriculture Department U Aye Naing, officials and local farmer totaling about 100.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Aye Naing made a speech on cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain in monsoon. Assistant Head of the department U Tha Hsan

explained use of fertilizer, Assistant Head of department Daw Ei Ei Tun pests and infection and Assistant Head of department U Soe Shwe, 14 points for good agriculture patterns.

It was reported that a plan was set to grow

100 acres of Palethwe high yield paddy strain in this monsoon and the enthusiastic farmers may take out paddy strains from the Township Agriculture Department.

Kyemon-Ni Toe (Mawlu)



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Volunteers plant trees, clear plastic bags

SAGAING, 7 June—Sagaing University organized a tree-planting activity along with plastic bag campaign to mark World Environment Day on 4 June.

State Minister for Forestry, Mines and Energy U Than Htaik, state Hluttaw representatives, the rector, lecturers, staff, director of Forest Department U Soe Win, the chairman

and members of district/ township management committee, departmental personnel, social organizations and over 700 locals partook in the campaign.

Over 700 saplings were planted on the occasion and the volunteers also cleared the plastic bags in the environs of the university. A personnel from Forest Department said, "Tree-planting is important for environmental conservation and prevents against soil depletion and strong wind."

Myo Win-Sagaing IPRD-Kyemon



Land plots donated to Pariyatti monasteries in Mawgyun, Yangon

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 7 June—U Maung Hla-Daw Shwe Sein and (Daw Mya Lwin) family of No. 46 on 14th Street in Ward 7 of Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyawady Region donated their farmland plots worth K 84 million to monasteries in Mawlamyinegyun and Yangon on 5 June.

At the residence of the

wellwishers, U Maung Hla (Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara)-Daw Shwe Sein (Thudhamma Theingi) and (Daw Mya Lwin) family donated documents related to the land plots to Pithsimayon Monastery, Phayagyi Taik and Kanna Monasteries in Mawlamyinegyun and Yangon Mingalayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery

ODD NEWS

Lightning kills one in Mongpan

MONGPAN, 7 June—One man was killed and the other man lost consciousness by the lightning in Mongpan in Langkho District, Shan State (South) on 3 June.

U Sai Myo, 40 and U Sai Aung 29, both from Ywathit, while taking shelter in a farm hut in the south of Twenty-Eight Pagoda amid heavy rain, was struck by lightning. U Sai Myo was pronounced dead on the spot and U Sai Aung shocked unconscious. Authorities rushed to the scene and helped the victims

Sai Zaw Latt (Langkho) Kyemon

Commissioner formally opened the library.

Also present on the occasion were district and

township level departmental heads, social organizations and students.

Kyemon



DHF campaign launched

TOUNGGOO, 7 June—Talks on prevention against DHF was held at the office of Pukusu Village administrator in Tounggoo Township on 1 June.

Departmental officials

gave lectures on DHF disease and hygienic works.

The talks were attended by members of Township MCWA and WAO and local people.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

REGIONAL

Philippines, Timor-Leste affirm strong relations



Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III (R) shakes hands with visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao in Manila, the Philippines, on 6 June, 2013. Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III and visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao affirmed the strong relations of the two countries as they witnessed the signing of three agreements on Thursday.—XINHUA

MANILA, 7 June—Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III and visiting Timor-Leste Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao affirmed the strong relations of the two countries as they witnessed the signing of three agreements on Thursday. Aquino welcomed Gusmao in Malacanang, the presidential palace. Gusmao is on a five-day visit to Manila.

"The discussions the Prime Minister and I had

this morning affirm our dedication to strengthen the relationship between our two nations particularly through engagements in education, defence, infrastructure development, and trade," Aquino said.

The following agreements were signed in Thursday's ceremonies: a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a bilateral mechanism between two foreign ministries; an MoU meant to help

Timor-Leste with its infrastructure development; and an agreement between the Philippine Normal University and Timor Leste's education ministry to develop a programme for teachers and education officials of Timor-Leste.

Aquino said the Philippines also support Timor-Leste's bid to join in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) community.

Gusmao thanked the Philippines for its support on Timor-Leste's bid for ASEAN membership.

He said his trip to Manila was part of his programme to visit all ASEAN countries this year to strengthen both bilateral and regional ties with Timor-Leste's neighbours.

"We look forward to joining with the Philippines in the ASEAN family," he said. Gusmao was Timor-Leste's first president after achieving independence in May 2002. He is currently serving his second five-year term as prime minister, having first assumed the position in 2007. He is concurrently minister for Defence and Security.

Xinhua

Air New Zealand raises stake in Virgin Australia

WELLINGTON, 7 June—New Zealand's national carrier has agreed to buy another 3 percent of the shares of the Virgin Australia airline, taking its stake to 22.99 percent, Air New Zealand announced on Thursday.

The agreement was subject to the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and the Australian

Competition and Consumer Commission conditions, which was to hold public enquiries into the purchase, said a statement from Air New Zealand.

Air New Zealand would consider buying a further 3-percent stake in Virgin Australia and had made an application to FIRB on that basis.

The additional inter-

est affirmed Air New Zealand's strong belief and confidence in Virgin Australia and the strategy it was pursuing, said the statement.

"Air New Zealand is not seeking a position on the board of Virgin Australia nor does it have the intention of obtaining control of Virgin Australia," it added.

Xinhua



Workers of a rescue team work at the site of the collapsed bridge in the northeastern state of Penang, Malaysia, on 7 June, 2013. An interchange ramp to a cross-sea bridge that is under construction in northern Malaysia collapsed on Thursday, and rescue teams are still searching for survivors who might be trapped under the debris.—XINHUA

Six Taiwanese nabbed in N Philippines for credit card fraud

MANILA, 7 June—Philippine police have arrested six Taiwanese men allegedly involved in credit card fraud during an operation in a rented townhouse in the northern Province of Pampanga, according to police report released here on Thursday.

One of the foreigners arrested even tried to bribe the operatives with 500,000 pesos (11,933 US dollars) in cash, a report submitted to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Nonnatus Rojas stated.

The arrest of the Taiwanese prompted the NBI to conduct a wider probe into the possibility of a bigger syndicate operating in Central Luzon as the suspects apparently are connected with the group of 16 Taiwanese earlier arrested by the bureau for online fraud in Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales Province, in April.

Xinhua

Mt Everest glaciers shrink 14% in 50 yrs

TOKYO, 7 June—Researchers have found that glaciers on Mt Everest in the Himalayas, the world's highest peak, have shrunk by about 14 percent in the past 50 years in what they suspect is the effect of climate change.

The pace at which the glaciers have been decreasing in recent years is nearly six times that of the average between 1958 and 1975, according to recent research led by Sudeep Thakuri of Italy's University of Milan.

Members of the research team are warning that the decline in glaciers and snow will likely pose a major impact on Asia's water resources and agriculture.

"The Himalayan glaciers and ice caps are considered a water tower for Asia since they store and supply water downstream during the dry season," Thakuri

said in a Press release.

The researchers studied the scope of glacial change on Mt Everest and the surrounding 1,150 square kilometre area by using the 1958-2011 satellite imagery and found the surface area of the glaciers has decreased to 339.5 square km in 2011 from 396.2 square km in 1958. The research team also

found that the ends of the glaciers have retreated by 400 metres since 1962. In a sign of global warming, the average temperature in the Mt Everest region has marked a 0.6 C degree increase since 1992.

But the team has yet to establish a strong link between glacial and climate change.—Kyodo News



File photo taken from Mt Kala Patthar in Nepal shows Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain with a peak at 8,848 meters, on 22 May, 2013. The South Col is seen in the centre right.—KYODO NEWS

Japanese doctor helping Afghans wins Asian culture prize

FUKUOKA, 7 June—A Japanese doctor known for his charitable work in Afghanistan and Pakistan was chosen on Friday as the grand prize winner of the 24th Fukuoka Prize, given

to individuals and organizations that have contributed to the creation and preservation of Asian culture, award organizers said.

Tetsu Nakamura, 66, a local representative of the

civic group Peshawar-Kai, became the second-ever Japanese to win the accolade given by a committee jointly managed by Fukuoka City and a local foundation.—Kyodo News

Thailand to link Bangkok with China via high-speed train

BANGKOK, 7 June — Thailand will be connected with China via a high-speed railway running through northern Laos within the next seven years, assured Thai Transport Minister Chadchart Sittipunt.

Delivering a key-note speech on Thursday at a seminar and exhibition entitled "Thailand 2020" in the Thai northeastern Province of Nakorn Ratchasima, the transport minister said the government has planned to build a 625 km rail system to link Bangkok with the northeastern border Province of Nong Khai, across Mekong River from the Lao capital of Vientiane while Chinese high-speed trains will arrive from southern China. During the initial stage of a 730-billion-US-dollar rail and logistical programme, designed for reconstruction of major rail routes in all regions of Thailand, a 250 km Bangkok-Nakorn Ratchasima route will be built first.

Then, the next phase will see a 375 km Nakorn Ratchasima-Nong Khai

route built up for the Thai high-speed train to shuttle passengers and cargoes, especially including fruits and vegetables, between Thailand and Laos, which will be connected via the high-speed train with southern China, Chadchart said.

Given such a modernized rail system, Thai food will be delivered fresh and daily to China, according to the transport minister.

"Nakorn Ratchasima is not only the economic hub of the entire northeastern region of Thailand but a gateway to welcome an ASEAN Economic Community, which will open in 2015," he commented.

Thailand will have one rail system for all high-speed trains to run throughout the country, including the Bangkok-Phitsanulok-Chiang Mai route to the North, the Bangkok-Hua Hin route to the South and the Bangkok-Pattaya-Rayong route to the East and the Bangkok-Nakorn Ratchasima-Nong Khai route to the Northeast.

Xinhua

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2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 10.6.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994

Argentina, S Africa sign agreement on agricultural cooperation

BUENOS AIRES, 7 June—Argentina and South Africa here on Thursday signed an agreement on agricultural cooperation aimed to strengthen trade and technical exchanges.

A joint committee will be established to implement the agreement signed by Argentine Agriculture Minister Norberto Yauhar and his South African counterpart, Tina Joematt-

Peterson.

The two ministers also discussed a programme for the exchange of researchers, as well as other training programmes to be offered by Argentina.—Xinhua

EU steps up fight against cigarette smuggling

BRUSSELS, 7 June—The European Commission on Thursday adopted a package of measures to further fight against illegal tobacco trade at various levels, in particular cigarette smuggling.

The package includes heavier sanctions for smuggling, stronger enforcement of tax, customs, police and border authorities, as well as measures to decrease smuggling incentives and improve the security of supply chains. "With the package of measures to clamp down on cigarette smuggling, we can help to better protect the public purse, the health of our citizens and legitimate businesses," the EU's taxation commissioner Algirdas Semeta said

here on Thursday.

Every year, the cost of illegal tobacco trade for the EU and its member states amount to 10 billion euros (13 billion US dollars) in terms of unpaid taxes and duties. It also involves organized crime groups operating across borders, in addition to undermining European and national health policy initiatives.

The Commission presented an action plan to tackle cigarette smuggling at the EU's eastern land border back in 2011, but for the past two years the EU has been facing a rising influx of illegal tobacco brands as well as increased illegal production and distribution inside the bloc.

Xinhua

Australian hackers get creative with government data

SYDNEY, 7 June—Australian hackers have used their powers for good in the 2013 GovHack competition held across the country, re-mixing government data to create innovative applications over 1-2 June. Web and application developers, open data and visualization experts, user experience and accessibility specialists teamed up for a weekend of creative app development using publicly-available government information.

The winners of the national contest were announced on Thursday night in Canberra.

"With over 700 hackers undertaking over 10,000 hours of development, this is by far Australia's largest partner program for government research and development," said event coordina-

tor Pia Waugh.

"Government agencies had mentors on the ground to build community understanding of the information they hold, and the community was able to showcase clever ideas and talk directly with responsive government agencies from the federal level all the way through to local councils," she added.

Winning projects included an application by a Brisbane group to help users learn about Australia's migration history, utilizing information from the National Archives of Australia's passenger arrivals data combined with historical statistics.

In the Science category, 'When will my house be underwater?' used data from Geoscience Australia

and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make personalized predictions about sea level rise and individual Australian homes.

A Canberra team put together a picnic planner for the nation's capital, with a map of all public playgrounds, BBQs, furniture and toilets plus interesting historical information.

The contest attracted over 1,000 participants, including 900 hackers and 130 competition entries, competing for glory and 170, 000 AU dollars (163,387 US dollars) in prize money. It was supported by several federal, state and local government departments and major commercial sponsors.

"This event has now proven itself to be some-

thing beyond just a competition. It is now a serious engagement opportunity for government and citizens alike," said Waugh.

"We used multiple models of funding for prizes, and different types of prizes including mentorship, internships, entrepreneur prizes, together with our usual prizes for having fun and being creative," she added.

During the two-day lockdown, participants received guidance from professional mentors from organizations such as Google, Geoscience Australia, Dictionary of Sydney, Adelaide City Council, Public Transport Services, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, several universities and government departments.—Xinhua

UN advances in plan to withdraw peacekeepers from Haiti

SANTO DOMINGO, 7 June—More than 4,950 UN peacekeepers have left Haiti since 2011, as part of a withdrawal plan announced by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the world body's peacekeeping force in the country said on Thursday.

Nigel Fisher, head of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah), said in an open letter posted on the UN website that in keeping with the scaleback, the peacekeeping forces' budget has also been reduced by 30 percent.

The Haitian government and Minustah have been holding talks to consolidate the UN troop withdrawal plan since last February, based on the progress made on key goals such as

beefing up Haiti's national police, he said.

"We are in the process of improving the plan to ensure it is feasible and contains clear indicators for the strengthening of national institutions and the reduction of Minustah's presence," Fisher said.

Last year, the UN Security Council said the number of Minustah troops should be based on the security situation in Haiti and the country's increasing capacity.

Fisher said a joint working group is supervising the plan's execution, adding that economic resources that become available due to the plan will be transferred to UN peacekeeping missions in other countries.

"I am sure both the

Haitian and international actors agree that the gradual and orderly withdrawal of Minustah from Haiti is desirable and necessary," he said. "They also agree that the withdrawal is tied to the progressive strengthening of Haitian institutions that are key for security, the elections and the rule of law."

Minustah was established in 2004 to replace the multinational forces authorized by the United Nations following then Haitian president Jean Bertrand Aristide's exile and an ensuing instability in the country.

In October 2011, Ban informed Haitian President Michel Martelly of his goal to begin a gradual withdrawal of the mission.

Xinhua



Trainees lift a log during a VIP security training course at the Genghis Security Academy in Beijing, capital of China, on 6 June, 2013. Some 70 trainees, including six females and three foreigners, will receive intensified training at the bodyguard camp for over 20 hours per day in a week. One third of them will be eliminated.—XINHUA



Rescuers work at the site where a helicopter crashed on the Qingbaijiang River in Guanghan City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 6 June, 2013. The crash occurred around 5:13 pm (GMT 0913), killing one crew member and injuring the other. The cause of the crash is under investigation.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Broadway to celebrate Tony awards with NY street party

NEW YORK, 7 June — Broadway is gearing up for the annual Tony theatre awards on Sunday with a roster of top stars set to hit the red carpet and a simulcast slated for a mass viewing party in Times Square. The 67th annual awards, Broadway's highest honours, will be held at Radio City Music Hall and include appearances by nominee Tom Hanks and other stars including Scarlett Johansson, Sigourney Weaver, Jake Gyllenhaal, Anna Kendrick, Zachary Quinto, Sally Field, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Jon Cryer.

Hanks is the odds-on favourite to win best actor in a play for his Broadway debut in the late Nora

Ephron's "Lucky Guy." Other top contenders are musicals "Matilda," a Brit-

nothing like celebrating Broadway's most spectacular night, with Broadway's



Tony award nominees gather for a photograph on top of the Empire State Building in New York, on 4 June, 2013. REUTERS

ish production based on a Raold Dahl novel, and "Kinky Boots," which features songs by pop star Cyndi Lauper." There is

biggest fans, right in the heart of Times Square," said Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of The Broadway League, and

Heather Hitchens, executive director of the American Theatre Wing, in a joint statement.

Reuters

Michael Jackson's teen daughter attempts suicide



Paris Jackson reportedly attempts suicide.

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — Paris Jackson, the 15-year-old daughter of late pop star Michael Jackson, was rushed to a Los Angeles-area hospital on Wednesday after an apparent suicide attempt, her mother said, but her family later reported she is "physically fine." "Paris is physically fine and is getting appropriate medi-

cal attention," Perry Sanders, an attorney for Paris' grandmother and guardian, Katherine Jackson, said in a statement.

"Being a sensitive 15-year-old is difficult no matter who you are," the statement added. "It is especially difficult when you lose the person closest to you." Pop singer Jackson died in

2009 at age 50 from a lethal dose of surgical anesthetic propofol while preparing for his "This Is It" series of concerts in London. The Jackson family's wrongful-death lawsuit against concert promoter AEG Live is currently at trial in Los Angeles and family attorneys have been expected to call Paris as a witness. Paris' mother, Debbie Rowe, told entertainment TV programme "Entertainment Tonight" that her daughter attempted suicide and had "a lot going on (lately)."

"We appreciate everyone's thoughts for Paris at

this time and their respect for the family's privacy," an attorney for Rowe said in a statement. Celebrity website TMZ.com, which first reported the suicide attempt, said Paris had been taken from her family's home in Calabasas, California, by ambulance at about 2 am time, citing unnamed sources. Los Angeles County Sheriff deputies responded to a medical situation in Calabasas at 1:27 am, sheriff spokesman Steve Whitmore said, declining to provide additional details because of privacy laws.

Reuters

Helena Bonham Carter goes glam to play Elizabeth Taylor

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — British actress Helena Bonham Carter will play late screen icon Elizabeth Taylor in a TV movie that will explore Taylor's tempestuous relationship with actor Richard Burton which captivated audiences and headlines. The first photograph of Bonham Carter as Taylor and British actor Dominic West as Burton was released by BBC on Wednesday, ahead of the premiere of "Burton and Taylor" on BBC America in fall this year.

The film's central focus will be on Taylor and Burton's appearance as

co-stars in a 1983 Broadway revival of Noel Coward's 1930 risqué comedy play "Private Lives." In the play, which brought Taylor and Burton together seven years after their second divorce from each other, the former couple portrayed a man and woman having an affair while married to other people.

Taylor, who died from heart failure in 2011 aged 79, became one of the most recognizable Hollywood actresses in the 1950s, famed for her beauty and violet eyes. She was married eight times, twice to Burton. "Private Lives" would be Bur-



Actress Helena Bonham Carter

ton's last performance. He died in 1984 from a brain hemorrhage aged 58.

Last year, troubled former child star Lindsay Lohan played Taylor in the Lifetime TV movie "Liz & Dick," which also chronicled her stormy life with Burton, and was panned

by fans and critics. Bonham Carter, 47, began her acting career in British period dramas, such as 1992's "Howard's End," before progressing to grittier roles. She starred in 1999's "Fight Club" and played a chimpanzee in 2001's "Planet of the Apes."—Reuters

Sting returns to his childhood for new musical, album

LONDON, 7 June — Sting has turned back to his childhood in the shadow of a struggling shipyard in northern England for a musical that will debut on Broadway next year and his first album of original material in 10 years. The musical, "The Last Ship", is based on Sting's experiences of living near the Swan Hunter Shipyard in Wallsend, Newcastle, and watching the demise of Britain's shipbuilding industry in the 1980s. A spokeswoman for Sting on Wednesday said the musical had also inspired the rock star to produce his first album of new material in nearly 10 years, also called "The Last Ship", that will be released on 23 September "Guest artists on "The Last Ship" with roots in the northeast (of

England) include Brian Johnson, Jimmy Nail, The Unthanks, The Wilson Brothers and Kathryn Tickell," the spokeswoman said in a statement. "The Last Ship", released on Universal Music Group's Polydor Records, will feature 12 songs and be produced by Rob Mathes. Sting, 61, has released 10 albums since going solo from the band the Police around 1984. This will be his first album of original material since "Sacred Love" in 2003. As well as his music, Sting has acted in a list of films, including "Quadrophenia" and "Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels", and appeared as himself in TV shows like "The Simpsons" but this is the first time he has taken a major role in producing a musical.

Reuters



Sting performs "Lonesome Day" during the 2013 MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honouring Bruce Springsteen in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla celebrate women courage

MUMBAI, 7 June — The team of forthcoming movie Gulaab Gang, which is based on the real life story of women's grit and determination, has launched BELIEVE, a campaign that celebrates the triumphs of women's heroism. Gulaab Gang, directed by Soumik Sen, is loosely based on Uttar Pradesh-based social activist Sampat Pal and her Gulabi Gang, which works towards liberation of

women in the state. Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla, who play pivotal roles in the film, believe their work should inspire audiences. "As a creative artist, my job has been to inspire audiences with art and films I'm part of. And the campaign allows me to present before you stories that are inspiring for us all. I look forward to saluting the unknown heroines of the country," Madhuri said in a statement. An initiative by Benaras Mediaworks in association with Gulaab Gang, the campaign will bring forth stories of valour from across the country and talk about unheard stories and unsung heroines.

The campaign will invite entries of women from across the country, who have battled odds and emerged victorious.—PTI

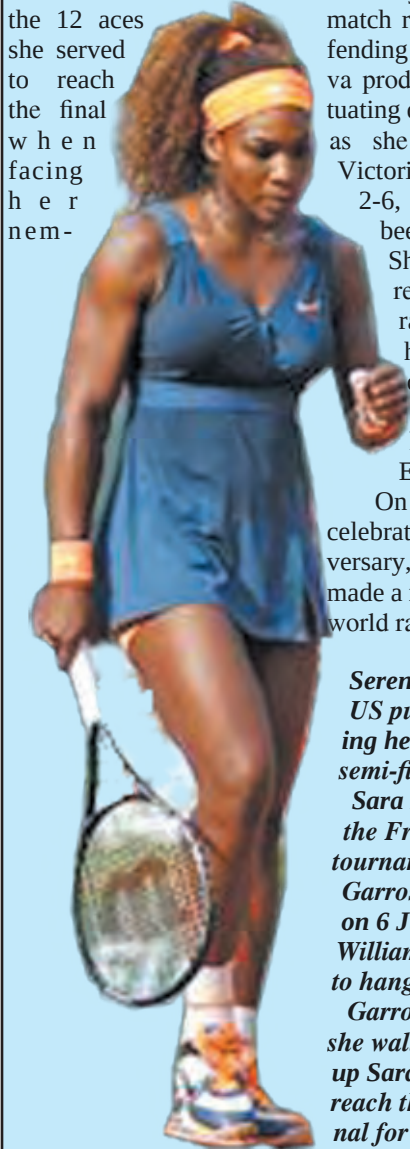


Juhi Chawla

SPORTS

Serena mauls Errani, Sharapova awaits in final

PARIS, 7 June—Maria Sharapova had better come armed with a bit more than the 12 aces she served to reach the final when facing her nem-



esis Serena Williams in the French Open showpiece on Saturday. For the second match running Russian defending champion Sharapova produced a wildly fluctuating display on Thursday as she beat fierce rival Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 2-6, 6-4. Williams had been forced to wait as Sharapova and Azarenka finished their rain-interrupted two-hour scrap—then came out like a hungry tiger to maul hapless Italian Sara Errani 6-0, 6-1.

On the day the WTA celebrated its 40th anniversary, top seed Williams made a mockery of Errani's world ranking of five as she

Serena Williams of the US pumps her fist during her women's singles semi-final match against Sara Errani of Italy at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 6 June, 2013. Serena Williams was in no mood to hang around at Roland Garros on Thursday as she walloped 2012 runner-up Sara Errani 6-0, 6-1 to reach the French Open final for the first time since 2002.—REUTERS



Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in their women's singles semi-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 6 June, 2013.—REUTERS

underlined her unshakable grip on the women's game. Fifth seed Errani, a claycourt expert who was runner-up to Sharapova last year, pocketed only 16 points and was mercifully put out of her misery by the world No1 after 46 minutes. Williams won 40 of her 52 points with winners, incredible statistics, yet she seemed unimpressed.

"I didn't necessarily go out there feeling great," she said. "It was more like, let's just see what happens and try to do the best I could," she added with chronic understatement. Sharapova, second in the rankings, has

not beaten 31-year-old Williams since 2004, a 12-match losing sequence. "I'd be lying if it doesn't bother me, obviously," Sharapova said of her record against the American who is looking for her first singles crown at Roland Garros since her maiden French Open title in 2002. "I don't think it would be a pretty competitive statement if I said it didn't. I would love to change that around. Obviously, whatever I did in the past hasn't worked, so I'll have to try to do something different and hopefully it will."—Reuters

Sluggish Bolt beaten by Gatlin in Rome

ROME, 7 June—Usain Bolt's defeat by Justin Gatlin in the 100 meters at the Rome Diamond League meeting on Thursday is unlikely to cause the Olympic champion too much concern ahead of August's world championships. American Gatlin, bronze medalist at the London Games after a four-year doping ban, ran 9.94 seconds to edge Bolt by 0.01 in a race that showed the Jamaican has yet to fully recover from the hamstring injury that dogged him earlier in the season.

Bolt's previous defeat over the distance was at last year's Jamaican championships when fans and media were stunned as he was beaten by Yohan Blake only for the world record holder to scorch to the second-fastest time on record of 9.63 in the Olympic final a few weeks later. The 26-year-old Bolt got a good start in Rome but Gatlin, who also won in Doha and Eugene this season, had moved ahead by halfway and his rival never looked like making up the ground.

"That was ridiculous—

a perfect start and then I just cropped off. I think it was the perfect start that threw my game off," six-times Olympic gold medalist Bolt told reporters. "At the end it just wasn't me—at least I got under 10 seconds," he added, referring to his only other race over 100 metres this season when he ran 10.09 in the Cayman islands last month. "For me it is just going through the season, putting things together for the world championships (in Moscow). The season is still very early."—Reuters

Bolt and Sanchez to give French Open awards

PARIS, 7 June—Multi-Olympic champions Usain Bolt and former French Open winner Arantxa Sanchez will award the trophies to the men's and women's singles champions, organizers said here on Thursday. Jamaica's Bolt will award the Coupe des Mousquetaires to the winner of the men's singles on Sunday, alongside the President of the French Tennis Federation, Jean Gachassin.

Bolt is a six-time Olympic champion and five-time

Ferrer to give Tsonga tougher time than Federer, says Forget

PARIS, 7 June—Jo-Wilfried Tsonga can expect David Ferrer to give him a tougher time than Roger Federer managed when they meet in their French Open semi-final on Friday, former France Davis

Cup captain Guy Forget has warned. Sixth seed Tsonga is bidding to become the first Frenchman to win Roland Garros, let alone a grand slam title, since Yannick Noah prevailed in Paris in 1983.

"For Jo, it is going to be harder against Ferrer than against Roger (Federer)," Forget, a former world number four, told Reuters on Thursday. Tsonga upset second seed and 17-times grand slam champion Federer in

straight sets in the quarter-finals. "The tough match

that was expected for him against Federer did not happen," Forget, who captained France in the Davis Cup from 1999-2012, said. "It will be a very balanced contest," he added, reminding that "between the two, the most consistent player behind the top four is Ferrer." Noah, who beat Swede Mats Wilander 6-2, 7-5, 7-6 in the 1983 final, said Tsonga had the game to match Ferrer. "What I know is that he (Tsonga) has been playing solidly. He's strong physically and mentally," he told reporters. "One can dream but he can expect a tough match. I have the feeling that he can win. He has what it takes."

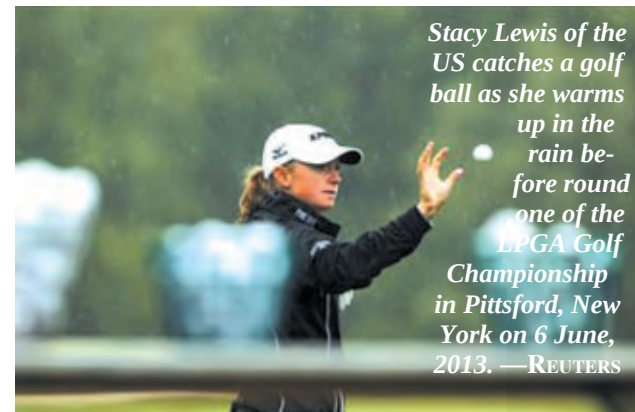
Reuters

straight sets in the quarter-finals. "The tough match

dle of the night, hopefully for the golf course to percolate the rain. Friday morning, the last I was told, is supposed to be scattered and spotty, and then we have a big window.

"Saturday is better and Sunday is no rain at all, so Sunday actually is our best day with the most golf that we'll have to play." More than an inch of continual rain on Thursday morning left the course saturated, giving organizers no chance to get the layout ready for a possible delayed start in the late afternoon. "Once the threat of lightning left the area about 8:30 am, we could have opened up the practice facilities, but the problem then became the golf course," said Witter.

Reuters



Stacy Lewis of the US catches a golf ball as she warms up in the rain before round one of the LPGA Golf Championship in Pittsford, New York on 6 June, 2013.—REUTERS



Usain Bolt of Jamaica (R) competes with Justin Gatlin of the US (L) during the men's 100m event at the Golden Gala IAAF Diamond League at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 6 June, 2013. Gatlin won the race with Bolt coming in second.—REUTERS



David Ferrer

GENERAL

Heartfelt Condolence U Kyaw Win Maung (Age 93)

We are very saddened to hear of your recent loss and would like to express our sincere condolences to the Family of Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe (Ministry of Electric Power) & Daw Ni Ni.

*We wish to express our heartfelt condolence for your loss and to let you know that our thoughts are with you.

*May peace and comfort find you during this difficult time.

Maxpower Thaketa / Navigat Energy

Heartfelt Condolence U Phyo Min Oo (Age 30)

We are very saddened to hear of your recent loss and would like to express our sincere condolences to the Family of Union Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo (Ministry of Electric Power) & Daw Than Than Aye.

*We wish to express our heartfelt condolence for your loss and to let you know that our thoughts are with you.

*May peace and comfort find you during this difficult time.

Maxpower Thaketa / Navigat Energy

Seven dead, four missing in Nepal landslide

KATHMANDU, 7 June—A landslide flattened two houses in a mountainous district in northeastern Nepal early Thursday, killing seven members of a family and leaving four other people missing, police said.

The landslide hit Thukimba village in the Taplejung district about 240 kilometres east of Kathmandu at 12:35 am, Deputy Superintendent of Police Govinda Acharya, who is police chief for the district, told *Kyodo News* by telephone. Police, Nepal Army soldiers and Armed Police Force personnel are searching for the four people still missing.

Acharya said the district had seen intermittent rainfall for the past few days.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-6-13 09:30 am ~
9-6-13 09:30 am) MST

- * A Visit to San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
- * News
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- * Skiful Marionette Performance of New Generation Artists
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- * "Mischievous Destiny"

Myanmar TV

(8-6-2013, Saturday)

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|---|---|
| 6:00 am | 4:00 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 19. News |
| 6:45 am | 4:15 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 6:50 am | 4:25 pm |
| 3. Documentary | 21. (38) Phyar Mingalars |
| 7:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| 4. News | 22. Song & Dance of National Races |
| 7:30 am | 4:45 pm |
| 5. Business News | 23. University Of Disatance Education (TV Lectures) -Frist Year (Myanmar) |
| 7:45 am | 5:15 pm |
| 6. Teleplay (Health) | 24. Golden Music Old Stars |
| 8:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 7. News | 25. News |
| 8:25 am | 6:20 pm |
| 8. India Drama Series | 26. Documentary |
| 9:20 am | 6:50 pm |
| 9. Mono Classical Songs | 27. TV Drama Series |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 10. News | 28. News |
| 10:15 am | 7:15 pm |
| 11. TV Drama Series | 29. TV Drama Series |
| 11:25 am | 8:00 pm |
| 12. Documentary | 30. News |
| 11:30 am | 8:35 pm |
| 13. Games for Children | 31. Business News |
| 12:00 pm | 8:50 pm |
| 15. News | 32. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 1:15 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 16. Myanmar Movie | 33. News |
| 3:00 pm | 34. Myanmar Series |
| 17. News | 35. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |
| 3:15 pm | |
| 18. Cultural Dances | |

Under-fire Perez says his Monaco move not 'stupid'

MONTREAL, 7 June — Sergio Perez has defended himself against criticism that he drove like "an idiot" at last month's Monaco Grand Prix, insisting he did nothing wrong. The Mexican came under fire from rival drivers after he collided with Formula One title contender Kimi Raikkonen

in the most recent race of the championship but was adamant he was not to blame.

"Every maneuver that you try to do in Monaco to try to overtake people is on the limit," Perez told reporters on Thursday ahead of this weekend's Canadian Grand Prix. "I did a couple of moves on the limit which at the end of the day went badly. The result was not the one I was expecting." But, I think the maneuvers I did, they were right. I did nothing stupid."

Perez made contact with Raikkonen when he tried to overtake him at the entrance to a chicane on the tight Monaco street circuit.

Raikkonen's Lotus suf-

fered a tire puncture and he fell back through the field before recovering to finish 10th. Raikkonen, who is currently second behind Sebastian Vettel in the championship standings, suggested the 23-year-old McLaren driver needed a punch in the face. But Perez, who failed to finish the race, said he was unfazed by the criticism and did not expect any lingering problems at Montreal's Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, another tricky street circuit. "At the end of the day we are humans, and you are very upset, very angry, and straight away you want to criticize somebody," Perez said.

Reuters



McLaren Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico steers his car during the qualifying session of the Monaco F1 Grand Prix on 25 May, 2013.
REUTERS



The Special Round Table Discussion "The Future of Transportation" is held during the 2013 Fortune Global Forum in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 6 June, 2013. —XINHUA

Indonesia, France seek to expand cooperation in energy, transport

JAKARTA, 7 June—Indonesia and France are seeking the possibility to expand their cooperation in renewable energy and transport sectors, according to government sources.

French Minister for Foreign Trade Nicole Bricq, during her recent visit to Indonesia, said France's experience in the application of renewable energy would contribute to the planned cooperation in the sector with Indonesia.

"I come here to understand the opportunity of investment in Indonesia so that I can tell the firms in France," said Nicole when meeting with Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Jero Wacik on Wednesday to discuss the possibility of cooperation in the field.

She added that France has both the experience and capability in developing renewable energy. Wacik said that Indonesia badly

needed more energy, and electricity in particular.

"Right now the Madam minister (Nicole) said that she was very confident in investing in Indonesia's electricity, because of its market of 250 million people here," Wacik told a joint press conference after his meeting with Nicole.

Indonesia's demand for electricity grows by 9 percent annually, but currently the country's electrification rate is only over 70 percent,

the energy ministry said. In addition to the renewable energy sector, France also was seeking the possibility to cooperate in mass rapid transport and air transport sectors.

Earlier on Tuesday, Nicole met with Indonesian Deputy Minister of Transport Bambang Susantono at the transport ministry, saying that France seeks to develop super fast trains and electric railways in Indonesia.—Xinhua

President U Thein Sein receives Philippine counterpart



U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, holds discussion with Mr Benigno Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Mr Benigno Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines who is in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the World Economic Forum on East Asia, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Than Htay, U Zeyar Aung and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut and U Aung Than Oo, and departmental heads.

The Philippine delegation led by President Mr Benigno Aquino was

accompanied by the Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar.

At the call, they exchanged views on further strengthening friendly ties between Myanmar and the Philippines and matters of mutual cooperation not only between the two governments but also in the private sector on agricul-

ture, mining and electrical sectors.

MNA

World Economic Forum helps put Myanmar back on international stage

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 held for three days including pre-forum seminars wrapped up successfully today.

It is the first for Myanmar to host an international forum under the theme of “Sharing Prosperity” with the attendance of heads of State for East Asia, ministers, deputy ministers, personalities, company presidents and CEOs, experts in various fields and over 300 well-known media men from around the world.

The final day of the forum focused on social security, encouraging development through strategic infrastructure, overcoming challenges with technological advancement, compre-

hensive and sustainable tourism development, effective investment, and co-operation with Myanmar.

The successful forum could make the world countries understand more about Myanmar. Under the theme of “Courageous Transformation for Inclusion and Integration”, it has provided an excellent opportunity to Myanmar to reshape and rebrand herself.

A Thai technician said, “A very interesting. I particularly focused on how the government and private businessmen can cooperate for the future of Myanmar. I’m especially interested in what would happen here over the coming years.”

MNA



World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC).—MNA

Memorandum of Cooperation between MRCS, NRCS signed

YANGON, 7 June—Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Cooperation between Myanmar Red Cross Society and Norwegian Red Cross Society was held at Central Council Room, Myanmar Red Cross Office, here, on 5 June. Professor Dr Tha Hla Shwe, President of MRCS addressed an opening speech and Mr Sven Molleklev, President of NRCS spoke on the occasion.

After that, the MRCS

President and the NRCS President signed Memorandum of Cooperation, in the presence of the Secretary-General of MRCS and the Regional Representative Asia of NRCS. Heads of Divisions of MRCS, Representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Partner National Societies, guests and local and foreign journalists attended the ceremony. Un-

der the Agreement, MRCS and NRCS will implement the projects: Community Based DRR and Urban DRR Projects, Logistics Development Project, Water and Sanitation Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Community based Health Development Programme focused on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

The presidents of societies, then, answered questions raised by journalists.

Moe Thu Zar Soe

Matriculation exam results released through Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Athan

Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Radio will air the matriculation exam results of the students who sat for the exam held in March, 2013 at exam centers in regions and states with poor transportation. Such exam centers include those in Tanai, Shinbweyan, Machanbaw, Putao, Nagmon, Phakant, Kamai, Sumprabun, Chipwe and Sinbo in Kachin State; Papun, Kamamaung, Kya-in-Seikkyi, and Tagundaing in Kayin State; Kanpetlet,

Matupi, Yezwa, Lailinpi, Mindat and Paletwa in Chin State; Gwa, Kyeintali, Sabthwa, Manaung and Zayatgonkhin in Rakhine State; Monghkat, Mongyan, Mongphyat, Monghsat, Mongton, Mongpying, Mongyawng, Hopan, Laukkai, Kunlong, Momeik, Namhsan (north), Mantung, Mabein, Ngaoe, Mongkai, Tonghong, Maukmai, Kyethemansan, Mongnai, Kunhing, Mongpan, Mongshu and Wankan in Shan State;

Pulaw, Palauk, Pala and Bokpyin in Taninthayi Region, Pauk, Yepya, Htilin, Saw, Laungshe, Kyaukhtu, Sedoktara and Ngaphe in Magway Region; Nanyun, Leshi and Lahe in Sagaing Region; and Cocogyun in Yangon Region.

The results will be aired through short wave 50.71 m 5915 KHz, short wave 50.12 m 5985 KHz, medium wave 411.52 m 729 KHz starting 8.00 am on 8 June.—MNA

Matriculation examination results released

The results of the matriculation examination held in March 2013 are released at 06.00 am today (8-6-2013) Saturday. The results are posted at the same time at respective

examination centers in respective regions/states and townships. In addition, the exam results of the students from Yangon Region/states are posted at No.1 Basic Education

High School Insein, No.1 BEHS Yankin, No.3 BEHS Kamayut, No.1 BEHS Lanmadaw, No.2 BEHS Dagon, and No.1 BEHS Thingangyun.

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