

Ho Chi Minh City Expo-2013 opens in Yangon

YANGON, 8 June—Ho Chi Minh City Expo-2013 was opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Dagon Township on 6 June.

Sixty-two companies from Ho Chi Minh City participated in it and have exhibited home decoration materials, construction materials, furniture, household goods, electronics, clothes, foodstuff, agricultural machinery at 107 booths.

The expo was formally opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Soe, Vice-President of UMFCCI U Tun Aung, Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Mr Vu Huy Hoang, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee Mdm Nguyen Thi Hong and ITPC President Mdm Pho Nam Phuong.

The exhibition lasts till 10 June.

The representative office of Ho Chi Minh City & Saigon Trading



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Ho Chi Minh City Expo-2013 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall.—MNA

Group (SATRA) in Lanmadaw Township was also formally opened on the same day.

Investment Trade-Tourism Ho Chi Minh City-Yangon Seminar was also held on 6 June afternoon at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township. The participants of the seminar discussed cooperation in real estate, agriculture, construction, foodstuff, textiles, forest and forest products, tourism and sea food in Myanmar.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (8-6-2013)

Hkamti	3.90 inches
Cocogyun	3.27 inches
Monghsat	2.01 inches
Putao	1.85 inches
Kyauktaw	1.77 inches
Ye	1.66 inches

China-Myanmar corridor to emerge as trade facilitator

Myanmar has been building all-weather motor links with neighbours as smooth transportation is an essential driver of economic development and the latest road to link

with neighbor China will be the China-Myanmar corridor connecting Ruili of China with Kyaikpyu of Myanmar.

Feasibility study is said to have been conducted

for construction of Ruili-Kyaikpyu Road, for which China will provide financial help to Myanmar. Linking Muse with Kyaikpyu, the road will also be the China-Myanmar corridor.

Personnel of the two sides have held a number of discussions and are negotiating over the proposed alignments of the road in two countries.

The two sides also have reached an agreement over some alignments, one of which is from Panglong to Namhkam through Namtu. The road section will also link Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Nawngkhio, PyinOoLwin and Mandalay. Another one is from Kyauksauk to Padan in Rakhine State. The road will pass through Mai and An.

Myanmar has proposed the alignment from Padan to Panglong of Shan State to pass through Salin, Seikpyu, Yezagyo, Myaung, Madaya, Mandalay, Nawngkhio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw, with a view to bringing about rapid development of the towns

By
Maung Maung
Myint Swe

along the road.

The proposed alignment from Chinese side will pass through Saku, Yenangyoung, Kyaukpadaung, PyinOoLwin, and Hsipaw, linking Padan and Panglong. The alignment is straighter than the proposed alignment Myanmar prefers.

The road if constructed and completed will emerge as China-Myanmar corridor, boosting border trade between the two neighbours. Moreover, it will also become a part of road networks of ASEAN and Asian roads, facilitating Myanmar's trade activities with both neighbours and regional countries.

Myanma Alinn:

30-5-2013

Trs: TKK



Photo shows a section of Muse-Namkham Road.

INSIDE

Royal Ploughing Ceremony (Le Htun Mingala) in Nayone

Nayone, the third month of Myanmar lunar calendar of twelve months (corresponding to June) is the transitional month between Geinman (Summer) and Wathan (Monsoon or rainy season).

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

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Xi, Obama meet for first summit



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Suspension bridge opened in Bhamo Tsp



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WHO calls for global collaboration to combat hepatitis

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Van Persie replaces Sneijder as new Dutch captain



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ANTI-NARCOTIC DRIVES

Stimulant tablets, heroin seized in Mabein

MABEIN, 8 June—Stimulant tablets worth K 200 million and heroin worth K 7.6 million were seized in Mabein on 2 June.

A combined team led by IP Ko Khaing of Mabein Police Station and Kyaukse District Police Force searched two motorbikes on Pauknet Bridge of Mogok-Bhamo Road driven from Pinkyein to Mabein.

But, the motorcyclists

did not obey to the search of the team and went away. The team searched the motorbikes and seized 119,000 WY brand stimulant tablets worth K 238 million from the motorcycles and 425 grams of heroin from soap cups worth K 7.65 million.

Mabein Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the drug traffickers.

Kyemon-Mabein

Opium seized in Waingmaw

MYITKYINA, 8 June—A team led by IP Wah Wah Kywe of Myitkyina Anti-Drug Squad, acting on tip-off, searched MAS Star-125 motorbike driven by Thet Htar Aung, 34 of Mohnyin from Washaung to Waingmaw, near Kakwint Bridge in the township at 4.50 pm on 4 June.

The policemen seized one packet of raw opium

weighing 141.33 grams under the seat, one packet of opium weighing 155.33 gram from the right cover and one packet weighing 341.33 grams worth K 908,586 in total.

Waingmaw Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug trafficker under the law.

Kyemon-Moekya (Myitkyina)

Mandalay-Bhamo passenger vessel launches maiden trip



MANDALAY, 8 June—Mandalay-Bhamo passenger vessel launched its maiden trip from Gawwein Jetty in Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay at 7 am on 4 June.

Three Shwekeinnay vessels and Thallawady vessel from Inmaikha water transport service run the route, departing Mandalay on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday weekly and Bhamo

on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday weekly.

The transport service hires the vessels from Inland Water Transport. The vessels are equipped with safety facilities with 98 seats for passenger convenience.

The tickets are priced at K 20000 for Mandalay-Bhamo route, stopping over in Mandalay-Kyauksemyaung, Tagaung, Htigyaing, Katha, Shwegu and Bhamo.

The transport service plans to run the vessels along Ayeyawady River during the rainy season till October.

Kyemon-002

Chin State plans to build hotel zone in Mindat

KALAY, 8 June—A plan is under way to extend urban area at Block 39 in Kyaukse extended forest reserve in Mindat of Chin State and build a hotel zone, according to the Chin State government.

Over 100 acres of land plot for the urban area and hotel zone is located at an altitude of 4860 feet in Mindat.

"It needs to extend urban area due to increasing

number of population but it should place emphasis on minimizing loss of forest reserve," said a local.

Kyaukse 2 forest reserve is located east of Mindat and it is on 14500 acres of land.

Mindat Township is formed with Kyaukse-2, Miel, Butaung and Kyetoche forest reserves on over 40000 acres of land.

Kyemon-Shin Nay Min (Kalay)

Houses lost in landslide at Sittoung River



WAW, 8 June—The people residing along the bank of Sittoung River are facing landslides due to

changes of water courses yearly. This year, a total of 19 houses were lost in the landslide at Tanawkyun Village of Waw Township.

The village is located near the Sittoung Bridge (Old) sharing border with Mon State. It was bustle with freight handling at the jetty in the past. The village could overcome bank erosion thanks to the embankment of Sittoung River in the past. After the embankment broke down,

the bank erosion was worse to the village. That is why a total of 48 houses near the bank of the river are likely to be lost this year.

"Yearly, about 20 feet wide of area along the bank were eroded. In the future, the village may disappear within five years. So, some houses moved themselves to the safe places but some lost in the accident," said an official of the village.

A local said that the residents are to take care of bank erosion at their residence and farmlands.

Kyemon-578

Short circuit fire engulfs five houses

AUNGBAN, 8 June—A short circuit caused outbreak of fire engulfing five houses in Aungban of Shan State.

At 1.45 am on 3 June, a fire broke out at the house of U Win Min, 38 of Region 6 in Myohaung Ward of Aungban.

Members of Aungban Fire Services Department, the head of Aungban Police

Station and members and local people put out the fire and died it down at 2.05 am. There were no casualties.

A total of 18 fire victims are being accommodated at Mahagandayon Monastery in Aungban. Aungban Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the outbreak of fire.—*Kyemon-Sai Tin Oo (Southern Shan State)*

HRD

Office work course commences in Magway

MAGWAY, 8 June—The office work course for the court of Magway Region was opened at the meeting hall of the Region Court on 3 June morning, with an address by Magway Region Chief Justice U Sein Tun.

The ceremony was also attended by judges of

Magway Region Court, the judicial officer of Magway Region, the judge of Magway District and 12 trainees from Magway and Minbu District courts.

The course runs one week.—*Kyemon-Khaing Soe Lin (Magway Sub-Printing House)*

Bus shopping at department store



YANGON, 8 June—A BM passenger bus plying from Tamway to Dagon Myothit (South) townships plunged into

Maha department store after bumping the traffic blocks near Bawa Myint bus stop in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region.

At 6.15 pm on 6 June, the bus of 248 bus line hit a Saloon near Bawa Myint bus stop and then bumped the traffic blocks.

After that, the bus plunged into the department store.

In the incident, some passengers were injured.

Thingangyun Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the reckless driver who must firstly pay three folds of values for 11 traffic blocks to Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of Yangon City Development Committee.

Kyemon-K Thein Swe

Health care provided to workers at worksite



YANGON, 8 June—Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour,

Employment and Social Security is providing health care services to workers

at Workers' Hospital and clinics.

A medical team comprising Dr Nan Mon Hsai, Dr Naygyi Win Wah, senior nurse Daw Khin Khin Myint and assistant nurse Daw Win Win Myint from South Okkalapa Social Security Clinic went to Yamasu Umbrella Factory of Min Tun Trading in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region.

The team gave medical treatment to 22 workers and shared health knowledge.

Kyemon-Social Security Board

CSCs issued in Momeik

MOMEIK, 8 June—Head of Momeik Township Immigration and National Registration Department of Shan State (North) U Chit Aung and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens at Basic Education High School Branch in Momauk Village-tract in Momeik Township on 27 May.

The department is implementing Moe Pwint Plan-5.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

WORLD

Xi, Obama meet for first summit



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) shakes hands with US President Barack Obama at the Annenberg Retreat, California, the United States, on 7 June, 2013. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Barack Obama, met Friday to exchange views on major issues of common concern. —XINHUA

SUNNYLANDS, United States, 8 June—Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart, Barack Obama, met on Friday in this picturesque estate in Rancho Mirage, California, to exchange views on major issues of common concern.

Obama received Xi

upon his arrival, and the two heads of state greeted each other.

At the beginning of the meeting, Xi thanked Obama for his invitation, saying that he was glad to hold talks with the US president at Sunnylands.

“Sunnylands is close to the Pacific Ocean, and

China is just on the other side of the ocean,” Xi said.

Xi recalled his visit to the United States last year when he said that the vast Pacific Ocean has enough room to accommodate the development of two great powers in the world, namely China and the United States.

“Today I meet here with President Obama to map out a blueprint for the development of China-US relations and conduct cooperation across the Pacific Ocean,” the Chinese president said.

More than four decades ago, Xi said, the then leaders of the two countries opened the door for China-US interactions with political courage and wisdom, making a “handshake across the Pacific Ocean.”

Since then, the Chinese president said, the China-US relations, despite ups and downs, have achieved historic progress and brought huge benefits to the two peoples.

Xinhua

Iran not UN nuclear watchdog’s only headache, report shows

VIENNA, 8 June—Iran may be the UN nuclear watchdog’s biggest headache but it is not the only country stalling inspectors’ requests for atomic-related information, a new IAEA report suggests. Tasked with preventing the spread of nuclear bombs in the world, the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency inspects reactors and related sites globally to ensure that sensitive fissile material is not diverted for military

purposes.

In 2012, several states “did not provide sufficient cooperation to clarify or resolve agency questions,” said the IAEA’s annual report on nuclear safeguards implementation, which was discussed at a meeting of its 35-nation board this week.

For 71 of 159 member states, the IAEA “was not able to get timely responses to agency requests for, or clarification of, safeguards relevant information,” it

said, without naming them.

Nuclear expert Mark Hibbs said he did not believe it was a question of grave violations of IAEA safeguards rules, or that any of these countries was engaging in covert nuclear activity with potential military intentions.

“But states are always trying to see what they can get away with” in carrying out atomic-related activities without intrusive inspections and added bureaucracy, said Hibbs, of the Carnegie Endowment think-tank. Several countries did not provide design information about nuclear facilities or advance notification of nuclear material transfers, the IAEA report said.

Proliferation experts said that in terms of gravity, such cases should not be compared with Iran, which the West suspects of seeking the capability to make nuclear weapons.

Reuters



A worker walks past the Bushehr nuclear power plant, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 26 Oct, 2010.—REUTERS

China bus fire suspected “serious criminal case”

XIAMEN, 8 June—Initial investigation has suggested on Friday evening’s bus fire that has claimed 47 lives and hospitalized 34 in east China’s Fujian Province is a suspected “serious criminal case,” the local government said at a press conference on Saturday morning.

Investigation by experts and police has cast doubt on technical failure being the cause of the blaze. The tires and oil tank of the BRT (bus rapid transit) bus, which caught fire in Xiamen City at about 6:20 pm on Friday, were not damaged before the fire. The combustion improver was gasoline while the bus was equipped with a diesel

engine.

A spokesman from the municipality government said further investigation is under way.

A working team led by State Councilor and Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun arrived in Xiamen at around 1 am on

Saturday.

After inspecting the scene and comforting the injured in hospitals, Guo demanded experienced medical staff work hard to save the lives of the injured and ensure they receive the best and timely treatment.

He ordered a thorough inspection of the scene and for the truth about the incident to be established.

The Public Security Ministry has urged Fujian police departments to take rapid and effective measures to carry out a safety overhaul of public transport and other sectors and ensure overall social stability.

Xinhua



A bus bursts into flames on an elevated track near the Jinshan bus stop in the city of Xiamen, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 7 June, 2013. An initial investigation showed the fatal bus fire that has claimed 47 lives and hospitalized 34 on Friday was suspected to be a “serious criminal case”. —XINHUA

Two troubled California reactors to be shut down for good

LOS ANGELES, 8 June—Two California nuclear reactors taken offline in early 2012 due to faulty steam generators made by a Japanese manufacturer will be shut down for good, electric utility Southern California Edison announced on Friday.

The two reactors at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station have been idled since January 2012 when a leak of radioactive water from one of four steam generators led to

the discovery of tubes that were vibrating against each other and wearing thin at an unusual rate.

Southern California Edison said the decision was an economic one since proceedings by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission looked to draw out past the point when restarting the plant would be profitable. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. manufactured the steam generators that were installed as replacements in 2009 and 2010. MHI

said in a statement that it was “disappointed” by the decision.

The manufacturer maintained that the plant could still be run safely, but acknowledged the “complex and challenging factors that may have driven this decision.”

Continuing uncertainty about when or if the plant might return to service “was not good for our customers, our investors, or the need to plan for our region’s long-term electricity needs,” Ted

Craver, Chairman and CEO of Edison International, the utility’s parent company, said in a statement.

The US utility’s decision could undermine trust in Japanese manufacturers when the Japanese government is striving to export nuclear technology. The news came on the heels of an agreement reached for a joint venture between MHI and France’s Areva SA to build a nuclear plant in Turkey.

Kyodo News

Two Koreas to hold working-level talks at Panmunjeom on Sunday

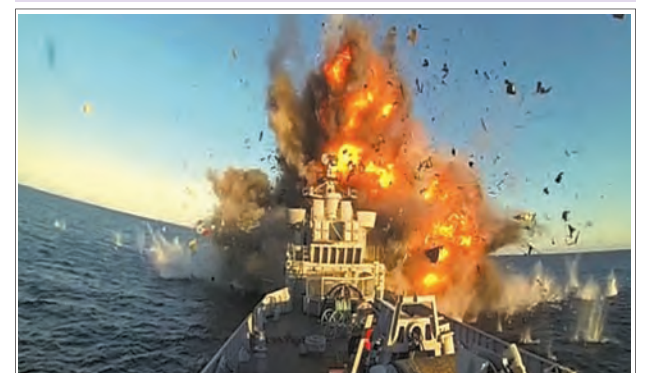
SEOUL, 8 June —North Korea and South Korea will hold working-level talks at the South Korean side of the truce village of Panmunjeom on Sunday morning, South Korea’s Unification Ministry said Saturday. The talks scheduled to start at 10 am, if realized, will be the first official dialogue since September 2011, according to the ministry.

North Korea notified South Korea around 10 am by a channel through Panmunjeom of its acceptance of the South’s offer to hold the talks at the South Korean side of the truce village, not at the North’s border city of Kaesong. A three-member delegation, to be headed by a director general from the

Unification Ministry, will attend the meeting with North Korea.

The two sides are expected to discuss details such as the agenda, size of delegation and other administrative specifics regarding the inter-Korean ministerial talks proposed by the South on Thursday to hold next Wednesday in Seoul. On Friday, South Korea’s Unification Ministry, which handles Seoul’s relations with Pyongyang, said its partial acceptance and counterproposal were contained in a message from the South’s Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl Jae that was conveyed to Kim Yang Gon, the chief of the United Front Department of North Korea’s ruling party.

Kyodo News



The Norwegian Armed Forces proved the effectiveness of a new anti-ship missile in dramatic fashion destroying decommissioned frigate KNM Trondheim in a trial near Andoy on 5 June, according to Daily Mail.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Intel offers to pay up for Internet TV programming deals

NEW YORK, 8 June—Intel Corp's talks to buy content from media companies for its new TV service are advancing, and the chipmaker is offering to pay as much as 75 percent more than traditional cable rates, people familiar with the talks said.

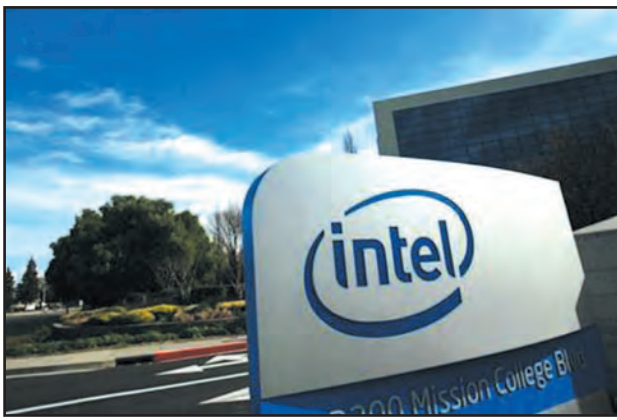
But Intel has yet to close any programming deals, said the sources, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to comment.

CBS, News Corp and Viacom have reached agreements with Intel on certain details over how their content would be distributed on the service the chipmaker plans to begin later this year, one person familiar with the situation

said.

Comcast's NBC Universal is continuing its talks with Intel but its negotiations are not as advanced as others companies, said another source familiar with the matter. Intel has moved substantially on subscriber fees it is willing to pay since the negotiations began, one source said. It has also suggested preventing viewers from skipping commercials on the first run of a show, said another source.

Representatives for Viacom, NBC, CBS, News Corp, Disney's ABC and Time Warner declined to comment. Media companies typically give better prices to operators with more viewers, such as large cable companies, and



A sign is shown at the entrance to the headquarters of Intel Corporation in Santa Clara, California on 2 Feb, 2010.—REUTERS

charge higher prices to smaller or newer entrants. Since Intel's TV service has yet to start, and therefore has no viewers, it can expect to pay a premium, all the sources said.

SNL Kagan, a research firm that measures and publishes the average subscriber fees cable and satellite TV operators pay for television networks, recorded

last year's highest fees were \$5.15 per subscriber per month and were charged by Disney's ESPN.

While it was not clear exactly what amounts Intel had originally offered for specific channels, sources said the tech company was basing its 50 to 75 percent premium on listed average SNL Kagan subscriber fees.

Reuters

Kenya to increase broadband access to 20% by 2017

NAIROBI, 8 June—Kenya plans to increase the country's broadband access to 20 percent by the year 2017, the country communication regulator said on Tuesday.

Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) Director General Francis Wangusi said that currently only 3 percent of the population has access to broadband.

"This has hindered many development objec-

tives and so the government has set a target of 20 percent broadband access by the year 2017," Wangusi said during a workshop on the role of women in Information Communication Technology (ICT).

The two-day conference brought over 100 delegates to discuss ways to encourage the development and use of ICT among women and girls. Wangusi noted that despite Kenya's high mobile pen-

etration rate, the broadband access remains low.

"However as more and more people use the technology, the cost of broadband will reduce," he said. Wangusi noted that the country's fixed telecoms infrastructure is minimal compared to the size of the population.

"Most of broadband access will be achieved through wired infrastructure," he said. The CCK said that wireless

technology is easy to deploy but speeds achieved are usually lower compared to fixed lines.

He added that most of the country has been connected to the national fiber network. "What is remaining is the last mile connection to the consumers," he said. The government's broadband expansion plans will rely on multiple measures.

"One of the options is to use proceeds from the Universal Service Fund (USF)," Wangusi said adding that USF will receive 0.5 percent of revenues from all licensed telecoms.

The industry regulator said it will also inject seed capital of 11.7 million US dollars, adding that 25 percent of CCK's surplus funds will also go the kitty.

Xinhua

Micron deal for Elpida Memory appears to clear legal hurdle

WASHINGTON, 8 June—Micron Technologies Inc's planned acquisition of bankrupt Japanese chipmaker Elpida Memory Inc appeared to move closer to completion on Friday after a key deadline passed without a legal challenge.

US creditors had until 4 pm on Friday to object to the request by Elpida to have a US Bankruptcy Court in Delaware issue orders that would enforce its Japanese restructuring, according to court records.

At the center of the restructuring is the pro-

posed sale to Micron for 200 billion yen (about \$2.1 billion), which will create the world's second-largest maker of memory chips.

Micron, based in Boise, Idaho, has been losing money as smart phones and tablets gain in popularity at the expense of personal computers. Acquiring Elpida will create economies of scale and the combined company will rank second only to Samsung Electronics in the memory chip market. While the sale proceeds will be used to repay Elpida's creditors, US bond-

holders argued Elpida was worth up to 300 billion yen.

In May, the bondholders exhausted their legal challenges in Japan. The only avenue left to them was in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware, where Elpida had sought recognition for its bankruptcy plan under Chapter 15 of the US bankruptcy code.

The creditors had been actively resisting the deal last year and earlier this year. However, they suffered a setback in January when US Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Sontchi approved a technology deal with Micron that the creditors warned would make the merger inevitable.

The bondholders are led by hedge funds Linden Advisors, Owl Creek Asset Management and Taconic Capital Advisers.

Messages left with the funds and their attorney, Christopher Shore of White & Case, were not immediately returned on Friday.

Reuters



Elpida chips are seen at an electronic store in Tokyo's Akihabara District on 24 April, 2012.—REUTERS

Second rover finds hint of a life-friendly ancient Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, 8 June—A Martian rock analyzed by NASA's rover Opportunity contains clays formed in non-acidic water, an environment potentially suitable for the chemistry of ancient life to brew.

The solar-powered Opportunity landed on Mars in January 2004 for what was expected to be a 90-day mission to look for signs there was once water. It, and a twin rover, Spirit, which succumbed to the harsh Martian environment three years ago, had both found rocks altered by highly acidic water.

While acid-loving microbes exist on Earth, scientists suspect the chemical building blocks for life need more neutral conditions to evolve into life.

"The tough thing

to a neutral pH at a time very, very early in Martian history," he added.

"What we have here is a very different chemistry. This is water you can drink," Squyres said. "This is the most powerful evidence for neutral (non-acidic) chemistry water that has been found by Opportunity," he added.

Opportunity took three years to reach the rim of a large impact basin called Endeavour Crater, where it examined, among other objects, a small rock called Esperance.

It took seven tries before Opportunity got itself positioned properly to scratch the rock's surface and see what lies beneath. Unlike NASA's follow-on Mars rover Curiosity, which landed on the oppo-



A portion of the west rim of Endeavour crater sweeps southward in this color view from NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity released by NASA on 10 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

about an acid environment is that it's very, very hard, we believe, to get pre-biotic chemistry, the kind of chemistry that can lead to the origin of life," Cornell University's Steve Squyres, lead scientist for the Opportunity and Spirit missions, told reporters during a conference call on Friday.

"What's exciting about this discovery is that it points

site side of Mars in August, Opportunity has no drill or onboard chemistry lab to obtain and analyze samples.

Instead, it uses its instruments to determine basic mineralogy. Esperance, scientists determined, contains aluminum-rich clays, a telltale sign that neutral water flowed through the rock.

Reuters

Long-lived Mars rover heading to new destination

WASHINGTON, 8 June—US space agency NASA said Friday its veteran Mars rover Opportunity is on the road again, heading to a new study area on the surface of the Red Planet.

The destination, called "Solander Point," offers Opportunity access to a much taller stack of geological layering than the area where the rover has worked for the past 20 months, called "Cape York," NASA said. Both areas are raised segments of the western rim of Endeavour Crater, which is about 22 kilometres in diameter. The new area also offers plenty of ground that

is tilted toward the north, which is favorable for the solar-powered rover to stay active and mobile through the coming Martian southern-hemisphere winter, said the space agency.

"We're heading to a 15-degree north-facing slope with a goal of getting there well before winter," John Callas, project manager for the Mars exploration rover project, said in a statement. The minimum-sunshine days of this sixth Martian winter for Opportunity will come in February 2014.

NASA said Opportunity, approaching its 10th an-

niversary of leaving Earth, shows symptoms of aging, such as loss of motion in some joints, but continues to accomplish groundbreaking exploration and science.

NASA launched Opportunity and its twin, Spirit, in 2003. Both rovers found evidence of wet environments on ancient Mars, and Spirit has already ceased operations for about three years. Earlier this week, NASA said that its Mars rover Curiosity, which landed on the planet last August, is also to drive toward a new destination: a mountain known as Mount Sharp.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

‘Just right’ jobs data could help equities

NEW YORK, 8 June—The US May jobs report came in just right for investors — neither too weak nor too strong to rock the boat — but market participants are now questioning what’s next for stocks.

The equity market is on nebulous middle ground. The S&P 500 is just 1.5 percent away from its all-time closing high, but other than Friday’s rally on the jobs data, it has been stuck in a period of uncertainty.

The Labour Department added 175,000 jobs in May, slightly higher than expected, but at a level that indicates the status quo should hold for the Federal Reserve’s stimulus programme.

Some had worried that if job growth far exceeded expectations, the Fed

Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, adding that the May payrolls figure could “prime market participants to be more positive toward equities leading into next week’s trading.”

The programme is widely cited as a major contributor to the S&P 500’s (.SPX) surge of 15.2 percent in 2013, when it has hit a repeated series of record highs.

Wall Street’s performance has been closely tethered to the Fed’s stimulus programme, benefiting from the belief that the economy is just weak enough to keep the Fed buying bonds.

When Fed Chief Ben Bernanke said on 22 May that the central bank may decide to reduce purchases if the economy shows signs



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange, on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

would reduce bond-buying sooner than expected, while others were concerned that an exceptionally weak number would reveal a fundamentally soft labor market. The data’s ability to relieve both fears may benefit stocks.

“The number had a little something in it for everybody, in terms of those who suspect tapering might begin sooner and those who think it might start later,” said Mark Luschni, chief investment strategist of

of significant improvement, stocks fell and bond yields surged.

The uncertainty has also increased volatility, with the S&P 500 frequently making daily moves of 1 percent or staging dramatic midday reversals. The CBOE Volatility Index (.VIX), or VIX, has risen more than 20 percent over the past three weeks, although at a level of 15.14, it is still at a level associated with a relatively calm environment.

Reuters

FDA grants priority review status to Gilead’s hepatitis C drug

NEW YORK, 8 June—Biotechnology company Gilead Sciences Inc said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted priority review to its experimental hepatitis C drug sofosbuvir.

The FDA grants priority reviews to medicines that are considered potentially significant therapeutic advancements over existing therapies.

The FDA set a review date of 8 December for the drug, Gilead said.

Gilead’s oral drug is considered the most advanced and high-profile of treatments free of interferon, a standard hepatitis C drug which has side effects including colds and muscle fatigue.

Drugmakers AbbVie and Bristol-Myers Squibb are also developing such

SoftBank eyes T-Mobile US as ‘Plan B’

NEW YORK, 8 June—SoftBank Corp (9984.T) is in talks with Deutsche Telekom AG (DTEGn.DE) over a possible deal for T-Mobile US Inc (TMUS.N), as the Japanese company looks for alternatives to enter the US wireless market if its deal with Sprint Nextel Corp (S.N) falls apart, three sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

SoftBank and Deutsche Telekom were in talks last year about a deal for T-Mobile USA and have had periodic discussions since then, but those conversations have intensified in recent weeks after Dish Network Corp (DISH.O) made a \$25.5

billion counterbid for Sprint, two of the sources said. SoftBank has a deal to buy 70 percent of Sprint for \$20.1 billion.

Deutsche Telekom owns 74 percent of T-Mobile US and one possibility is for SoftBank to buy that stake instead, the sources said. T-Mobile US has a market value of about \$15 billion.

SoftBank still wants to do the Sprint deal after spending months on it, and is looking at a possible T-Mobile transaction only as “Plan B”, the sources said who declined to be named because the talks are private.

T-Mobile’s shares rose more than 3 percent after

Drugs kept in ambulances can be unusable in weeks

NEW YORK, 8 June—Drugs that are often used in emergencies and typically kept in ambulances may deteriorate beyond a safe level in a few weeks or months, according to a new study from Belgium.

That’s because — unlike drugs stored in the controlled settings of hospitals — drugs stored in ambulances are exposed to temperature variations, sunlight and motion, said Dr Mark Merlin, who studied drug deterioration but wasn’t involved in the new research.

“It’s a very different concept and we’re learning that expiration dates are very different (in ambulances),” said Merlin, an emergency physician at Newark Beth Israel Medical Centre in New Jersey.

He added that because few studies have looked at the subject, emergency physicians and technicians tend to throw out drugs before their printed expiration date.

“We don’t know when

to throw them out and as a result we’re usually very conservative,” he said.

For the new study, Sabrina De Winter and her colleagues at the University Hospitals Leuven compared commonly used injectable drugs stored for one year at room temperature, in the back of an emergency response vehicle and in a

refrigerator — as they’re supposed to be.

The drugs included muscle relaxers cisatracurium and succinylcholine, the seizure drug lorazepam, methylegonovine to stop women from bleeding after birth, and the heart, allergy and asthma drug epinephrine.

The researchers check-

pressure on investors as they decide how to vote. Earlier this week, proxy adviser Glass Lewis said Sprint shareholders should not vote on SoftBank’s bid while the board reviewed Dish’s offer.

Reuters

ed how much the drugs deteriorated weekly during the first month of storage and every other month after that.

As expected, none of the refrigerated drugs degraded to below 90 percent potency — a commonly used benchmark for usability.

Reuters

Crash diet tied to increased gallstone risk

NEW YORK, 8 June—People who go on an extremely low calorie diet are more likely to develop gallstones than people on a moderately low calorie diet, according to a new study.

Dr Michael Jensen, a professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic, said dieters typically end up with similar weight loss in the long run whether they use extreme calorie restriction or more moderately restricted diets.

“You’re going to end up in the same place (weight-wise), so why take the risk of ending up in the hospital with a gall bladder problem just to lose weight

faster?” said Jensen, who was not part of the study.

Gallstones affect as many as 20 million people in the US.

Dr Kari Johansson, the lead author of the study and a researcher at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said quick weight loss from very low calorie diets is thought to impact the salt and cholesterol contents of bile and the emptying of the gallbladder, both of which can contribute to gallstones.

To see how these diets affect gallstone risk in a real-world setting, Johansson and her colleagues collected information on customers’ progress from a weight loss company in Sweden called Intrim.

Some of the study authors have worked for the company or serve on its scientific advisory board.

Their study included 6,640 dieters, half of whom went on a crash diet and the other half of whom went on a low calorie diet.

The crash diet involved liquid meals of just 500 calories a day for six to 10 weeks, followed by the gradual introduction of normal food, and then nine months of a weight maintenance regime of

exercise and healthy eating.

The other dieters ate 1,200 to 1,500 calories a day, including two liquid meals, for three months, followed by the nine month weight maintenance period.

Health coaches at Intrim collected weight and body size information, which the researchers linked to a national health database that has records on gallstone treatments.

After three months in the weight loss programme, the crash dieters lost about 30 pounds, compared to roughly 17 pounds lost among people on the low calorie diet. One year out from the start of the diet, the extremely low calorie group had lost an average of 24.5 pounds, while the other group lost about 18 pounds.

Among those on the crash diet, 48 people developed gallstones requiring hospital treatment, and 16 people in the other group developed gallstones, Johansson and her colleagues report in the International Journal of Obesity. They could not determine why gallstones were more common among people in the extremely low calorie group.—*Reuters*



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



An earthquake survivor receives a vaccination against hepatitis in Concepcion on 10 March, 2010.

REUTERS

treatments but they require each day than Gilead’s patient to take more pills treatment.—*Reuters*

WORLD

US approves anti-dumping probes of steel wire from China, Mexico, Thailand

WASHINGTON, 8 June—The US International Trade Commission (ITC) Friday approved anti-dumping investigations on prestressed concrete steel rail tie wire from China, Mexico and Thailand, paving the way for the Department of Commerce to set preliminary duties in September.

All six commissioners of the trade panel voted in the affirmative that there was a reasonable indication that a US industry was materially injured by imports of these products, the ITC said in a statement.

The US Department

of Commerce will continue the investigations, launched on 14 May, on imports of these products and is expected to make its preliminary anti-dumping duty determinations in September.

The investigations are in response to the petition filed by the Insteel Wire Products Company based in North Carolina and Davis Wire Corporation based in Washington.

The two companies claimed the steel wire imported from China, Mexico and Thailand were sold in the U.S. market with dumping margins of 67.43 percent, 159.44 percent

and 53.72 percent, respectively.

The United States imported in 2012 an estimated 35.57 million US dollars of the steel wire from China, 14.69 million from Mexico and 373,000 from Thailand, according to US official data.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry has repeatedly urged the United States to abide by its commitment against trade protectionism and work together with China and other members of the international community to maintain a free, open and just international trade environment.—Xinhua

WHO calls for global collaboration to combat hepatitis

SINGAPORE, 8 June — The World Health Organization on Friday launched a network to fight hepatitis, which caused chronic disease in hundreds of millions of people. The network is an “international collaboration platform” to raise awareness about hepatitis, exchange information and knowhow, boost national, regional and global capacity, mobilize resources and improve patient care, the WHO said in a statement released at a news conference in Singapore.

The network is expected to bring together the WHO, UN agencies, universities, research institu-

tions, regional laboratories, collaborating centers, civil society organizations and patient groups.

The WHO estimates that around 500 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B or C.

“Although the burden of viral hepatitis is extremely high, the problem has not been globally addressed in a comprehensive manner,” the WHO statement said.

Charles Gore, president of the World Hepatitis Alliance, said at the news conference that hepatitis kills as many people as HIV does, and more than tuberculosis and malaria, yet the departments within the WHO for

tackling TB, HIV and malaria are 20 to 30 times bigger than the hepatitis programme.

A study by the University of Washington cited at the news conference showed that about 1.44 million people die from hepatitis annually compared to the 1.47 million deaths due to HIV and AIDS.

“In order to continue our fight we need countries that are going to champion the cause at the global level,” Gore said, referring to the fact that access to diagnostics and drugs needs to be improved, particularly for the poor.

Kyodo News

First US drone strike under new Pakistan prime minister kills seven

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 8 June—A US drone strike killed seven people and wounded three in northwest Pakistan late on Friday, security officials said, in the first such attack since the swearing-in of Nawaz Sharif as prime minister this week.

In his inaugural address to parliament, Sharif called for an immediate end to US drone strikes on militants, which many view as a breach of Pakistan’s sovereignty.

The bombing comes 10 days after a similar US drone attack killed the Pakistani Taliban’s second-in-command, Wali-ur-Rehman, and six others in a major blow to the militant group.

President Barack Obama said last month the United States would scale back drone strikes, only using them when a threat was “continuing and imminent”.

Friday’s attack was on a compound near the Afghan border in North Waziristan region, 45 km (25 miles) west of the regional capital Miranshah. At least two missiles were fired from the unmanned aircraft and the death toll could rise, the sources said.

Drone casualties are difficult to verify. Foreign journalists must have permission from the military to visit the Pashtun tribal areas along the Afghan border. Taliban fighters often seal off the sites of drone strikes immediately.—Reuters

Soldiers from the Netherlands’ army conduct training in a Dismounted Soldier Training System at the 7th US Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany, on 5 June, 2013. The DSTS is the first fully-immersive virtual simulation for infantry and one of several virtual training systems available to US and partner-nation forces in Europe.

XINHUA



UN launches record appeal for victims of Syrian war

BEIRUT, 8 June—The United Nations warned on Friday half of all Syrians would need humanitarian aid by the end of 2013 and launched what it said was the biggest emergency appeal in history to cope with the civil war crisis.

“Syria as a civilization is unravelling,” said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, announcing the call for some \$5 billion before the end of the year.

The joint statement by UN agencies coincided with heavy fighting on numerous fronts, as rebels attacked

an air base in northern Syria while forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad sought to capitalise on their own recent gains.

Clashes continued on the Golan Heights, close to the ceasefire line between Israel and Syria, a day after rebels briefly seized the sole crossing between the two foes. Austria, a major contributor to a UN monitoring mission in the Golan, announced on Thursday it was withdrawing from the area because of the violence, jeopardising an operation that has helped keep the Israeli-Syrian war quiet

for four decades.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has backed the Syrian government since the start of the unrest in March 2011, said Moscow was ready to replace the Austrian peacekeepers.

A UN spokesman said however the four-decade-old agreement on the mission in the Golan did not allow permanent US Security Council members like Russia to send troops.

Highlighting the scale of the crisis, UN humanitarian agencies in Geneva said 10.25 million Syrians would need aid by the end of the year at a cost of \$5 billion.

“The funds we are appealing for are a matter of survival for suffering Syrians and they are existential for the neighbouring countries hosting refugees,” Guterres said.

The appeal comprises \$2.9 billion for refugees, \$1.4 billion for humanitarian aid and \$830 million for Lebanon and Jordan, the biggest recipients of Syrian refugees.

Reuters

Uruguayan leader sees China’s interest in investing in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 8 June—Uruguayan President Jose Mujica said Friday that his recent visit to China confirmed the interest of China’s public and private sectors in investing in Uruguayan public projects.

During Mujica’s visit last month, Chinese President Xi Jinping said China will encourage its companies to participate in the construction of Uruguayan ports and railways.

In a radio address on Friday, Mujica said an agreement has been reached on the participation of Chi-

nese companies and banks in the building of a deep-water port on the Atlantic coast and reconstruction of a railway which has much geographical importance.

“We already have the will, money and capacity to start building. We have to resolve some concrete legal matters,” he said. “Now the ball is in our court.”

At the invitation of Xi, Mujica paid a visit to China from 25 to 28 May. The two leaders agreed to further cooperation in various fields to step up bilateral relations.—Xinhua



A fireman checks the damage after a fire at a oil recycle factory in Samutprakarn Province, Thailand, on 7 June, 2013.—XINHUA

Lebanese army warns against country being embroiled in civil war

BEIRUT, 8 June—The Lebanese Army Command warned on Friday against any schemes that aim to drag the country into a civil war, or embroil it in the conflict in neighbouring Syria.

The army command said in a statement that it “strongly sought in the past months to deter the transfor-

mation of Lebanon into an arena of regional conflicts and prevent the spillover of the Syrian crisis into its territories.” “The army is determined to implement its plan not only in northern Tripoli but also in any other spots,” the statement read, adding that “any armed action will face armed response.”

Xinhua



A United Nations (UN) vehicle drives into a UN base near the Quneitra border crossing between Israel and Syria, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

MITT to start running 2013-14 academic year



Photo shows Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and an Indian task force team led by Advisor to the Indian Prime Minister Mr S Ramadorai.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and an Indian task force team led by Advisor to the Indian Prime Minister Mr S Ramadorai held talks on establishment of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay, at the ministry here on 5 June.

They discussed preparation and requirements for running the institute as of 2013-2014 academic years, preparation of curricula for post graduate diploma courses and five-year degree courses, selection of lecturers and training, construction and administrative affairs of MIIT.

MNA

Selected Myanmar tennis players leave for Thailand

YANGON, 8 June—Selected Myanmar Tennis players Amy and May Thi Tun left Yangon International Airport by air to take joint-training in Khon Kaen Srichaphan Tennis Academy in Thailand yesterday morning. They are mainly sponsored by Zeya & Associates for

turning out talent Myanmar youth tennis players and improvement of ability for women tennis players.

Myanmar Tennis players Amy and May Thi Tun will take part in Elephant Cup tennis tournament in Khon Kaen and Professional Tennis (PTT) East Championships Bangkok in June, Job Tennis Championships (2/2013) PTT-Challenger Tourney in July and Professional Tennis (PTT Northern Championships) to be held in Lampang in August.

MNA

Shweli Dam receives major repair



KATHA, 8 June—Major repair of Shweli Dam started in April, 2012, has been completed since the end of the previous month.

The repair works cost K 150 million.

The embankment of the dam was repaired and upgraded.

The dam built since 1983 had irrigated 6862 acres of paddy fields and 1577 acres of farmlands

of other crops before the whole embankment was damaged after a considerable lapse of time, inundating farmlands of more than 8000 acres thereby reducing the agricultural productivity.

Katha District Irrigation Department started repair works since April, 2012 to heighten the embankment and make it stronger.

It could prevent more than 8000-acre farmlands from flood and the embankment could also be used as an inter-village road linking Wuttu, Kyungon, Seiktha, Hsinhsin, Ngategyi and Nantnwe villages in all weather.

MMAL-San Oo (Katha)

University of Forestry gets new two-storey building

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—The opening of two-storey new building of University of Forestry (Yezin) took place on 6 June morning, attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

The Union minister and the rector formally opened the new building which is complete with two lecture theaters with a seating capacity of 192 and two lecture halls with a seating capacity of 100 with Internet access.

MNA

World Environment Day marked in Mongnai

MONGNAI, 8 June—About 300 attendance of teachers and students were present at educative talks and ceremony to present saplings to mark World Environment Day at Mongnai Basic Education High School's Pale Hall in Shan State on 5 June morning.

Head of Township Forest Department U Hla Mying gave talks on environmental conservation



and then presented 900 saplings to the local people for contributing to

the greening tasks of the region.—MMAL-Forest Department

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

DEVELOPMENT

Suspension bridge opened in Bhamo Tsp

BHAMO, 8 June—Nantsari creek-crossing suspension bridge was opened in Khogyin Village in Bhamo on 4 June morning.

At first, Township Administrator UNyunt Win delivered a speech at the ceremony and chairman of bridge construction village committee U Tin Win spoke words of thanks.

State Hluttaw Representative U Tun Shein, District Deputy Commissioner U Tay Zar Aung and Township Administrator UNyunt Win formally opened the bridge.

The state lawmaker, the deputy commissioner and the township administrator sprinkled the scented water on the inscription of the bridge and took a stroll on

the bridge.

Kachin state government funded K 7.62 million on the construction of the bridge and villagers contributed their voluntary labour to the construction.

The construction started in second week of January was completed on 31 May. It has the length of 250 ft, the six-foot-wide wooden floor and the six-foot-high fence.

The bridge links Khogyin, Sihe and Manfa villages with some 400 acres of farmlands on the either bank.

The bridge would contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation, the villagers expect.

MMAL-Shwechanthar (Bhamo)



Chin State gov't, UNICEF meet on drawing social development plan

HAKA, 8 June—Chin State Government and UNICEF held a meeting at Chin State government office in Haka on 30 May to draft social development plan for Chin State.

The coordination meeting was attended by the Chin State Chief Minister, state ministers, UNICEF officials, experts and departmental personnel.

The chief minister in his opening speech called for cooperation of experienced persons in drawing the plan.

He stressed the need for inclusiveness and mass participation in every step of the process and assessment plan while implementing the plan.

An UNICEF elaborated on sectors that the UN agency would provide aids to the state government for drafting the social development plan Chin State in detail.

Chin State is one of the least development region in Myanmar.

MMAL-State IPRD

Salin Township WVO grants stipends for students

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Salin Township War Veterans Organization presented stipends to offspring of members for 2013-2014 academic year at

the township WVO office in Salin of Magway Region on 3 June morning.

The chairman of Township War Veterans Organization explained

purposes of granting stipends and the secretary presented stipends worth K 1.68 million to 210 members.

MMAL-Township WVO

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 9 June, 2013

Counterfeit drugs:
a growing global threat

Counterfeit drugs pose a serious risk to public health. Taking ineffective medicines can threaten the lives of patients.

Last week, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned that 19 medical practices had bought counterfeit versions of Roche's cancer drug bevacizumab (Avastin) from an overseas supplier. This was not the first alarm over counterfeit drugs this year. In January, the FDA warned health-care providers about direct-to-clinic promotions and sales of potentially counterfeit injectable cancer medications, such as fulvestrant, from unlicensed sources.

The contamination of heparin by Chinese counterfeiters in 2007 and 2008, killed 149 patients in the USA. Counterfeit anti-infective drugs might also increase the risks of drug resistance.

Counterfeit drugs have traditionally been more of a concern in developing regions (mostly Africa and Asia), and millions of people from the developing and under-developing countries are using affordable drugs.

Regulatory and enforcement systems for medicines are weak in those countries. However, counterfeiting has become more and more prevalent in developed countries as drug supply chains increasingly cross continents.

In 2009, the European Union seized 34 million fake tablets in just 2 months.

WHO has stated that, "counterfeit drugs may erode public confidence in health care systems, health care professionals, the suppliers and sellers of genuine drugs, the pharmaceutical industry and national Drug Regulatory Authorities". So what should be done to tackle the growing problem of counterfeit medicines?

What especially needed in those countries is drug regulatory authorities which should be responsible not only for improving drug standards but also providing effective recognition of counterfeit drugs and assisting other agencies in stopping their trade.

Additionally, enactment and enforcement of new laws for prohibiting counterfeit drugs is vital.

The fight against counterfeit drugs must be strengthened without further delay. It needs consensus among all countries and interested parties, and requires wise and bold leadership from WHO and governments. An indispensable goal of the campaign is ensuring the availability of genuine and affordable essential medicines in developing countries.

Swimmers invited to
participate in Olympic Day
competition

YANGON, 8 June—Myanmar Swimming Federation conducted a swimming competition to mark Olympic Day at the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township on 22 and 23 June.

Those wishing to participate in the competition may contact the office of the National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township not later than 10 June.

Myat Sandi Thin Zaw

Royal Ploughing Ceremony (Le Htun Mingala) in Nayone

Nayone, the third month of Myanmar lunar calendar of twelve months (corresponding to June) is the transitional month between Geinman (Summer) and Wathan (Monsoon or rainy season). From the south-west direction comes in monsoon, not always peacefully. It comes as cyclonic storm bringing strong wind, heavy showers, lightning and thunder, damaging and destroying everything, every life in its path. But traditional belief is that when monsoon comes, it must come with force and energy. Strong wind, heavy showers, lightning and thunder and all consequences are the typical characteristic of monsoon that could really give sufficient water for the good harvest of the year. It is humans who must prepare themselves to encounter these natural phenomena as best they could.

There is a Myanmar saying about rain in Nayone “နယုန်မိုးပြေး၊ မြက်သားမွေး” [Running rain in Nayone nurtures tender grass]. The scorched earth in Kasone turns into a green carpet, emitting refreshing earthy scents.

Mithuna [Germini] or May Htone [မေထွန်] is the zodiacal name of this month. It is derived from a Pali word မိထုန [Mi-htu-na] meaning a couple of a man and woman holding a long rod and a harp. In day time the sun and Migathi star and at night the moon and Jetha start together reach noon time. Jasmine, a star-like white bloom with pleasant fragrance is the designated flower of this month.

Nayone is the month with three significances—(1) economic (2) religious and (3) socio-cultural. Firstly economic significance is that in this month Myanmar farmers begin ploughing their fields. It is the first month of wet cultivation. Secondly, religious significance is that it was on the fullmoon day of this month that Gotama Buddha delivered the famous Maha Thamaya Sutta to all deities of all universes. So the fullmoon day of Nayone is designated and celebrated “Maha Thamaya Sutta Day”. Thirdly socio-cultural significance is that it is in Nayone that religious examinations are held with ceremonies and festivities by the communities.

In this article the writer wishes to present the economic significance of the month. The economic activity of ploughing fields, especially royal ploughing event in the time of Myanmar kings.

ယမထာ၊ ရွှေကြိမ်လုံးရယ်နဲ့	Holding a Yamatha cane whip
ထွန်တုံးကိုတဲ့၊ ခြေတော်တင်၊	His Majesty with regalia full-equipped
နွားကြန်စုံအင်၊	Steps on the plough in royal field,
ပျိုးခင်းကိုဝင်၊	To plant for a good year's yield.
ကောင်းတင်က၊ ရွှေပိန်ညှင်းရယ်	Pulled by handsome bullocks twain,
မိုးခေါ်လိုဆင်း။ ။	To harvest plenty of paddy grains.
	Let from the sky golden bird kingfisher,
	Bring down all heavy showers.

The above folk song we have learnt by heart in our primary school epitomises the gracious ploughing event of Myanmar king in royal field in the month of Nayone. It emphasizes that Myanmar is an agricultural country, that the main economy is cultivating and producing crops particularly paddy, and that the king, as head of the State leads this economic activity for religious, political, and socio-cultural purposes.

The royal ploughing ceremony was one of traditional rites to invite good rain for good harvest. The king himself was obliged to perform ploughing to prove that he was a noble king. It was believed that drought would be averted, good showers would come and a good yield be resulted, if the king begins ploughing. Besides, royal ploughing created the image of a “Peasant King” in the minds of the peasants and people who would thus regard the king as one of them, and peasants would be inspired to labour manifold in their cultivation.

Myanmar royal ploughing ceremony has Buddhist

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

tradition. Myanmar kings claimed that they were descendants of the Setkya clan of Gotama Buddha. So they regarded themselves as solar kings who were entitled to perform ploughing ceremony. It was at the royal ploughing ceremony of King Thudawdana the Bodhisattha's royal father that young baby prince Sidhattha (Bodhisattha) showed one of the early miracles. With eight hundred noblemen, the King was ploughing the royal field. The whole court and the capital city were at the scene to watch the grand ceremony. The maids in charge of the little baby prince, laid him down under the shade of Zabu-Thabyey Tree and went to watch the ceremony. In their absence, the baby Prince rose up and sat cross-legged to be absorbed in meditation. After the ceremony the maids rushed back to the tree to witness the miracle—the shadow of the Tree remaining in the same position, shading the baby prince, sitting in deep meditation.

Myanmar chronicles have records of ploughing ceremonies. But not all kings performed it and not every year. Only when court astrologers and guru Brahmins advised and gave auspicious date in Nayone, such ceremony was performed. In Bagan dynasty of 55 kings, only three kings were associated with the ploughing ceremony, namely Htun-taik the 17th king (569-582 A.D.), Htun Pyit, the 18th king (582-598 A.D.) and Htun Chit, the 19th king (598-613 A.D.). Their names bore the word “Htun” meaning plough.

In Konbaung dynasty [1752-1885 A.D.] four kings were recorded to have held this ceremony. The first was King Bodawpaya [1782-1819 A.D.] The record runs thus:

“On Friday the first waning moon of Nayone [June] in Myanmar Sakayit year 1152 [1790 A.D.] King Bodawpaya built a grand royal pavilion by the side of the Lake Aungpinle for the ceremony of royal ploughing. Gold gilt and silver gilt ploughs, gold gilt and silver gilt yokes, gold and silver trapping, and reins and gold and silver whips were placed in the royal field. Crown Prince, royal sons, noblemen, ministers, men of wealth, Brahmins were present. The King performed the ploughing ceremony. Crown Prince's queen summoned the superintendent—General of Royal Treasury Maung Min Aung to compose a Tarachin Verse to record the ceremony.”

The second king was King Bagyidaw [1819-1837 A.D.] the chronicle says:-

“The sacramental ploughing of the fields in June each year, wearing his crown, riding the Lord White Elephant from the palace to the field, and using a gilt harrow drawn by milk-white oxen which were harnessed in gold trappings, studded with rubies and diamonds.”

The third king was King Thayawaddy (alias King Shwebo or King Konbaung) (1837-1846 A.D.). The following is the recount given in the chronicle:-

“In the Myanmar Sakarit year 1202 (1841 A.D.) by the side of Lake Aungpinle, a great royal pavilion was constructed to hold royal ploughing ceremony. Their Majesties progressed in state, attended by royal sons, brothers and relatives, noblemen, ministers, army officers, and men of wealth, guarded by four armed forces, infantry, cavalry, elephantry and chariotry. The King performed the ploughing with pomp and ceremony. Minister U Sa, Lord of Myawaddy was ordered to compose a new Tarachin verse to record the event.”

The fourth King was King Mindon (1853-1878 A.D.) the founder and the builder of Mandalay Ratanapon Capital and Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace and the holder of the 5th Buddhist Synod.

The ploughing ceremony took place in the royal paddy field of about two acres, north of Thayetkon village near Lake Aungpinle. A royal pageantry came out from the Palace city, with His Majesty wearing a bejeweled gold crown and robe shaded by two white umbrellas each on either side. Royal family members, courtiers, noblemen and ministers in their rank colours attended on the King who performed the ceremony.

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Development of Myanmar-India border regions discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held talks with a delegation led by Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textile Mr Anand Sharma of India and high-ranking officials, at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) (Head Office) in Yangon on 6 June.

They discussed mutual cooperation, India's aids for development of Sagaing Region,

cooperation in promoting living standards of local people in Myanmar-India border and development of border regions, India's cooperation in farm, communication, industry and health care sectors of Myanmar and holding of 5th Myanmar-India Joint Trade Committee meeting. After that, the two ministers delivered addresses at 1st Myanmar-India Joint Trade and Investment Forum held at the UMFCCI.

MNA

Liaison officers course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—Concluding of liaison officers course No.2/2013 for ASEAN Summits (2014) and its related meetings, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, yesterday morning.

Director-General U Aung Lin of ASEAN Affairs Department delivered a concluding speech and presented completion certificates to the trainees.

A total of 73 officers and other ranks from 28 ministries attended the course from 27 May to 7 June, which is conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The course covers ASEAN affairs, diplomatic knowledge, culture and traditions of ASEAN countries, Myanmar's current development affairs and English language.

MNA

Royal Ploughing Ceremony...

(from page 8)

Mindon's ploughing ceremony was recorded by two eye witnesses—one was a famous Myanmar court artist Saya Chone who recorded the ceremony in his painting. The other was a British writer-diplomat named Sir George Scott (pen name Shway Yoe) who wrote "Gracious Ploughing" essay in his book The Burman: His Life and notions. The following is a short excerpt:-

"... Ploughs stand ready in a long row, extending way as far as one can see; for all the princes and ministers must plough as well as the king. The royal plough is thickly covered with gold-leaf; the part on which His Majesty stands... is gold, roughened with pearls and emeralds. The milk-white oxen that drew it rival the Lord White Elephant in the splendor of their harness. Crimson and gold bands hook them on; the reins are stiff with rubies and diamonds; heavy gold tassels hang from gilded horns. The gold tipped ox-goad His Majesty wields is covered with jewels and flashes like a rod of fire in the sun."

"The King ploughs a couple of furrows or, rather passes the big rakes once up and down the rain-sodden field and then stops; for he is portly and short of breath now. The ministers, no matter how fat they are, have to go on ploughing as long as the Arbiter of Existence chooses to look on. At last he declares that enough has been done and preparations are made to go back again. He duffs his royal robes, burdensome and long surcoat with its thousands of precious stones is said to weight about a hundred pounds ..."

"... Pwes (entertainments) begin with startling suddenness at every corner. Bands strike up, long lines of candles illuminate the streets at nightfall, rockets are let off, fire balloons ascend and everything is given up to rejoicing, for the Leadawgyi (great royal field) has been graciously ploughed and Le Htun Mingala (Auspicious royal ploughing) is a presage of abundant crops."

Pros and cons of PSM draft law discussed

YANGON, 8 June—Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut clarified the purpose and nature of public service media draft law, publication of the draft law for public knowledge, plans for transformation of State-owned media into public service media, at Printing and Publishing Enterprise here this morning.

The deputy minister said media transformation was carried out by international organizations including UNESCO and local and foreign experts, adding that the public service media was prepared to deliver better service with people-centered approach.

The deputy minister pointed out the basic principles of PSM as representation of all citizens, presentation of different views and interests within the society, informing accurate and credible news and presenting good programmes, editorial independence, financial independence, contribution to innovative and efficient human resources, professional accountability, and strategic cooperation with other organizations, adding that PSM will be run on the foundation of the basic principle of representing all citizens.

Mr Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Project Office Myanmar of UNESCO, and Mr Rophael Rawn, legal expert from Germany, expressed their opinions about the draft law in comparison with international media norms, concluding that PSM should be established and the law enacted.

Next, the attendees spoke of their different views. Members of Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) Dr Myo Thant Tin and U Thiha Saw said: public service media draft law is not in the form of a law but the collection of an individual's requirements and goes against certain existing laws; it should serve as a monitoring system but instead is rather tends to be commercial thus in variation from original meaning; the Information Ministry has agreed to change the name of the department described in Section 5 (d) of the Chapter (3) of the draft law as Copyright and Registration Department into Copyright



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut makes clarification on purpose and nature of public service media draft law.—MNA

and Archives Department as asked by Myanmar Press Council; The proposed establishment of PSM Council described in Chapter (5) is inappropriate as it appears like the organization against the Press Council to be prescribed in press media law; It is assumed that the draft law needs not to formulate the journalistic ethics, duties and rights separately as the press law being drafted by Myanmar Press Council has written in sector-wise detail, it is because the responsibilities and rights of the journalists should be on equal terms as well as the punishment the same to all; PSM which will have access to public fund, transportation and other preferences should pay the same tax as the public media businesses; it is totally rejected that PSM would spend 70 per cent its production cost from the public fund and it should stand on its own revenues and advertisement earnings; as there is no public-funded printing business in international countries, inclusion of the print media in PSM is rejected; PSM needs not to form any more council and committees at the huge cost of State budget.

The deputy minister replied that it is right that the PSM draft law is detailed because it is like something new, but it does not affect any existing laws; it is not intended to control other private media outlets, the suggestion of the Press Council to change the name of the department into Copyright and Archives Department has been submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee; it is wrong that PSM Council and Press Council go

against each other and they are different in principle; through there have been journalistic ethics, duties and rights written by Press Council, there are specific points PSM media men need to observe.

It is seen that international public services media also have detailed ethics and directives. PSM means that media men would have to follow the points that included in the Bill in addition to media ethics. Taking a look at international countries, PSMs run their works with the State's finance and revenue. Some PSMs got 97 percent of government's fund. How much percentage will the government allow for PSM depended on Hluttaw's decision. Asia regions saw progress of print media while some countries had to face a decline in print media, he added.

"PSM Law is to interrelate with the press council. Check and balance is a key point. There will be competitions in all aspects as reforms are taking place in Myanmar," said Mr Alam from UNESCO.

"There will be fair competitions and relations between PSM and private media. Private media have the duty to cover investigative reports," said law expert Mr Rophael Rawn.

Chief Editor U Wai Phyo of the Daily Eleven Media Group said, "I remonstrate about that PSM bill. PSM seems to compete with private sectors in term of market competition and freedom. It appears to indirectly control freedom of expression. Does it take advantage for 2015?"

Deputy Minister U Ye Htut said that all inclusiveness is practical in accord with media pluralism.

It is difficult for the private media to do publishing and distribution which can satisfy the public and the Public Service Media will have to do it. The PSM does not control the press freedom and it will stand as a voice of the people. As the PSM does not influence any person, party and organization, it should not be considered as a preparation for the 2015.

Mr Rophael Rawn, the legal expert from Germany, discussed international public service media and private media.

The participants of the meeting also exchanged their views on the PSM.

U Zin Lin from Myanmar Peace Centre expressed his support to the PSM law and suggested that the PSM law should be in conformity with the current laws.

U Kyaw Win (Manutha Kyaw Win), Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association, said he supported the PSM law and suggested to think how to cooperate because it is sure that PSM law would gain support from the people as it is the public service one.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and officials concerned had a discussion with the participants.

The meeting was attended by 337 personnel representing UNESCO, international organizations, Myanmar Press Council (Temporary), media at home and abroad and social organizations.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Tarmacking of Mandalay University entrance road

MANDALAY, 8 June—Mandalay City Development Committee has been undertaking road extension, road upgrading and tarmacking for smooth transportation and reducing traffic congestion in downtown areas of Mandalay.

The 5600 ft long and 60 ft wide 73rd Street was paved with tar from 35th Street to the entrance of Mandalay University in Mahaaungmye Township starting from the first week of June.—Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Road to Mandalay University being upgraded with the use of roller.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Community-based Natural Disaster Risk Mitigation discussed in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 8 June—Organized by Save the Children International, a Meeting on Community-based Natural Disaster Risk Mitigation took place at Maw Ayeyar Hall of General Administration Department in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 5 June.

Township Deputy Administrator U Thein Tan made a speech and Area Manager U Hla Win of Save

the Children International discussed preparatory works for natural disaster risks.

Project Officer U Aung Ko Naing of Save the Children International explained works progress on natural disaster risks in the township.

The township officials, Regional Project Manager U Nyi Nyi Lwin and Area Manager U Hla Win presented prizes to twelve outstanding children who

secured prizes in essay and paintings contests.

“Today meeting is very important. We discuss not only preparedness for storm risk but also public participation in natural disaster risk mitigation. Moreover, we demonstrate storm risk preparatory rehearsal in Storm Nargis-hit villages” said Area Manager U Hla Win.

Kyemon-U Myint Aung (Mawgyun Myint Aung)

Station hospital renovated in Peinzalok

PEINZALOK, 8 June—A staff quarter, west of the doctor-in-charge collapsed in the compound of Peinzalok Station Hospital in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region yesterday.

With the concerted efforts and contributions, Peinzalok Village administrator U San Aung and village elders rebuilt the staff quarter with the use of the fund of Peinzalok Association (Yangon).

With the advice of in-charge of the station hospital Dr Aung Thu, the wellwishers from Yangon and countryside upgraded the operation theatre and donated hospital equipment. Members of Monmyat Thuhka social association (Peinzalok)

renovated the buildings of the hospital for convenience of the patients.

Kyemon



HEALTH

CRIME

Illegal beef seized in Thonze

THAYAWADY, 8 June—A team led by SIP Myint Zaw Oo of Thonze Police Station and officials searched the car leaving Yangon for Pyay.

A total of 600 viss

of beef worth about K 3 million were seized at Baydington checkpoint of Thonze of Thayawady Township in Bago Region on 3 June.

Beef owner Kyaw Min Latt, 21, son of U

School uniforms donated to students at relief camps in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 8 June—Patron Sayadaws Bhaddanta Obhasa and U Vimala, Dr Tin Sein, Chairman Dr Khin Soe, Vice-Chairman U Hsan Win Shein, Joint Secretary U Aung Thein and members of Htila Thukha Thammagi of Meiktila donated school uniforms to students from relief camps of Meiktila on 3 June.

Asia Alinyaung Sayadaw and Islam religious group of Mandalay donated K 1,279,000 for school uniforms to 231 students from the relief camp in District Stadium, 106 basuc education students and two university students from Sasana Rekkhita relief camp, 78 students and two



university students from the relief camp in the precinct of Magyigon monastery, 82 students and two university students from the relief camp at Oklepo Monastery, 422 primary students 209 students and three university students from the Water Resources

Utilization Department, totaling 702 students.

The group will donate school uniforms to 300 students from the relief camp at Central Institute of Transport and Telecommunications.

Kyemon-U Tin Hlaing-Meiktila

CITIZENSHIP

Hsipaw residents get citizenship scrutiny cards



Officials of Hsipaw Township INRD issue citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens.

HSIPAW, 8 June – Under the Moe Pwint project phase-5, U Kyaw Naing Myint, staff officer of Hsipaw Township Immigration and National Registration Department, northern Shan State and departmental staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards

to people, at the hall of administration office in Myanmar Ward yesterday.

Firstly, Hsipaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ye Tun delivered an opening speech and U Kyaw Naing Myint explained about Moe Pwint project phase-5

and requirements to meet citizenship. And then U Kyaw Naing Myint gave scrutiny cards to U Tin Win, ward administrator for 62 eligible people and students. The ceremony concluded with words of thanks of one of local people.

Kyemon-Sai (Hsipaw)

Volunteers coordinate efforts on child protection

YANGON, 8 June—Shwepyitha Township Child Rights Committee, Yadana

Kyaw Myint, of Thayet Township in Magway Region and driver Wai Phyo Aung, 28, son of U Than Oo, of Thanatchaung Village in Hmawby Township, are charged under Section 80/2013 of Development Affairs Act by Thonze Police Station.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

Myitta Group (UNICEF Project) and Yadana Alindan Group, a community-based child protection supporting group, met on 5 June to coordinate efforts on physical and mental development and social security of children.

Deputy Staff Officer of Shwepyitha Township General Administration Department U Zay Latt Oo on behalf of the committee chairperson spoke on the occasion.

Assistant project

manager U Kyaw Hsan of Yadana Myitta Group gave an account of the functions of the projects. U Thein Win, on behalf of the residents of No. 6 Ward explained the mission of Yadana Alindan Group.

Participants put questions about education, health, social matters and crimes against children and members of the committee departmental personnel replied to queries.

Kyemon-Myint Than Kyi (Shwepyitha)

Don't
Smoke

REGIONAL

At least one killed in cross-sea bridge ramp collapse in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 June —A body was found on Friday under tons of concrete rubble and steels after a interchange ramp to a cross-sea bridge that is under construction in northern Malaysia collapsed a day earlier.

Police said rescue team found a man in a car that was buried under the debris.

The uncomplete flyover connecting to the Penang Second Bridge in the northeastern state of Penang collapsed in the evening on Thursday.

At least three were injured by the falling concrete and steel girders, including two construction workers.

Preliminary investigation by authorities suggested that a formwork failure maybe the cause of the collapse.

The 24 km-long bridge, connecting Penang and mainland Malaysia and one of the longest in the Southeast Asia, was expected to be completed later this year. —Xinhua

Students cover their heads as they exit from their classroom during an earthquake drill at a school in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 7 June, 2013. Quarterly National School-Based Earthquake and Fire Drill is carried out by the Department of Education to keep students aware of what to do in case of earthquake or fire.

XINHUA



Coach accident kills at least six, injures 20 in central Vietnam

HANOI, 8 June —A coach carrying 32 passengers running on Vietnam's central Da Lat-Nha Trang route hit the mountain side on Friday morning, killing six and injuring more than 20 other passengers.

According to an initial report by local online VNExpress, quoting sources from central Khanh Hoa province's traffic police department, the accident site is in

Son Thai commune, Khanh Vinh District of central Khanh Hoa Province.

About 10 am local time, the coach hit the mountain side while running across the Hon Giao-Khanh Linh Pass due to its broken brake, and there is no sign of any other vehicle present at the site during that moment, deputy chief of Khanh Vinh Police Department Le Quang Thanh told VNExpress.

Thirty-two passengers on the coach, including eight children, are mainly teachers of Hoa Phuoc Primary School in central Da Nang City. They are on a visiting tour from Da Nang to Nha Trang and Da Lat cities. The accident happened on their way back from Da Lat to Nha Trang.

Local authorities are working on consequences of the accident. —Xinhua

Fighter jet crashes in India, no casualties

NEW DELHI, 8 June —A fighter jet belonging to the Indian Air Force crashed on Friday in the country's western state of Rajasthan during a routine sortie, an IAF spokesperson said.

There were no casualties as both pilots ejected safely minutes before the crash.

According to the spokesperson, the "MiG-21

Bison" fighter jet crashed near the IAF's Uttarlai airbase in Rajasthan's Barmer District early on Friday.

A rescue mission was immediately sent from the nearby Jodhpur airbase and an inquiry has been ordered by the IAF to investigate the cause of the crash.

The MiG fighter jets have had a very poor flying history in India, earning

them the nickname "flying coffins." According to official figures, over the past four decades the country has lost more than half of its MiG combat fleet of 872 aircraft in as many as 482 accidents. Over 171 trained pilots of India's defense force, 39 civilians and eight people from other services have died in MiG fighter jet accidents.

Kyodo News

Japan minister ready to discuss regional stability, trade in NZ

SYDNEY, 8 June—Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida plans to reinforce regional stability and strengthen partnerships during his visit to New Zealand over the weekend, he wrote in an article for the *New Zealand Herald* on Friday.

Ahead of his visit to New Zealand's largest city Auckland, Kishida wrote of reaffirming the two countries' strategic relationship based on shared values in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The strategic environment of the Asia-Pacific

region is changing rapidly, and on this visit I hope to reaffirm, to your Foreign Minister Murray McCully, Japan's wish to work together to realize a stable region and prosperity for both countries based on shared principles such as democracy and the rule of law," Kishida wrote.

He also expressed his desire to "create and strengthen" free and open economic partnerships in the region through the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement that Japan formally entered in March and

the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership involving the 10 members of ASEAN and six other countries, including Japan and New Zealand.

"Japan, like New Zealand, aims for a comprehensive and high standard agreement through these negotiations, and we hope to contribute towards the creation of these robust trade and investment rules," he wrote.

Kishida also noted the shared experience of earthquakes in 2011 as further fostering a bond between

the two countries.

In addition to meeting McCully on Sunday, Kishida is expected to hold private meetings with Prime Minister John Key and Trade Minister Tim Groser.

Japan and New Zealand celebrated 60 years of diplomatic relations last year.

ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which groups Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Kyodo News

Geothermal power plant to be built on Hokkaido's Okushiri Island

TOKYO, 8 June—Planning is under way for a 500-kilowatt geothermal power plant on Okushiri Island in the Sea of Japan off Hokkaido, with the launch of operation as early as fiscal 2016, local and central governments sources said.

If realized, it would be the first geothermal plant on a remote island that takes advantage of the country's feed-in tariff programme for renewable energy, according to the Natural Resources and Energy Agency.

The plant's output would cover up to 25 percent of electricity consumption on the island, which now relies on burning fuel oil for energy, and will be fully bought by Hokkaido Electric Power Co at a fixed rate.

The expected improvement in the island's energy self-sufficiency will help reduce its fuel transportation and subsequent power generation costs as well as the risk of fuel supply disruption in a natural disaster, the sources said.

According to the plan, the plant will utilize hot steam taken from two wells in western Okushiri that were test-drilled around 2008 by the semigovernmental New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization and will be offered by the town office. The use

of existing wells will keep construction costs low, the sources said.

A local oil distributor will be involved in power generation, and the geothermal energy may also be used for a hot spring facility, they said.

Although NEDO found it unprofitable after drawing roughly 200 C steam from the wells about 1,600 metres deep, the town and business will survey the situation of the wells from September at the earliest, with support from the energy agency, they said. "It will lead not only to a stable supply of electricity but also town-building around the concept of a renewable energy island," a town official said.

Under the feed-in tariff system begun in July last year, utilities are obliged to buy electricity generated from solar, wind, geothermal heat and other renewable sources at a fixed rate.

The only existing geothermal power plant on a remote island in Japan is run by Tokyo Electric Power Co on Hachijo Island, south of Tokyo, and has been in operation since 1999. The Tokyo metropolitan government is planning to boost the ratio of renewable energy on the island from 25 percent to 86 percent by building more plants. —Kyodo News



Illegally-collected turtle eggs are on sale at a shop on the outskirts of the Padang coast in West Sumatra, Indonesia, on 7 June, 2013. The lack of supervision of local government on protected sea turtles leads to increasing illegal collection of their eggs. —XINHUA

Singapore's private home resale prices down 0.5 pct in May

SINGAPORE, 8 June —The overall resale prices of non-landed private residential units in May dropped by 0.5 percent from that of the previous month, according to data released on Friday.

The data compiled by the Singapore Real Estate Exchange showed that the resale prices of non-landed private homes in the down-

town area dropped by 0.5 percent. However, the resale prices for the suburban private homes edged up 0.3 percent. Analysts said the fall in resale prices can be attributed to the effect of government cooling measures.

The Singapore Real Estate Exchange projected the final number of transactions

in May to be around 750 units, which would exceed the 671 units sold in April but would still be down 40 percent year on year. Meanwhile, overall rental prices for non-landed private residential in May slipped 0.6 percent from April, marking a fourth consecutive monthly drop in overall rents. —Xinhua



Rare Mongolian Przewalski's horses are seen on the grassland at the Hustai National Park in Mongolia, on 5 June, 2013. Przewalski's horse is a rare and endangered subspecies of wild horse native to the steppes of central Asia, specifically Mongolia. At one time extinct in the wild, it has been reintroduced to its native habitat in Mongolia and their number has now increased to over 280 at the Hustai National Park. —XINHUA

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M.V ASIATIC BAY VOY NO (1217)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC BAY VOY NO (1217) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY NO (1322)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1322) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-
SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ESM CREMONA VOY NO (073)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (073) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

China continues press entities' market-oriented reorganization

BEIJING, 8 June —China's Press and publication watchdog on Friday vowed to forge ahead with the market-oriented reorganization of state-run press and publication entities. Jiang Jianguo, deputy director of the State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, made the vow during a Friday meeting.

The official urged authorities to rapidly transform government-sponsored non-political newspapers and periodicals into commercial enterprises. He said all state-run, for-profit Press and publication entities will be transformed into enterprises.

The official said civil capital should be encouraged to run small- and micro-size Press and publication service

firms. China started restructuring its government-funded Press and publication organizations in different phases after central authorities called for deepening cultural system reform in 2005.

By introducing a modern corporate system to the organizations, the move is intended to stimulate their creativity and improve their competitiveness.—Xinhua

Lebanon unable to host more Syrian refugees

BEIRUT, 8 June—Lebanon's President Michel Sleiman warned on Friday that his country is unable to host any more Syrian refugees who are fleeing the violence in their home country in massive flows.

Sleiman, who met Friday with the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, called upon the international community to recognize the burden the Syrian refugees have inflicted upon Lebanon.

He also proposed a plan in tackling this issue, urging sharing the responsibility of receiving the refugees, tightening the control of refugee status, hosting refugees inside Syria, and increasing the international aids to the Lebanese government in this regard.

The UN Higher Council for Refugees said Monday that the Syrian refugees in Lebanon had exceeded half a million.

Xinhua



Foreign learners practise Chinese martial arts movements at the Yuxu Palace on Wudang Mountain, known as a traditional centre for the teaching and practice of martial arts, in central China's Hubei Province, on 5 June, 2013.—XINHUA

Cambodia, Thailand to discuss border area development next week

PHNOM PENH, 8 June—Cambodian Deputy Prime minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and his Thai counterpart Surapong Tovichakchaikul would meet here next Tuesday to discuss ways to broaden development cooperation along the border, according to a press statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

The two top diplomats would co-chair the 1st Meeting of the Joint Committee on Border Area Development and Connectivity be-

tween the two countries, the statement said.

At the end of the meeting, Hor Namhong and Surapong Tovichakchaikul would hold a joint Press briefing, it said. Besides, Surapong Tovichakchaikul would pay a courtesy call on Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Long Visalo, secretary of State at Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said last week that during the upcoming meeting, a number of issues would be discussed in

order to boost bilateral cooperation along the border.

Among those are the issues of labourers, illegal cross-border logging, mine clearance, epidemic fight, cross-border trade and investment, new border opening, and road connectivity development, he said. Cambodian government of Prime Minister Hun Sen and Thai government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra have been working hard to ameliorate the bilateral tie.

Xinhua

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

- Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Qty
1.	12(T)4/MR(ML/ISN)	Spare Parts for Repower of 2000 HP Dalian D.E.L	97-Items

Closing Date & Time - 18.7.2013(Thursday)(12:00)Hrs
- 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

China's foreign trade growth slows in May

BEIJING, 8 June—China's foreign trade growth slowed sharply in May, partly as a result of new government rules to curb capital inflows disguised as trade payments, new data has showed.

Total foreign trade volume grew 0.4 percent year on year last month to 345.1 billion US dollars, a significant pullback from the 15.7-percent gain in April, the General Administration of Customs said on Saturday.

Exports inched up merely one percent year on year to 182.77 billion US dollars, while imports declined 0.3 percent to

162.34 billion US dollars, leaving China with a surplus of 20.43 billion US dollars.

The export data came in much lower than market expectations, even considering the effect of the government rules to curb hot money.

Rising momentum in China's foreign trade in recent months has raised suspicions that companies may have misreported exports to obtain tax rebates or to bypass the country's capital controls to move money into the mainland, prompting authorities to release new rules to check the flows.—Xinhua



Family members of examinees of the national college entrance exam wait outside the exam site at the Xiji Middle School in Xiji County, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 7 June, 2013. Some 9.12 million applicants are expected to sit this year's college entrance exam on 7 and 8 June.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

“Kung Fu Panda 3” continues as tribute to Chinese culture

CHENGDU, 8 June—The “Kung Fu Panda” franchise will continue to be a tribute to Chinese culture with the creation of its third installment, Jennifer Yuh Nelson, director of Kung Fu Panda 2, said at the ongoing 2013 Global Fortune Forum being held in southwest China’s city of Chengdu.

“Chinese audiences

will have a film that is set in China and a tribute to China. We certainly want to continue to do that. I’m hoping this will create a full circle in that it could actually come back to China, be made in China and also seen in China,” she said. “Kung Fu Panda 2,” released in 2011, brought in worldwide box office earn-

ings of over 660 million US dollars. Nelson is set to direct “Kung Fu Panda 3,” which is scheduled to debut in 2015.

The film will be made in China as a co-production between DreamWorks Animation and Oriental DreamWorks, a Shanghai-based entertainment company that opened its doors in February. The two partners said previously that they will make up to three motion pictures per year. They will also invest over 20 billion yuan (3.1 billion US dollars) to build an animation studio and an entertainment complex in Shanghai that will include theaters, restaurants and tourist attractions. Nelson said the third “Kung Fu Panda” film is still in early development.

“There’s a huge talent base here in China. We’re trying to get everybody involved and making movies like this,” Nelson said. “This is being made by people who love the history of China; these are people who love the appearance and the beauty of the culture of China. We want to show it to the world,” she said. The 2013 Fortune Global Forum will run from 6 to 8 June.

Xinhua



Justin Bieber books space voyage on Virgin Galactic

LOS ANGELES, 8 June—Canadian pop star Justin Bieber is the latest celebrity to reach for the stars, signing up to go into space with Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic. British entrepreneur Branson announced on Twitter on Wednesday that Bieber, 19, and his manager, Scooter Braun, were the latest “future astronauts.” Bieber tweeted in response, “let’s shoot a music video in SPACE!!”

Virgin Galactic commercial space flights, which are slated to begin next year, have reportedly already drawn high profile passengers including physicist Stephen Hawking as well as actors Tom Hanks, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. At a charity auction during the Cannes film festival

last month, one guest paid \$1.2 million to purchase a seat next to actor Leonardo DiCaprio on Virgin Galactic. Last year, “Two and a Half Men” actor Ashton Kutcher became the 500th person to sign up.

A seat on Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo, a six-passenger, two-pilot spaceship, costs \$250,000 and will take passengers to an altitude of about 68 miles, giving them a few minutes to experience zero gravity and glimpse Earth from space. The SpaceShipTwo rocket is currently undergoing vigorous tests in preparation of its first space trip with Branson and his family, scheduled for the end of this year. Virgin Galactic is a division of Branson’s Virgin Group.—Reuters



Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs on stage during a concert as part of his “Believe” World Tour at the Sevens Stadium in Dubai on 4 May, 2013. Bieber will perform another concert in Dubai on Sunday.—REUTERS

Archie comics spins into first live-action film



LOS ANGELES, 8 June—Comic book teenagers Archie, Veronica, Betty and Jughead are coming to the big screen for the first time in a new live-action feature film based on the long-running “Archie” comic series, its publisher said on Thursday. The comedy will be produced by Warner Bros. Pictures and will feature the lead “Archie” characters in a high school in present-day Riverdale, the fictional backdrop of the series, Archie Comics said in a statement on its website.

“Archie” began in 1941 and became a comic book empire for Archie Comics, which has produced numerous series featuring the main characters. The comics have been adapted for television in

animated and live-action series in the past, as well as a television movie featuring an adult Archie, but this is the first time in the comic book’s 72-year history that a feature film will be made.

Red-haired Archie Andrews is well-known in American pop culture, along with his long-running love triangle with the brunette Veronica Lodge and blonde-haired Betty Cooper and antics with best friend Jughead Jones, the publisher said. “We are thrilled to be working with Warner Bros. on this project and have complete faith in their ability to bring Archie to the big screen in a way the fans will love,” Jon Goldwater, publisher and co-CEO of Archie Comics, said in the statement. The

new film will be directed by Jason Moore, the filmmaker behind 2012’s musical comedy “Pitch Perfect,” the publisher said. Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa will write the screenplay.

No additional details were provided. Superheroes from Marvel and DC Comics have been dominating the global box office as new films featuring Batman, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Captain America and superhero collective The Avengers have grossed billions of dollars worldwide. Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc, is releasing Superman reboot “Man of Steel” in theaters on 14 June as a darker spin on Clark Kent and his heroic counterpart.

Reuters

Poonam Pandey effortless in front of camera, says Nasha director

MUMBAI, 8 June—Director Amit Saxena praises Poonam Pandey for being effortless in front of the camera and says she made his work easier while shooting Nasha. Poonam, who made headlines during the 2011 Cricket World Cup when she offered to go nude before Team India if they won the trophy, is making her Bollywood debut with Nasha.

“I was completely blown by the talent she (Poonam Pandey) has, by the talent that was on display and it was effortless. She was absolutely

effortless,” Saxena said here Wednesday during the first look launch of the film. “There was not a single moment when I felt that I am working with a newcomer or I have to be extra careful — nothing! She made it such a wonderful ride for me,” added Saxena, who had earlier helmed erotic thriller Jism.

Produced by Aditya Bhatia, Nasha, an adult film, is a passionate love story between an 18-year-

old boy and a 25-year-old girl. Saxena calls Nasha “a coming of age movie”. “The whole film is from the point of view of an 18-year-old boy. It is as innocent and as sensuous as

an 18-year-old boy would imagine it to be. Nothing more, nothing less,” Saxena said. Nasha is slated to release on 26 July.

PTI



SPORTS

Van Persie replaces Sneijder as new Dutch captain



Robin van Persie

THE HAGUE, 8 June—Robin van Persie has been appointed as permanent first captain by Dutch head coach Louis van Gaal, instead of Wesley Sneijder, Van Gaal told Dutch media after the friendly match

against Indonesia in Jakarta on Friday.

When Louis van Gaal started his second term as head coach he appointed Sneijder as first captain, Dirk Kuyt as second and Kevin Strootman as third. However, Sneijder was not playing at Inter in the first half of the season and was not fit during the second half at his new club Galatasaray.

"When I was appointed last year I had all the confidence in Sneijder," Van Gaal told Dutch TV channel SBS6. "Now I have that in Van Persie. Sneijder has not been fit for a whole year.

He should focus on his own fitness first." (Sneijder was only able to wear the captain's armband during four matches in the past year. Van Persie wore the band for the first time in Jakarta.

The Netherlands beat Indonesia 3-0 through two goals by Siem de Jong and one by Arjen Robben. The Dutch will fly to China on Saturday for next Tuesday's friendly in Beijing. "The coach asked me last Monday," Van Persie told Dutch TV channel SBS6. "I felt very flattered and really wanted to do it. I felt very honored. Yes, it is intended that I stay captain."—Xinhua

Alonso sets fastest lap in Canada practice

MONTREAL, 8 June—Fernando Alonso, desperate to get his Formula One championship bid back on track, signaled his intentions to start with this weekend's Canadian Grand Prix by setting the fastest lap in practice on Friday. The Spaniard posted the day's fastest overall time when he lapped the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in one minute 14.818 seconds during the 90-minute afternoon session.

Briton Lewis Hamilton, a three-time winner at the Montreal street circuit, was second fastest overall in his Mercedes, just 0.012 behind Alonso's Ferrari. Frenchman Romain Gros-



Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain (front) and Lotus Formula One driver Romain Grosjean of France drive during the second practice session of the Canadian F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

jean was third quickest for Lotus, while his Finnish teammate Kimi Raikkonen, currently second in the championship standings, was 11th.

Australia's Mark Webber was fourth for Red Bull while his teammate, triple world champion Sebastian Vettel, could only manage seventh best and was expecting a close race.

"It felt pretty good. It's always difficult to know what other people are doing, but all in all it was a good run," Vettel told reporters. "Mercedes was very quick, Ferrari looked very competitive in both long and short

runs, so I think those will be the main two rivals. "But never forget the Lotus.

They can be a surprise in the race by going further than everyone else." Britain's Paul Di Resta was the surprise leader for Force India after the morning session, which began in light rain with puddles of water still on the track.

But he tumbled down the timesheets to 13th place in the afternoon session, when he had an electrical problem and all the cars went much quicker after the track had dried and they switched to softer tires.

Reuters

Nadal inexhaustible, Ferrer ruins French party

PARIS, 8 June—Deep down below the dusty red clay of Chatrier Court at Roland Garros lies a rich seam of mettle and inspiration that only Rafa Nadal seems able to bore into in times of trouble. More often than not during his seven title runs at the French Open the insatiable Spaniard has not required it.

On Friday, however, he almost exhausted it completely before beating world number one Novak Djokovic 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-7(3), 9-7 in a semi-final epic lasting four hours and 37 minutes. There was none of that precious raw material left for Jo-Wilfried

Tsonga whose hopes of becoming the first French player to reach the men's singles final here since 1988 ended dismally in a 6-1, 7-6, 6-2 defeat by Nadal's compatriot David Ferrer.

Tsonga's trouncing of Roger Federer in the quarter-finals had fuelled French hopes but 31-year-old fourth seed Ferrer ground them into the dirt with a ruthless display to reach his first grand slam final after five semi-final defeats. Ferrer has not lost a set on his way to becoming the oldest man to reach the French final since Andre Gomez in 1990, but faces a gargantuan task trying to stop Nadal



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their men's singles semi-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 7 June, 2013.

REUTERS

becoming the first man to win a single grand slam title eight times.

Only once has Nadal been beaten at Roland Garros in nine years and he proved again on Friday that it will take a super-human effort to prise his hands off the Musketeers' Cup. Trailing for much of a compelling, almost primal, fifth set, defeat was looming but Nadal dug deeper and deeper to pull away from the brink and claw his way to victory.

"I learned during all my career to enjoy suffering, and these kind of matches are very special,"

Nadal, who lost a near-six-hour Australian Open final against Djokovic in 2012, said. "Sometimes I can play and I have the impression I have no limits. This is really important for me." If he beats Ferrer, over whom he holds a 19-4 record, Nadal will become the most prolific male player at Roland Garros with 59 match wins, one more than Guillermo Vilas and Roger Federer. All this four months after taking his first tentative steps back on tour after seven months off with a knee injury.—Reuters



David Ferrer (L) of Spain shakes hands with the chair umpire as Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France walks off, after their men's singles semi-final match during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Choi grabs one-stroke lead at LPGA Championship

NEW YORK, 8 June—South Korean Chella Choi used a blistering front nine to shoot a five-under-par 67 for a one-stroke lead after Friday's first round of the rain-delayed LPGA Championship at Locust Hill outside Rochester, New York. Choi, seeking her maiden LPGA Tour win, had five birdies on her outward half and offset a birdie at the 10th with a bogey at 13 for a one-shot edge over compatriot Shin Ji-yai and

American Morgan Pressel at the year's second major.

"I hit a really good driver today," said 22-year-old Choi, whose father caddies for her. "I hit 14 fairways. So I'm really happy. My goal is just keep in the fairway." British Women's Open champion Shin posted four birdies, three on the back nine, in a bogey-free round while Pressel finished with four consecutive birdies to register her 68. "I just saw the line on the

putts," Pressel said about her rousing finish. "I just com-



mitted to my line and just saw the ball rolling where I wanted it to and made four really good putts on the last four holes.

"Out here, putting is what wins major championships."—Reuters

Chella Choi of South Korea watches her shot on the 15th hole during round one of the LPGA Golf Championship in Pittsford, New York on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Ex-coach Haney sees Woods ending majors drought at US Open

NEW YORK, 8 June—Swing coach Hank Haney, whose working relationship with Tiger Woods ended abruptly after the golfer's fall from grace, said his former employer looks ready to resume his climb up the majors list at next week's US Open. Woods has not won a major in five years, but the American is back

in the US Open?" Haney told Reuters in a telephone interview on Friday from Manhattan where he was giving a clinic at a new Golfsmith store. Woods won six majors in his six years of collaboration with Haney, but has not won one since notching his 14th major by winning the 2008 US Open. It has been a long



Tiger Woods (L) of the US walks off the driving range with his swing coach Hank Haney (R) before his practice round for the 2010 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 5 April, 2010.—REUTERS

in top form and putting better than ever, according to Haney, who broke with him after the 2009 revelations of a slew of extramarital affairs shattered the golfer's image.

"How can you pick anybody but Tiger Woods

road back for Woods, who was sidelined immediately after his 2008 triumph for knee surgery and then side-tracked by his personal crisis and a swing change he underwent with new coach Sean Foley.

Reuters

GENERAL

Evans strikes in injury time as US wins in Jamaica

NEW YORK, 8 June — Brad Evans grabbed an injury time winner for the United States as it beat Jamaica 2-1 in their World Cup qualifier in Kingston on Friday. Jermain Beckford's 89th minute header looked to have earned Jamaica a point after the United States had led through a Jozy Altidore goal on the half hour. But Michael Bradley slipped the ball inside the area to Evans who, with a surprising amount of space, drove past Jamaican keeper Donovan Ricketts to seal the win.

The victory moves the United States to seven points from four games as they bid to earn one of three automatic qualification spots from the six-team CONCACAF final qualifying group.

Juergen Klinsmann's team went close to an opener in the second minute when Bradley struck the post with a drive from 20 yards out. The United States took the lead when Altidore, who had an early effort ruled out



Clint Dempsey (R) and Jermaine Jones of the US try to block Jamaica's Rodolph Austin (L) in their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Kingston on 7 June, 2013.—REUTERS

for offside, rose to power in a superb cross from winger Graham Zusi.

Nine minutes later Jamaica almost drew level when Rodolph Austin burst through on to a Ryan Johnson pass but his low shot struck the post.

The United States looked in charge but with a minute of normal time remaining Beckford was left

unmarked to head home from an Austin cross. However, there was more drama to come and three minutes later the United States restored their advantage to get their first away win in qualifying. The United States host Panama in Seattle on Tuesday and finish their trio of June qualifiers against Honduras in Salt Lake on 18 June.—Reuters

HK's foreign currency reserve assets drop

HONG KONG, 8 June—Hong Kong's foreign currency reserve assets amounted to 305.7 billion US dollars at the end of May, compared with 306.5 billion US dollars at the end of April, the city's Monetary Authority said on Friday.

Including unsettled

forward contracts, the foreign currency reserve assets at the end of May stood at 305.7 billion US dollars, while the figure was 307 billion US dollars at the end of April, according to a statement posted on the authority's website.

The total foreign cur-

rency reserve assets of 305.7 billion US dollars represent more than seven times the currency in circulation, or about 52 percent of Hong Kong dollar M3, the statement said.—Xinhua



Local residents make Zongzi, some kind of traditional Chinese rice-pudding, at Guizhou Township in Zigui County, central China's Hubei Province, on 7 June, 2013. People in Zigui, the hometown of Qu Yuan, prepare to celebrate the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival, or Duanwu Festival, which falls on the fifth day of the fifth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, or 12 June this year. The festival is to commemorate the death of Qu Yuan, a patriot poet during the Warring States Period (475-221B.C.), who committed suicide by flinging himself into the Miluo River after his mother kingdom, fell into enemy's hands.—XINHUA

Jackie Chan leaves imprints in Hollywood for the second time

LOS ANGELES, 8 June —Chinese action film star Jackie Chan on Thursday became the first person to twice leave the imprints of his hands and feet in cement at Hollywood's famed Chinese Theatre. Chan, who has starred in some 150 films in a career spanning more than 40 years, first left imprints in the forecourt of the theater in 1997, adding to the collection that features screen legends from Clark Gable to Marilyn Monroe.

But over the years, as ownership of the theater changed hands, the cement slab featuring Chan's prints was lost. Slabs are changed often to make room for new entries in the collection.



Actor Jackie Chan poses during a hand and footprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California, on 6 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Representatives at the newly named TCL Chinese Theatre confirmed that Chan was the first two-time inductee. They said they did not know when the prints vanished but were sure that the slab was

not stolen from the forecourt.

On Thursday Chan left imprints of his hands, feet and nose in cement, accompanied by his "Rush Hour" co-star Chris Tucker and

"The Karate Kid" co-star Jaden Smith. Chan, 59, told a crowd gathered for the occasion that he had always dreamed of having his prints in cement at the theater.

"My first time in the Chinese Theatre, I walked on the red carpet ... and I see that there are so many stars doing the interviews. And at that time I had nothing to do, standing there looking around," he said. "During all those years I dreamed. Slowly, slowly, I got there," the actor said. Chan has become one of China's biggest film stars, crossing into Hollywood movies with his Kung Fu fighting skills and ability to do his own action stunts.—Reuters

Three killed in C China torrential rain

CHANGSHA, 8 June—Torrential downpours in central China's Hunan Province have left three people dead and one missing, affecting 669,000 people since Thursday, local authorities confirmed on Saturday.

Heavy rain began to affect Hunan on Thursday and continued into Saturday morning, with over 7,390 residents forced to evacuate the worst-hit areas including the cities of Zhangjiajie and Changde, an official at the provincial flood control

and drought relief headquarters said.

The rainstorm has triggered landslides in Cili County in Zhangjiajie, killing three local residents and forcing the temporary closure of two provincial highways, according to the

official.

The province's 103 reservoirs have seen the water level brimming over danger marks and the water level of Shimen station on Lishui river recorded a rise of 4.78 meters in one day.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-6-13 09:30 am ~ 10-6-13 09:30 am) MST

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- * "Taste of Myanmar" Flat Wheat Noodle
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Myanmar TV

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|--|--|
| <p>6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw</p> <p>6:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise</p> <p>6:30 am
3. Documentary</p> <p>7:00 am
4. News/ Weather Report</p> <p>7:20 am
5. Teleplay</p> <p>8:00 am
6. News/ International News</p> <p>8:25 am
7. Amazing world</p> <p>9:40 am
8. Science & Environment</p> <p>10:00 am
9. News</p> <p>10:15 am
10. TV Drama Series</p> <p>11:10 am
11. Gitadahale Phintbaohn</p> <p>12:00 am
12. News/ International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>12:25 pm
13. Round Up of The Week's International News</p> <p>12:35 pm
14. Myanmar Video</p> <p>2:30 pm</p> | <p>15. Singing In Different Versions</p> <p>2:50 pm
16. Instrumental Music</p> <p>3:00 pm
17. News</p> <p>3:15 pm
18. Teleplay(Health)</p> <p>3:50 pm
19. Special Charity Match with Manchester United Legends Myanmar National Team VS MNL Foreigner Team</p> <p>5:45 pm
20. Performance With Song</p> <p>6:00 pm
21. News/ Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm
22. Cartoon Series</p> <p>6:50 pm
23. TV Drama Series</p> <p>7:00 pm
23. News</p> <p>7:15 pm
24. TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 pm
25. News/ International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>9:00 pm
26. News</p> <p>27. Tamyetmar Takwetsar</p> <p>28. New Melody</p> |
|--|--|

Union Sports Minister calls athletes for achieving success in every sport event



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan meets athletes at Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June—The government has been providing gymnasium, accommodation and food, training-aided materials,

cash assistance to athletes and hired local and foreign coaches for achieving success in 27th SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar.

Moreover, former selected Myanmar gold medalists and those who served in the Ministry of Sports also contribute their experience to the athletes. Retired Director-General U L Aung Din of Sports and Physical Education Department this morning met athletes who are undergoing training at Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp and called for achieving success

by taking host advantages.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan urged the athletes to follow discipline and to ensure success in every sport event. Then, the officials reported on fitness progress record of the athletes, game management system for SEA Games and sports entry and accreditation tasks to the Union minister.

MNA

Microsoft moves in Myanmar market

YANGON, 8 June—Microsoft has officially entered the Myanmar's IT market, partnering with Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd.

The world's largest software maker has announced its latest business expansion at the World Economic Forum on East Asia hosted for the first time by Myanmar.

The American multinational software corporation said it would also help improve the economic performance of Myanmar in cooperation with government departments and local businessmen.

Microsoft South-East Asia General Manager Mr Jamie Harper in a statement

said that the company believes technology will be a vital part of Myanmar's future growth and that it is committed to the long haul in the country.

MIT CEO Dr Tun Thura Thet says, "I believe vast IT experiences and solutions of Microsoft would become invaluable things for Myanmar's IT world."

Microsoft has over 28,000 partners across Asia-Pacific Region. According to IDC report, the software giant obtains \$ 125 billion in revenue from those companies. The report suggests that every time Microsoft makes a dollar in income, its partners can earn at least ten dollars.

Sagawah

Total Solution for Air-conditioning & Mechanical Ventilation System Seminar

YANGON, 8 June—Total Solution for Air-conditioning & Mechanical Ventilation System Seminar, organized by Constructive Engineers Ltd, the sole agent of Carrier/Toshiba brands in Myanmar, took place at Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here this morning, with Carrier (USA), Toshiba (Japan), Honeywell (USA), Grundfos (Denmark), Kruger (Spain) and Lion

Chi (Thailand) exhibiting their latest products and technologies.

Thai, Singaporean, Japanese and Chinese businessmen, constructors, consultants and heating ventilation & air-conditioning (HVAC) technicians attended the seminar, discussing new production technologies of Carrier (USA).

MNA

Logo design competition for Myanmar young designers

YANGON, 8 June—The Israeli Embassy in Yangon is organizing a logo design competition for Myanmar young designers to mark 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and friendship between the two countries.

Myanmar young designers are invited to design a logo that explicitly reveals the special friendship between the two countries and the people. The winning logo will be used on official communication of the Israeli Embassy throughout the year of celebrations. Awards will be given to the second and the third runners in the competition that will kick off on 1 July, 2013.



Its details will be announced to Myanmar designers directly and also posted in the embassy's website. The deadline for design submission is 15 August, 2013. Designs must be sent by email in pdf format to the Israeli embassy and visit embassy's website (<http://embassies.gov.il/yangon/page/default.aspx>). For more details, contact economy@yangon.mfa.gov.il.

NLM

Serena beats Sharapova to win second French Open title



PARIS, 8 June—World number one Serena Williams clinched her second French Open title when she beat defending champion Maria Sharapova of Russia 6-4, 6-4 in the final on Saturday.

The 31-year-old American, who won her first Roland Garros title in 2002, became the oldest player since tennis turned

professional in 1968 to lift the Suzanne Lenglen Cup after overpowering the second seed on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Williams, who now has 16 grand slam titles to her name, recovered from a slow start to take the opening set after breaking three times.

Reuters

Yadana Theinga Bridge on Ayeyawady River to be completed soon

Works on the earthquake-hit bridge on the Ayeyawady River will be completed soon, according to Public Works.

Yadana Theinga Bridge spanning the Ayeyawady River near Singu was damaged by the earthquake last year while it was under construction by the Special Project Group 3 of Public Works.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Deputy Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Aung Htay

Kyaw, Mandalay Region Transport Minister U Kyaw Hsan and MPs in Singu Township visited the worksite on 2 June where engineers and workers are paving

decking slab and walk ways slab on the bridge. During the visit, the Chief Minister called for work-site safety and timely completion of the works.

During their visit, Daw

Thit Thit Aung, Senior Engineer of the project, and engineers reported on works on finishing touches and progress of works.

Some iron beams of the bridge fell into the river

when the earthquake hit the bridge.

The special project group -3 of Public Works led by Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Lynn continued to construct the

bridge which is expected to be commissioned into service soon.

Myanma Alinn:

8-6-2013

Trs: AMS



Byline: Tin Maung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)