The New Light of Myanmar

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President U Thein Sein receives Speaker of Thai Parliament and Thai House of Representatives and party

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June— President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Speaker of Thai Parliament and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

They exchanged views on strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries through exchange of visits between leaders of two countries as well as two armed forces, implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone that will practically serve the interests of the two countries, efforts being made for ceasing armed conflicts in Myanmar, betterment of trade due to prevailing peace and stability at border region of two countries, arrangements for holding political dialogues for restoring eternal peace, demarcation of border between the two countries and assistance for Thai entrepreneurs to put their investments in Myanmar.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi and U Soe Maung and departmental heads. The Thai Parliament Speaker was accompanied by officials of Thai Parliament and the charge d' affaires ai of the Thai Embassy to Myanmar.

MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Speaker of Thai Parliament and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont.

MNA

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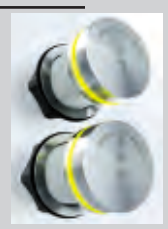

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Union Peace-making Work Committee, KNPP hold peace talks for second time

Second Union level peace talks between Union Peace-making Work Committee and KNPP in progress.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June — The second Union level peace talks between a delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) took place at a meeting hall of the local station in Loikaw in Kayah State this morning.

In his preliminary explanation, Union Minister U Aung Min said that the meeting would focus on works to be done by both sides; that the President intended to invite eminent persons at home and abroad including UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon to reaffirm initial ceasefire agreements with national race groups in the coming months and to sign a nationwide ceasefire agreement in the presence of them; that it was a move to bring about an eternal peace through the ceasefire agreement with no U-turn; and that directives had already been given to resettle IDPs in respective areas.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut elaborated on matters related to forces and Union Minister U Than Htay regional development tasks.

Then, KNPP Vice-Chairman U Khu Yal clarified requirements for peace and stability and development of the state and continued cooperation.

In the afternoon, the Union Peace-making Work Group and officials of KNPP held a separate meeting on matters related to forces.

In the evening, the meeting continued focusing on formation of joint monitoring group and technical teams for ensuring sustainable peace processes, cooperation in tasks of elimination of narcotic drugs, resettlement of IDPs, cooperative measures to be carried out in regional development undertakings and administrative matters.

Next, Kayah State Government hosted a dinner in honour of meeting participants.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister U Win Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, U Than Htay and U Win Myint, Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the commander of Eastern Command, the Deputy

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LOCAL NEWS

PHOTO NEWS

Photo shows a teacher performing traffic control gestures for the safety of school children while crossing over the road in front of Basic Education Primary School No (17) in Kamar Kathwal ward in Dala Township of Yangon Region on 14 June.— KYEMON (Min Ye Man-Nay Pyi Taw)

Foresters interrupt illegal teak, hardwood and forest products flow

YANGON, 19 June — Forest staffs are interrupting with added momentum the flow of illegal teak, hardwood and forest products in their respective townships in regions and states.

On 7 June, they seized 20 bags of charcoal and 328 illegal timber logs and arrested two suspects while conducting a search of a vehicle at mile post No (36/5) on Shwebo-Myitkyina road near Hngetpyawtaing area in Sagaing Region.

On 8 June, they arrested a trailer carrying 3.5384 tons of illegal hardwood with U Tun Naing at the wheel and another trailer carrying 4-3982 tons of illegal hardwood with driver U Soe Win and owner U Mya Win near a tollgate on Kanbalu-Htankon road in Kanbalu Township.

On 9 June, they interrupted a vehicle carrying 12.6006 tons of illegal hardwood at mile post No (10/6) on Shwebo-Myitkyina road in KhinU Township and arrested five suspects on board the vehicle.

All suspects were charged with smuggling of illegal teak.

On 12 June, forest staff arrested U Aye Ko of Yankin Township and seized 0.6324 ton of illegal teak products while making a search of a vehicle at mile post No (76/0) on Yangon-Pyay road in Thayawady Township of Bago Region. The suspect was taken into custody at Thonze police station.

Kyemon (Forest Dept)

Inter-village road to benefit local people in Hopang

HOPANG, 17 June — Aimed at improving socioeconomic status of local people and ensuring smooth transport from one place to another, construction of a two-mile and four-furlong long inter-village road built by Pan Khnu mining company with the contribution of K 179.8 million by the government have been completed.

Thanks to the road, local people in Kaung Hone, Namt Shan, Manmaing and Phayungseik villages will be able to enjoy educational, health, economic and social benefits.

Kyemon
Township IPRD

CRIME

Young man fatally wounded in water slide pool stabbing

YANGON, 19 June — A 24-year-old man was taken into police custody for fatally stabbing a young man at a water slide pool in the compound of People's Square on Pyay Road in Dagon Township, here.

Police said that they were informed that Myo Min Zaw was stabbed by a man while he was playing water slide rides at the pool together with a group of his friends.

Then police members and staff of the pool looked for the male suspect in the compound and arrested Zin Min Thu of Yankin Township.

Dagon police station charged him with stabbing the victim.

Myo Min Zaw with a single stab wound in his left abdomen was taken to Yangon General Hospital for medical treatment.

Kyemon (037)

Woman passenger sustains head injury after falling off vehicle

YANGON, 19 June — A young woman was hospitalized as she was flung to the ground while taking a ride in a passenger vehicle, Dyna, driving along Thudhama road in North Okkalapa Township on 12 June morning.

Daw May Thazin Tun, 27, of North Okkalapa Township fell off the vehicle driven by Zaw Win Swe, 38, together with his bus conductor Hsan Htaik, 29, while the driver drove off from Ayeya Street bus-stop. She sustained a head injury.

North Okkalapa police station filed lawsuits against the reckless driver and the bus-conductor.

Kyemon (037)

FIRE

Unattended electric iron sparks house fire in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 19 June — An unattended electric iron caused a fire that reduced two houses to ashes in Shwechaung village in Pakokku Township at about 9 pm on 14 June.

The fire is said to have started from the electric iron which was left unattended by U Paw San, 53, who forgot to switch off it. Then the overheated iron set a nearby hugging down pillow on fire.

The fire swept through the whole house and engulfed a house next to it.

Firecrewsaccompanied by eight fire trucks managed to bring the fire under control and the fire went down at about 9.40 pm.

An official said that the fire caused loss of belongings worth K 300,000, but no one is hurt in the incident.

Kyemon
(Aung-Mann Thekkatho)

Knowledge on traffic rules disseminated in University of Technology (Toungoo)

TOUNGOO, 19 June — An educative talks on traffic rules was organized at the meeting hall of University of Technology (Toungoo) in Kaytumati on 13 June.

Toungoo District Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thet and Toungoo District Police Commanding Officer Police Lt-Col Soe Lin Aung made an opening addresses. Next, Head of Toungoo District Directorate of Road Transport U Thaung Myint and Police Inspector Zaw Tun Moe of Traffic Police Corps gave talks on traffic rules and dos and don'ts for road users.

It was also attended by Rector of University of Technology (Toungoo) Dr Maung Maung Latt and faculty members and over 1500 university students.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin-Swa

EDUCATIVE TALKS

Educative talks on traffic rules given in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 19 June — With the aim of disseminating knowledge on traffic rules to students of basic education schools in Pakokku Township, Pakokku district Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee organized an educative talks at Basic Education High School No (2) in Pakokku on 14 June morning.

District traffic police corps in-charge Police Inspector Aung Naing Moe and Traffic Police Corporal Tin Maung Htwe gave talks elaborating on traffic rules for all road users and demonstrating traffic signs and hand gestures of traffic police.

Similar talks were also given at BEHS No (3) on 11 June and BEHS No (5) on 12 June and plans are underway to conduct more talks on traffic rules at the remaining schools in the district.

Kyemon (571)

Unemployed young man dies after drinking pesticide

YANGON, 19 June — A young man died after taking a drink of pesticide at about 11.30 am on 10 June during his stay at the house of his aunt for seeking a job in Yangon.

Waibargi police station said that they were informed of the death of Maung Phyo Maw Oo, 21, at the house of Daw Mya Mya Wai on Khaymarkyaung Street in Nya Ward of North Okkalapa Township on that day and found him dead upstairs.

The victim is believed to have been killed by gulping a bottle of Shwe Indo pesticide, they said. It is learnt that the victim was from Dawphonyan in Kachin State.

The dead body was transported to North Okkalapa hospital where investigation is ongoing whether or not there is evidence of third party hand in the case.

Kyemon (037)

Milk makes you smarter, healthier and more intelligent

WORLD

32 killed in twin suicide bombings in Baghdad Shiite mosque

BAGHDAD, 19 June— Up to 32 people were killed and 57 wounded in a twin suicide bomb attacks at a Shiite mosque in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

"The toll rose to 32 killed and 57 wounded in the explosions which appeared to be carried out by two suicide bombers at al- Husseiniyah (Shiite mosque) in Baghdad," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attackers first shot dead the guards of the mosque by silenced weapons before they entered the mosque and blew up their explosive vests among worshippers during noon prayers at the mosque in al-Qahira District in northern Baghdad, the source said.

Earlier, the source said that one suicide bomber carried out the attack and put the toll at 15 killed and 30 wounded.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks are still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease in violence since its peak in 2006 and 2007, when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.—*Xinhua*

G-8 leaders to wrap up summit with declaration on combating terror

BELFAST, 19 June— Leaders of the Group of Eight nations are set to wrap up their two-day summit in Northern Ireland on Tuesday with the adoption of a leaders' declaration in which they plan to commit themselves to combating terrorism. The leaders are expected to address in the declaration the need for rules designed to prevent multilateral corporations from avoiding taxes, while hammering out G-8 responses to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. They are also expected to address concerns about human rights violations by North Korea, including the abduction of Japanese nationals by the country, a resolution of which is being sought by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

During Tuesday's meeting, Abe outlined Tokyo's pledge to provide about $1 billion over the next five years at an African development summit in Yokohama this month in a bid to help Africa's Sahel region become resilient to terrorism, according to a Japanese official. The issues of tax avoidance and evasion by large multinational corporations, which have generated public interest in Europe and the United States, and efforts to counter moneylaundering will also be addressed during the meeting.

Syria, where forces supporting President Bashar al-Assad and opposition forces have continued to fight for more than two years, dominated discussions at this year's G-8 summit, which was held at the Lough Erne golf resort near Enniskillen.

In a communique, the leaders, who discussed Syria during a working dinner on Monday night, are expected to call for a halt to violence in the country that has killed more than 90,000 people, according to the United Nations, another Japanese official said.

They are also expected to call for an international conference on Syrian peace that has yet to take place despite efforts by the United States and Russia to realize it. The G-8 leaders are also set to agree that their countries will provide as much humanitarian assistance as possible to address the crisis, in which more than 1.6 million Syrians have become refugees and over 4.25 million others have become displaced within the country.

Kyodo News

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister David Cameron, US. President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy attend a photo session of a Group of Eight industrialized nations summit near Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, on 18 June, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Israeli president urges Israel, Palestinians to give children "ray of hope"

JERUSALEM, 19 June— Israeli President Shimon Peres urged on Tuesday Israeli and Palestinian leaders to give their children a "ray of hope."

"We long for peace with our neighbours. The yesterday between us and the Palestinians is full of sadness," Peres said, adding that "I believe that the Israel of tomorrow and the Palestine of tomorrow can offer our children a ray of hope."

The president made the remarks at his 90th birthday party, saying that "The advancement of peace will complete the march of Israel toward the fulfillment of its founding vision."

Peres also called for more tolerance in the Israeli society, saying Israel should become a place "which welcomes different opinions but rejects all forms of discrimination whether based on religion, nationality, ethnicity or gender."

Xinhua

Russia evacuates 6,000 residents over ammunition explosions

MOSCOW, 19 June— Some 6,000 residents have been evacuated following explosions in an ammunition depot in Russia's Samara region, the Emergency Situations Ministry said on Tuesday.

The first explosion rocked a military test ground in the town of Chapayevsk at about 7:30 pm Moscow Time (1330 GMT), a spokesperson for the ministry told reporters.

Five explosions of projectiles took place in the test ground, said the spokesperson. Live TV broadcast showed the explosions continued, with cloud-like thick smog engulfing half of the sky.

So far, 22 people have been injured in the explosions, five of them taken to hospitals for treatment, emergency authorities said.

The first powerful explosion shattered window glasses and touched off car alarm systems in a town some 15 km away from Chapayevsk, local residents said.

The site was cordoned off with all roads leading to it blocked. Rescuers and soldiers have been sent to the site to put off the fire.

Preliminary information showed that 13 million projectiles were stored at the depot, a spokesperson for the Samara regional police department, told local media.

The cause of the explosions is yet to be determined. Russia witnessed several ammunition blasts last year.

Xinhua

Damaged vehicles are seen at the site of suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 18 June, 2013. At least three civilians were killed as many others wounded Tuesday morning when a suicide bombing hit west of Afghan capital Kabul, witnesses said.
XINHUA

Chance for progress on Iran nuclear issue must be seized

MOSCOW, 19 June— Iran has taken constructive steps toward compromise in the decade-old standoff over its nuclear programme and world powers should reciprocate, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in remarks published on Tuesday.

Iranians elected a new moderate president, Hassan Rohani, on Friday and he held out the prospect on Monday of a thaw in relations between Iran and the world, including the United States, and progress on resolving the nuclear dispute.

Asked by a *Kuwaiti* news agency if he was satisfied with the state of the still inconclusive talks and whether Rohani's rise would help, Lavrov made little mention of Rohani but said "hopeful signs" had emerged for the first time in years and it would be "inexcusable not to take advantage of this opportunity".

His remarks appeared aimed at coaxing the Islamic Republic into a new round of talks with six powers and encouraging Western nations, which have been tougher on Tehran than Russia has, to bring strong incentives to the table.

"The international community should respond to constructive moves by Iran adequately and with reciprocity, including the gradual suspension and removal of sanctions," he told the *KUNA* news agency in an interview posted on his ministry's website.

The six powers — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and German — want Teheran to suspend its uranium enrichment activities to reassure the world that it is not seeking to develop the means to build nuclear weapons.

Reuters

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov smiles during a meeting with his Italian counterpart Emma Bonino in Moscow, on 15 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Pakistan says new policy to be evolved to stop US drone strikes

ISLAMABAD, 19 June— The Pakistani parliament was told on Tuesday that a new policy is being evolved to stop the US drone attacks in the country's tribal regions. Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz said the National Assembly the new government is working seriously to bring an end to drone attacks.

The opposition law maker Dr Shireen Mazari and several other lawmakers had raised the issue of drone strikes and sought details about the new government policy to deal with the US spy aircraft.

The US drones routinely fire missiles into Waziristan tribal region despite Pakistan's opposition, which the US claims is a key to its so-called war on terror.

The United States alleges that the militants use Pakistan's Waziristan tribal region for planning attacks across the border into Afghanistan on the US-led NATO and Afghan forces.

Nearly 13 people were killed in two US strikes in North Waziristan this month. The Pakistani advisor told the National Assembly that the government has already conveyed serious concerns to the United States over drone strikes and it will continue to raise the issue at all the forums. "US Secretary of State John Kerry is likely to visit Pakistan next month and the issue will be raised with him," Aziz said.

He said Pakistan has adopted a clear policy on drone strikes, which are counter-productive in countering the menace of terrorism, adding the drone strikes are in contravention of sovereignty and national integrity.—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Digital shower power from Israel

TEL AVIV, 19 June—SmarTap controls flow and temperature automatically, leading to huge savings in water and electricity – and it's better for bathing babies, too. Israel is entering a new space in clean-tech:

SmarTap is to be available in models for hotels and individuals.

your shower. Most of us know and probably use smartphones, smart cars, and smart home appliances. Now, engineers with experience from high-tech companies have joined forces to create the world's first "smart shower."

Digitally programmed and connected to the cloud, the new SmarTap system helps people use less water. It prevents scalding and disease, and it can make sure that you get that dream shower every time—even when someone flushes the toilet downstairs.

Asaf Shaltiel, the CEO and co-founder of SmarTap, previously worked for the high-tech company Zoran and chipmaker Intel in Israel, where he helped design the Sandy Bridge microprocessor. His startup dream came one day when he was helping his sister bathe her newborn twins. Israeli moms like to be precise when it comes to bathing their babies with just the right amount of water at exactly 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

Achieving this feat with a thermometer and two bouncing babies was a logistical nightmare, says Shaltiel, a father of a six-year-old. But his sister's problem was the seed of a new invention in 2009, and after a few short years it will be on showerheads in the European market come the end of this year. Funded by the Israeli venture capital fund Terra Venture Partners, SmarTap employs six people in Haifa and was co-founded by Yuval Shapiro. The management plans to enter two distinct markets: showerheads for the homeowner and the hotel industry.

In some hotels, environmentalism and water saving is a concern and requirement, but mainly managers are driven by the bottom line, says Shaltiel. His device can shave off two or three liters of water per minute without any effect on the shower experience, he says. The device also saves on the cold water column that normally runs down the drain when you turn the shower on.

Each SmarTap unit comes with a showerhead and a digital controller. The brains sit in the shaft between rooms, and communicate via Wi-Fi and routers. This way every shower can be monitored by the hotel; flow rates and temperatures can be adjusted to lower the water bills, and to prevent cold showers during peak usage. During peak times the system can communicate with boilers, telling them to ramp up hot water production.

The smart showerhead is going to be piloted at two Tel Aviv hotels.

Cost for individual consumers will be about $500 per unit. —*NLM*

Huawei launches world's slimmest smartphone

LONDON, 19 June—China's Huawei unveiled its flagship smartphone, the Ascend P6, at its first standalone launch event on Tuesday, underlining its ambitions to compete with Apple and Samsung in the top tier of mobile technology.

The company says the device, at 6.18 mm thick, is the world's slimmest. It has a 5 megapixel front-facing camera, designed for taking "selfies", or pictures of the owner to be shared on social media networks. The company picked the launch date - 6/18 (18 June) , to tie in with the smartphone's dimensions.

The launch, at an arts venue in North London, takes a cue from Apple and Samsung, both of which have made new product announcements at high profile events for a number of years. Previously Huawei unveiled its handsets at industry trade shows like Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

A man looks at a Huawei mobile phone as he shops at an electronic market in Shanghai on 22 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

Huawei, which also makes telecom networking gear, is looking to drive sales of its consumer devices, a sector in which it has only had its own brand for about three years.

The company was the fourth-largest maker of smartphones in the first quarter of 2013, trailing LG Electronics and the two dominant brands Apple and Samsung, according to analyst firm Gartner. The top two sold more than 100 million units between them, while LG sold 10 million and Huawei 9 million, most of which were in its native China.

The Ascend P6 uses Huawei's customized version of Google's Android operating system. Industry analyst Ben Wood at CCS Insight said that at the right price the Ascend P6 would attract buyers who had not considered Huawei before.

Reuters

Internet making family photo albums passe

SEOUL, 19 June—The increasing trend of sharing photographs online on social networking sites heralds the end of the traditional family photo album, a new UK study has found.

Two-thirds of Britons now prefer to catalogue their pictures on computers, tablets or smartphones instead of displaying their photos in old-fashioned albums.

Just a third of those questioned said they still displayed images using an old-fashioned book, while 53 percent claimed they preferred to use Facebook.

The South Korean firm, Samsung, analysed the responses of 3,000 people collected by OnePoll for the study. It found that a mere 13 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds had ever used an album, *The Telegraph* reported.

Around one in five people said they take photos with the intention of posting them on sites such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, with 10 percent saying their snaps were uploaded onto a website in less than a 60 seconds after they had been shot on a smartphone. Another trend that was observed in the study was that young people now take more pictures of themselves than friends and family.

The "selfies", where the photographer takes photos of themselves by holding their camera at arm's length, have become the most popular image captured by young people.

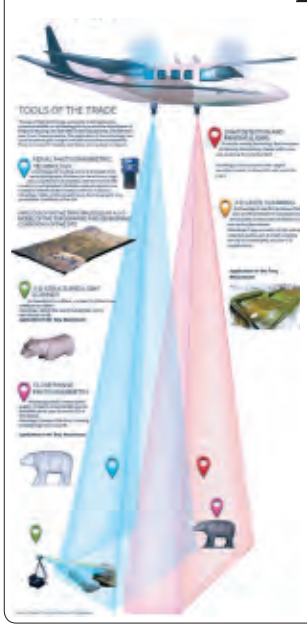
They now account for 30 percent of pictures taken by those aged 18-24, with men taking more photos of themselves than women, according to the poll.

"The growing trend in sharing photography online is also resulting in the death of the photo album," Samsung said.

People are now taking more pictures than ever before, with an average of 1.9 billion photographs captured each month in Britain and 328 million of these shared online, the poll found.

PTI

New tools preserve ancient treasures



BEIJING, 19 June—At a conference in Xi'an, archaeologists discuss how the digitalization of historical sites and relics help recreate communities, allowing them to look into the past and see the future. But experts warn data preservation can face challenges, Cheng Yingqi reports.

Being an archaeologist can be boring. Hours of digging square holes in the ground and filling out paperwork, right? That may have been true in the past, but archaeology is more than just about the past, it helps us understand the future. And today's practitioners, with computers and state-of-the-art cameras, would not consider their work boring. "Heritage is not always immortal, it can vanish, but information lasts forever," said Professor Lu Dongming at Zhejiang University. "Excavating and preserving relics is no longer the sole purpose of archaeological digs. All information should be recorded during the process. In fact, digital documentation is as important as preservation," said Lu, who specializes in applying computer technology to archaeological studies.

In the past 30 years some 40,000 cultural treasures have been lost to future generations, more than 50 percent of which destroyed by construction, *China News Agency* reported in June, citing the Ministry of Culture.

One attempt to use new technology to preserve vanishing sites is an ambitious plan by Dunhuang Academy to digitally recreate the Mogao Grottoes in Gansu Province. The grottoes, China's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, gained global recognition for their collection of Buddhist artworks—more than 2,000 coloured sculptures and 45,000 square metres of frescoes in 735 caves carved along a cliff by worshippers.

However, climate change coupled with increasing tourist numbers has resulted in the deterioration of the frescoes, so scientists had to photograph them to make sure they were recorded.

Besides high-accuracy photography, laser 3-D scanners are used for digital recording. This process is especially valuable for stone tablets, said Ding Yao at the Tianjin University School of Architecture.

"Traditionally, we made rubbings to record information on stone tablets. However, in some cases the writing on old tablets is indistinct," he said. "But laser scanners can help us read and see all the artwork."

The digitalization of historical sites and relics is not just about data. It helps recreate the society or community at that time, allowing scientists to look into the past and see the future.

One of the most interesting examples is the Stanford Geospatial Network Model of the Roman World, a collaboration between historians and information technology specialists at Stanford University.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

UNSG's Message for World Refugee Day

20 June 2013

The number of forcibly displaced people in the world continues to rise. There are now more than 45 million refugees and internally displaced people – the highest level in nearly 20 years. Last year alone, someone was forced to abandon their home every four seconds.

War remains the dominant cause, with the crisis in Syria a leading instance of major displacement. More than half of all refugees listed in a new report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees come from just five war-affected countries: Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria and Sudan. Major new displacements are also occurring in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan.

Figures give only a glimpse of this enormous human tragedy. Every day, conflict tears apart the lives of thousands of families. They may be forced to leave loved ones behind or become separated in the chaos of war. Children suffer the most. Nearly half of all refugees are below age 18, and a growing number are fleeing on their own.

Forced displacement also has a significant economic, social and, at times, political impact on the communities that provide shelter. There is a growing and deep imbalance in the burden of hosting refugees, with poor countries taking in the vast majority of the world's uprooted people. Developing countries host 81 per cent of the world's refugees, compared to 70 per cent a decade ago.

Finding durable solutions for the displaced will require more solidarity and burden-sharing by the international community. On World Refugee Day, I call on the international community to intensify efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, and to help achieve peace and security so that families can be reunited and refugees can return home.

UNIC/Yangon

Inflation data points to firming economy

***Prices are seen on goods in a shop window in New York City, on 14 Nov, 2011.*—REUTERS**

WASHINGTON, 19 June—A gauge of underlying inflation showed signs of stabilizing in May after a long decline, a potential comfort to Federal Reserve policymakers who want firmer prices.

Other data on Tuesday showed an increase in groundbreaking at home construction sites, the latest sign America's housing market recovery will help counter the drag on the economy from government austerity.

The Labour Department said the consumer price index edged 0.1 percent higher last month after two straight months of declines, while the so-called core index, which excludes food and energy costs, rose 0.2 percent, just above the pace clocked in April.

The core index, which the US central bank monitors closely because it is less volatile and provides a better sense of price trends, was up 1.7 percent in the 12 months through May.

That increase matched the gain in April and suggested that a worrisome downward trend in core inflation, which began a year ago, might be coming to an end as consumer demand strengthens. "Inflation pressures remain very subdued, but downside momentum is fading," said Eric Green, an interest rate strategist at TD Securities in New York.

Reuters

China's home price rise continues to slow

BEIJING, 19 June—Home prices continued to see slower month-on-month rises in Chinese cities in May, according to official data released on Tuesday.

Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities, 65 saw new home prices increase month on month in May, down from 67 cities in April, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement on its website.

The data showed that new home prices in 34 cities saw slower month-on-month rises compared with April. The cities of Fuzhou, Zhengzhou, Guangzhou and Chengdu saw price rises narrow by at least 0.6 percentage points.

In May, prices of existing homes rose in 64 cities month on month, down from 66 cities in April, the statement said. Thirty cities saw slower rises from April.

Liu Jianwei, a senior statistician with the NBS, attributed the slowing price rises to the effects of recent property tightening measures.

Property prices started to rebound in the second half of 2012, shored up by pro-growth policies, including two interest rate cuts.

Runaway prices led the government to issue a guideline in early March to tighten its grip on the real estate sector.

The guideline included higher transaction taxes, as well as higher interest rates and down payment requirements for purchases of second homes.

Xinhua

Boeing's new Dreamliner steps up big jet battle

PARIS, 19 June—Boeing (BA.N) launched a larger version of its flagship Dreamliner aircraft at the Paris Airshow on Tuesday, intensifying the battle with rival Airbus (EAD.PA) in the booming market for fuel-efficient, long-haul jets. The hotly anticipated announcement of the *787-10 Dreamliner*, with 102 firm orders worth nearly $30 billion at list prices, is a vote of support for the lightweight, carbon-composite jet just months after the first version was grounded by battery problems.

It came shortly after Airbus clinched an order worth about $11.5 billion at list prices from British budget airline easyJet (EZJ.L) for 135 of its *A320* and *A320neo* planes on day two of the aerospace industry's showcase event.

The two announce-ments, both confirming details reported by *Reuters*, epitomize the battle between US group Boeing and its European rival Airbus as they slug it out for the lion's share of the $100 billion a year global jet market.

In the past couple of years, the fight has centered on the market for popular smaller models. But the focus has shifted in recent months to the next generation of larger planes, with Airbus successfully completing a test flight of its answer to the Dreamliner, the *A350* , on the eve of the Paris show.

"We promised a strong launch and we have achieved it," Boeing Chief Executive Jim McNerney said at a signing ceremony on Tuesday. The buyers of the new *787-10* are Air Lease Corp (AL.N) and Singapore Airlines (SIAL.SI) with 30 planes each, United Airlines with 20, British Airways (ICAG.L) with 12, and GE Capital Services (GE.N) with 10.—*Reuters*

GE to create Russian venture to build power plants

***A GE logo is seen in a store in Santa Monica, California, on 11 Oct, 2010.*—REUTERS**

Moscow, 19 June—US conglomerate General Electric Co (GE.N) will create a joint venture with Russia's state-funded private equity vehicle to build mini power plants across Russia, the parties said on Tuesday. GE has been active in Russia for more than 20 years, supplying medical equipment to hospitals, signaling systems to the rail network and credit through its GE Money Bank.

The mini power plants are low-power co-generation systems producing up to 25 megawatts that are build independently of the federal power grid and therefore without the need for transmission lines. Industrial growth is driving greater demand for individual power generation systems in Russia. The project will focus on providing electricity to manufacturing plants and infrastructure projects in the Russian regions.

Reuters

Spain's finance minister says Spain close to overcoming crisis

MADRID, 19 June—The Spanish Minister of Finance Cristobal Montoro said that Spain is close to overcoming the economic crisis the country is suffering since 2008, local media reported on Monday.

Montoro made this statement at the opening of the courses organized by the Association of Journalists of Economic Information (Apie) and the University Menendez Pelayo in Madrid.

Montoro pointed out that the state revenue might have increased by 2 percent in May in comparison with April's figure, while affirming that the second quarter of 2013 could be "a turning point for the Spanish economy."

"We cannot talk about the end of the crisis while employment is being destroyed", he said, but insisted: "we are very close to the end." During his speech Montoro emphasized the fact that Spain made one of the hardest adjustments in Europe, only behind those of Greece.

Montoro stated that structural reforms will go on such as that of the public administration while pointing out that the government will not increase taxes on hydrocarbons but on goods and services producing negative externalities.—*Xinhua*

NATIONAL

Dawei Deep Sea Port project brings equal benefit to Myanmar, Thailand: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker

Myanmar will see more economic development in future as world economy moves to Asia: Speaker of Thai Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Speaker of Thai Parliament and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker believed that the latter's goodwill visit to Myanmar would be a historic one between the Hluttaws of the two countries.

The Thai Speaker said that Thailand would take pride for Myanmar's political reforms and undertakings of Hluttaws, which are recognized by the world countries. Thailand welcomed Myanmar's peaceful transition and reforms processes. Myanmar would become more developed than other ASEAN countries in the future. Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand would bring development to both countries simultaneously. Myanmar would see more economic development in the future as the world economy moves to the Asia. He reaffirmed that Thailand would make cooperation in all sectors.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker for his part said that he took pride for latter's success in the Thai's politics. Legislation was the duty of the Hluttaw in the process of democratization. The development of a country depended mostly on its political stability. It needed to share experience between ASEAN parliamentary. Cooperation between Thailand and Myanmar would bring about regional development. Exchange visits between Myanmar and Thailand showed the amity between the two governments. He highlighted importance of amity between the people and the Hluttaws of the two countries. Thanks to Dawei Deep Sea Port project, there was a change in geopolitics and there would be more unity between the two countries. The project would bring equal benefit to both countries.

He expressed thanks for legalization of Myanmar workers in Thailand. Skilled workers would flow into the country as ASEAN would practice open market system in 2015. He called for protection of Myanmar workers' rights by the Thai Parliament. He strongly believed that Myanmar-Thai Cooperation would bring about a huge benefit in Asia-Pacific Region.

The Thai Speaker pledged that Thailand would make cooperation with Myanmar in the interests of the two countries.

After that, the Speaker presented a gift to the Thai Speaker. the Thai Speaker singed at visitors' book of Amyotha Hluttaw.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint having a conversation with Speaker of Thai Parliament and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont.—MNA

The Speaker hosted a lunch to the Thai delegation at Zabuthiri dining hall. Afterwards, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and the Thai Speaker purposed toasts.

It was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, U Aung Tun, U Thein Win, Dr Aye Maung, Professor Dr Mya Oo, Dr Khin Shwe, Col Maung Maung Htoo, Dr Myint Kyi, U Sai Paung Nup, U Win Maung, U Nay Win Tun, U Win Naung, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Daw Khin Waing Kyi.—*MNA*

WORLD

United States to meet Taleban to seek Afghan peace

WASHINGTON, 19 June —The United States and the Taleban raised hopes for a negotiated peace in Afghanistan with commitments to meet this week after 12 years of bloody and costly war between American-led forces and the insurgents. The Taleban opened an office in Doha, the Qatari capital, on Tuesday to help restart talks and said it wanted a political solution that would bring about a just government and end foreign occupation of Afghanistan.

US officials said the talks would start in Doha on Thursday but cautioned that the on-again, off-again peace process would likely be messy and has no guarantee of success.

"It's going to be a long, hard process if indeed it advances significantly at all," a senior US official said.

The Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai also said it was sending a team to Doha and a senior official said the Taleban was willing to consider talks. But the insurgents made no immediate comment on the claim.

The ultimate goal of the diplomatic manoeuvring is to get representatives of the Afghan government and the Taleban into direct negotiations on the country's future. The Taleban have thus far refused such talks, calling Karzai and his government puppets of the West. Nonetheless, the diplomatic announcements represented the first signs of optimism in Afghan peace efforts for many months, and come as the US-led war effort reaches a critical juncture. The NATO command in Kabul on Tuesday completed handing over lead security responsibility to Afghan government forces across the country.

NATO plans to end all combat operations in Afghanistan by December 2014. President Barack Obama said US combat operations would not cease and, in a reminder that the insurgents continue to fight, four US troops were killed in an attack on Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, a US official said later on Tuesday.—*Reuters*

United Nations (UN) peacekeeping soldiers from Austria drive past an observation tower near the Quneitra border crossing between Israel and Syria, on Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on 12 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Austria may delay peacekeepers' withdrawal from Golan

VIENNA, 19 June— Austria may withdraw its peacekeeping troops from the Golan Heights more slowly than first planned to allow the United Nations extra time to arrange an orderly handover, Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger said on Tuesday.

The United Nations has asked Vienna to keep soldiers in the buffer zone between Syria and Israel until the end of July, a month longer than the four-week timetable Austria gave when it announced on 6 June it was recalling its forces.

"We are still going to pull out, but the question of how and when has to be negotiated with the UN," Spindelegger told reporters.

The Defence Ministry, however, has said the withdrawal would go as planned.

Spindelegger said Austria's troop commitment accord stipulated that any exit from the Golan, where the Philippines and India also have troops, requires three months' notice.—*Reuters*

Man threatening to jump off Tour Eiffel detained in Paris

PARIS, 19 June—The man who menaced to jump off from Paris' iconic La Tour Eiffel (the Eiffel Tower) was detained on Tuesday afternoon by the French police.

Police sources confirmed that the man, aged around 30 years old and a self-claimed Polish, is "psychologically unstable." He threatened to commit suicide by jumping off La Tour Eiffel Tower, a famous tourist destination in the capital city of Paris while he was trying to climb from the second floor up to the third floor through the outside of the tower. Visitors to the monument were immediately evacuated at around 13:00 (1100GMT) and the man was finally talked down and detained by police.

Police lifted the safety alarm after placing the area under security control for two hours.—*Xinhua*

A volunteer arranges contraceptives in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 18 June, 2013. Philippine Supreme Court on 9 July will hold its oral argument on the validity of the Reproductive Health Bill which provides family planning supplies and contraceptives.—XINHUA

AGRICULTURE

Farming rights certificates presented in Mohnyin District

MYITKYINA, 19 June—The ploughing for monsoon paddy was launched with 19 tractors in Mayingon village in Ingyingon village-tract in Mohnyin Township on 14 June.

It was attended by Kachin State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Bi Htaw Zaung and officials, lawmakers and state-level departmental officials, district deputy commissioner, townselders and more than 200 local farmers.

At the ceremony to present farming rights certificates in Ingyingon Dhammayon, the minister and officials presented certificates for farmers in the village-tract. Secretary of State Farmland Management Committee U Hsan Win explained procedures for applying the certificates and Farmland Law and Rules.

A total of 124 farmers received the certificates at the ceremony.

The officials then answered queries raised by the farmers and townselders.

MMAL-Moe Kya
(Myitkyina)

Kachin State minister meets farmers

MYITKYINA, 19 June—Kachin State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Bi Htaw Zaung, accompanied by lawmakers, townselders and officials met about 150 local farmers at a Dhammayon in Ingyingon village in Ingyingon village-tract in Mogaung Township in Kachin State on 12 June.

The state minister delivered an opening speech at the ceremony. Lawmakers and state-level departmental officials answered queries raised by local farmers and sought ways to fulfill their needs.

The state minister in his concluding remarks urged the village-tract administrators to raise public awareness for registering the farmlands as it would legally guarantee their farming rights down to their next generations.

MMAL-Moe Kya
(Myitkyina)

BUSINESS

Toungoo market gets abundent supply of Djenkol beans

Djenkol beans arrive in abundance in Toungoo market.

TOUNGOO, 19 June—Toungoo market has received a bulk of djenkol bean supply from Thandaunggyi and Leiktho and Yado regions.

The djenkol beans were then transported to Nay Pyi Taw Aharathukha market and markets in major cities like Bago, Yangon and Mandalay.

Djenkol bean plants are grown in rubber plantations and bear fruits, which form one of the favourite side dish in Myanmar to the accompaniment of fish paste, for five years after turning 10 years.

MMAL-Thura
(Toungoo)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Tree planting ceremony held in Taungtha

TAUNGTHA, 19 June—A ceremony to plant saplings and sow seeds was organized by Arid Zone Greening Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in central Myanmar town Taungtha on 17 June morning.

A total of 600 saplings were planted at the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director of Arid Zone Greening Department U Min Aung Min, Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Nyunt, Region Hluttaw Representative U Than Htay Aung, Myingyan District Arid Zone Greening Department Assistant Director U Hla Min, Myingyan District Forest Department Assistant Director U Wai Lwin, members of social organization and about 300 local people.

MMAL-439

Regional plan duties assigned in Pauk Tsp

PAUK, 19 June—A ceremony to assign regional plan duties for 2013-2014 fiscal year was held in General Administration Department Office in Pauk Township in Pakokku District in Magway Region on 15 June.

At first, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Soe delivered a speech at the ceremony and assigned township level departmental officials and ward and village-tract administrators with regional plan duties for 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Head of Township Planning Department U San Htway Maung elaborated on regional plan in 2012-2013 fiscal year and progress of rural development and poverty alleviation tasks.

MMAL-Wathan
(Magway)

HRD

Exercise books donated for schoolchildren

YESAGYO, 19 June—A ceremony to donate exercise books to schoolchildren of Basic Education Primary School in Thahtaygon village in Yesagyo Township in Magway Region on 14 June.

The ceremony was attended by Headmaster U Pho Thit and teachers, donors U Thein Swe and wife Daw San Hla and schoolchildren.

The headmaster spoke words of thanks and donor U Thein Swe presented 31 dozens of exercise books for 165 students through the headmaster.—*MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)*

Library opened in Indaw Township

MAWLU, 19 June—The opening ceremony of Myitta Pankhin library was held in Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Thuyaung village of Mawlu region in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region on 1 June morning.

Emeritus Patron of Amarapura Maha Gandayon monastry Sayadaw U Sujanabhivamsa, Indaw Township Education Officer Daw Kyi Kyi Htay and Headmistress of Mawlu Basic Education High School Daw Htura formally opened the library.

MMAL-Khin Maung Swe

Free spoken English course conducted in Myeik

MYEIK, 19 June—The spoken English course was opened at the monastic education school of Thanthaya Aye Monastery in Tawyakyaung Ward of Kalwin Village-tract of Myeik Township in Taninthayi Region on 15 June.

Altogether 31 male trainees and 30 female trainees are attending the course.

At the opening ceremony, Thathaya Aye Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sujata gave words of advice.

Saya Chit Ko Ko (Interpreter) is giving lectures to the trainees every Saturday and Sunday.

The course will run six months.

Kyemon-Moe Hein
(Myeik)

CRIME

Smuggled goods seized by mobile team in Waw Township

WAW, 19 June—Mobile teams are conducting surprise checks at a strategic junction where old and new Sittaung bridges meet in Waw Township in Bago Region.

The team seized smuggled commodities on a vehicle on 17 June.

The goods whose duties were not paid include snacks, soybean, Alysra Lito Sil and Copper hydoricle.

The seized goods were worth K 679,000 according to market prices. Ko Thiha, who was the driver of the vehicle, was charged with smuggling.—*MMAL-Phone Thaw (Waw)*

Pirate CDs seized in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 19 June—Nay Pyi Taw Police Force raided a shop in Aharathukha market and seized uncensored discs on 16 June.

They charged Yan Naing Win, 37, with the illegal holding and selling of uncensored and pirated discs.

MMAL-Ko Ko Rupa

Motorbike rider shot dead

CRIME

MUSE, 19 June—A motorbike rider was shot dead by undentified group on three motorbikes in Pangsai (Kyukok) in Muse District on 16 June.

U San Tun, 40, was returning home from Honaung when he was shot six times by the unidentified group and killed on the spot.

Reported by village-tract Administrator U Aung Nan, officials of the police station are investigating the case to expose the culprits.

MMAL-El Soe (IPRD)

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 20 June, 2013

Schools, failing or succeeding?

It is easy to say whether any education system is winning or losing in general. But it would not offer the specific and reliable answer as to the performance of the system.

To assess the overall performance of the education system, we need to start from each school. There are some barometers for quality of schools. The most obvious, yet the simplest, measure is the student's performance in tests. We would need to assess the academic performance of each student, each class and then the entire school through a number of tests. It would make easy to have another simple measure the growth of their academic performance. These two simple assessments will give us the overall performance of the school in numbers. But we need to give emphasis on the effectiveness of tests so that the test scores would serve as the reliable measures. The dark side of overemphasis would make the school the overly test-driven ones. Most of schools in our country are unbearably test-crazed and notorious for that-answer-for-this-question behaviours.

What we first need to do is to make sure that all the teachings are not to enable the students only answer the questions and tests are effective and must be able to stand as the actual measure for understanding of the students.

Another crucial measure of performance of schools is readiness for universities. Basic education schools are supposed to be the seed or foundation of the education. How a foundation is well established is measured by whether the upper structure could be built conveniently or not. It could be measured by assessing how many necessary skills and to which extent the schools could provide to the students before they go to universities.

Basic education is as important as the higher education. If the foundation is not firm, the entire structure would soon collapse. We need to get into the habit of judging basic education schools through reasonable assessment systems, rather than matriculation exam pass rates.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Voice

Sir,

Whenever I look back over a distance of about thirty years, my memory stirs in my heart and in no time I come to realize that in not too distant past we could have our voice (People's voice) listened to by all interested readers the length and breadth of our nation. I used to contribute what we thought best in constructing a beautiful State to all the English language newspapers and magazine like the Working People's Daily, the Guardian Daily and the only state-owned Guardian Magazine. Due to various reasons, they have gone defunct for some years. And the section "Letter to Editor" has lost niche in the paper. What follows up? We find it impossible to get our message of norms about changeover across to the masses.

At a time when the country is in a critical period of transition we are confident that we, older people mostly pensioners with rich experience we accumulated through years, should take part in this Herculean task with our old rusted abandoned pens.

In our midst are our Hluttaw representatives through whom we could put up what we need to the Hluttaw but it is neither be-all nor end-all. Frankly speaking, we could never be perfectly filled with our utmost aspiration though our elected Government led by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has made much exertion to transform the nation into a modern, developed, democratic state since he was sworn in as president.

So far as I know, President U Thein Sein is genuinely a man of transparent honestly. He leaves no stone unturned to make radical big changes in his Government within the framework of the State Constitution.

With clarity and succinctness, we dare say exactly that the wheels of his mind revolved fast and then what seemed to be a great and blinding truth suddenly burst on his brain. Charmed by the sound understanding of what is really true, he turned his mind on its central thought of people. He holds us in his left hand and feeds us with his right hand to the full. He takes dashing strides to steer the ship of State to a fairy land of extraordinary beauty. About three decades ago we were half starved and our morale was low. Especially we pensioners in tottering age so to say, were hardest hit by dwindling economy. Our President has come to our rescue in time.

A divine idea that history that has been lost to the tides of time should be returned to its people, a legal owner, would have certainly germinated in his brain at birth. From the moment that he assumed the reins of Government, he seemed most likely to get married to work as he is always hard at work. I believed that his days and nights are without time. It is seen that he works hard for the better life of the poor, the property less, the working- men and –women. No doubt he loves people with sympathy, but people love him with hope and respect.

Deep within him Mr President knows that what he has got to do is to lead the nation into the better way of life by helping those who have less than we have.

While our President gets busy on the great transformation, we should not look on with folded arm as if we were not concerned about our national affairs. Why we act nonchalantly oppresses my mind. At this critical moment, we older people, especially aged pensioners, should be helped to say what is going on in here.

With an untiring effort, Mr President travelled around the world and negotiated with the world leaders in order to have all sanctions imposed on our nation relaxed. What is uppermost in his mind is to fill our craving stomachs with plenty of food. We owe our lives to his presence of mind. While he makes every endeavour to promote our living standard by building an all-round developed nation, why shouldn't we be nuisance to the nation?

We would like to enlighten the innocent people on how peace is important. But how could I make it known to the public? Only through paper? So What! I appeal to you to publish this letter in your esteemed paper. And I would like to request the authorities concerned to publish an English language magazine like defunct Guardian magazine.

Yours sincerely,

Aye Pe (Padaung)

IPRD provides WiFi FoC

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June— District IPRDs provide WiFi services to library users free of charge.

Library users can have free WiFi access at public libraries in Bhamo District in Kachin State, Loikaw in Kayah State, Hpa-an in Kayin State, Sagaing and Monywa in Sagaing Region, Dawei in Taninthayi, Bago, Pyay and Toungoo in Bago Region, Mandalay, Kyaukse, PyinOoLwin, Myingyan, Yamethin, NyaungU and Meiktila in Mandalay Region, MagwayinMagway Region, Mawlamyine and Thaton in Mon State, Sittway in Rakhine State, Thingangyun, Kyauktada, e-library in Pansodan Street, Insein and Thanlyin in Yangon Region, Taunggyi, Lashio and Kengtung in Shan State, Pathein, Myaungmya, Maubin, Hinthada, Pyapon and Labutta in Ayeyawady Region and Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 7 am to 7 pm daily except Sunday.

More free WiFi services would be provided at the remaining District IPRD public libraries.

MNA

ROK to offer loans of 500 million USD to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June— First joint committee meeting on economic cooperation between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Prime Minister and Strategy and Finance Minister of the Republic of Korea Dr Hyun Oh-Seok led the meeting.

In his speech, the Union Minister said Myanmar was implementing National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP) and FESR. The President had designated the 2013 as Year of Action. The purpose of the meeting was to enable people enjoy the fruits of socio-economic development and to fulfill the needs of the people.

The Korean Deputy Prime Minister said that Myanmar and the ROK had made cooperation in basic infrastructural development since 1975. Cooperation between the two countries would bring benefits to the both countries.

Eight areas were under discussion at the meeting. After that, the Union Minister and Dr Hyun Oh-Seok signed Agreed Minutes after the committee members discussed development of eight economic cooperation areas.

The ROK will offer 500 million USD loans to Myanmar from 2013 to 2017 from its Economic Development Cooperation Funds (EDCF). It was also attended by Deputy Ministers, director-general, officials from the Central Bank of Myanmar, Yangon City Development Committee and respective departments and organizations, the ROK Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—*MNA*

***Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Prime Minister and Strategy and Finance Minister of the Republic of Korea Dr Hyun Oh-Seok exchange notes.*—MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks...

(from page 16)

It is the time to go forward after learning lessons of the past instead of criticizing achievements and failures of the previous governments, he said.

It is found that developed and peaceful countries have practiced their own-style democratic systems which are suitable to their countries, he said.

Myanmar should practice a democratic system which is suitable to the country to enjoy development and peace, he said, and the State Peace and Development Council paved the way for practicing the system, taking the voices of the people, countries which love democracy and democracy activists at home into consideration, he said.

Today, President U Thein Sein and chairmen of Hluttaw committees including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi play a critical role in reform process in Myanmar, he added.

He also stressed the need for becoming stronger Hluttaw, highlighting the role of Hluttaw in implementing the democratic system in Myanmar.

He also stressed the importance of the inclusive participation in implementing a democratic system to bring development and peace to Myanmar in conformity with the federal which means living in unity and power sharing.

US senators and representatives also pledged to support the reform in Myanmar until the country achieved success in reform process.—*MNA*

Union Peace-making Work Committee,...

(from page 1)

Attorney-General, responsible persons of Myanmar Peace Centre and KNPP representatives.

Regarding the peace talks, KNPP Secretary-2 U Shwe Myo Thant said that they had a chance to discuss matters related to forces with senior officials a lot; that they liked holding discussions on matters of forces in a frank and cordial manner; that they hoped for better outcomes; and that they satisfied the today's meeting.

"Detailed discussions were made on the agreements in last year June. The meeting focused on how to implement in practical agreements. The meeting result was so good. Both sides understand each other more and more and the meeting has become active. It is good for peace making process. Everyone wants to see peace and stability in the country. We would like the country with no sounds of gunfire for the first time after gaining her independence. Peace making process is not an easy work. It is difficult to bring all stakeholders to a negotiating table. It is hard to make suspicions of both sides disappeared gradually. Both sides have technical weaknesses. It took much time to address these weaknesses. There are eight points of guidance given by the President. Both sides had agreed four points, but the remaining points were under discussions one after another whenever they met. Much time is needed here as the next step comes when negotiation is over", Salai Mon Tuu Yal of Myanmar Peace Centre shares his experience.

MNA

Mandalay youths donate blood for Central Women's Hospital

Mandalay, 19 June —Members of a Mandalay-based Pyusin youth philanthropic group performed a collective blood donation at Central Women's Hospital in Mandalay Region at 9 am on 14 May.

The group is widely engaged philanthropic works, making regular cash assistance to schools and medical funds and donating drinking water, clothing, publications and medicines.— *Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko-Mandalay*

President U Thein Sein receives ROK Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Hyun Oh-Seok

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June— President U Thein Sein received a Korean delegation led by Mr. Hyun Oh-Seok, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 2 pm today.

At the call, President U Thein Sein said that Myanmar and Republic of Korea have many things in common in customs and traditions. It was known that matters on 39 projects and eight fields were discussed in detail at today's meeting. The outcomes of the meeting would contribute to economic reforms in Myanmar. The President thanked the Republic of Korea for providing support to the country both in the region and international arenas, especially in economic, education, health and social sectors and humanitarian aids. The President invited the President of the Republic of Korea to come and visit Myanmar via the visiting Korean deputy prime minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance said Myanmar and ROK share a common interest and share a strong desire for economic prosperity. He stressed the need for the two counties to form a joint committee for economic growth. He acknowledged the President's support for formation of the joint committee which is the aspiration of the President. He continued that officials of Myanmar government and the delegation held a discussion on various aspects this morning inclusive of infrastructural development, promotion of service sector and cooperation in sports sector. He added that Myanmar officials were interested in implementing new village activities in ROK and the ROK would be satisfied if its experiences could help a bit Myanmar.

Next, they held comprehensive discussions on sharing experiences of the ROK, sending Myanmar scholars to the universities of the Republic of Korea for further studies, capital and technological cooperation between the ROK and Myanmar with an abundance of natural resources and manpower.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Hla Tun, Dr Kan Zaw, departmental heads. The Korean delegation was accompanied by deputy ministers, high-ranking officers and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae Yong.

MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance Mr. Hyun Oh-Seok.
MNA

Thai delegation visits Uppatasanti Pagoda, Gems Museum

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June—A delegation led by Speaker of Thai Parliament and House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport from Yangon this morning.

They visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and made cash donations.

They met Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than at his office and discussed cooperation of Thai entrepreneurs in Myanmar telecommunication sector.

At 2.40 pm, they visited Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Next, they viewed round display of jade and gems lots and jewellery shops at Mani Yadana Jade Hall and Gems Museum. In the evening, they left here by air for Yangon.

MNA

Meeting on copyright law (draft) held

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June—A Meeting on the Copyright Law in Myanmar (10th draft), jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), was held at the Ministry, here, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Zaw Min Aung said that Myanmar was in urgent need of a modern copyright law. He called for emergence of intellectual property laws which can contribute to economic and social development of Myanmar. He reaffirmed that the Ministry would make cooperation with international organizations on intellectual property affairs.

It was also attended by expert Mr Jorgen Savy Blomqvist from WIPO and officials from respective ministries and NGOs, legal firms, artists, printers and publishers. The meeting focused on the copyright law (draft). The meeting will go on till 21 June.

MNA

***Meeting on the Copyright Law in Myanmar (10th draft) in progress.*—MNA**

LOCAL NEWS

Union Attorney-General attends "Recent Development of Myanmar and Challenges it Faces—from the Legal and other Perspectives" workshop in Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June— Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin read out the paper titled the Legal System of Myanmar and updates on Myanmar Business Law, at a workshop on comparison between legal systems in Myanmar and Japan held on 8-15 June in Japan.

The Attorney-General of the Union discussed legal system in Myanmar's successive eras and business laws; Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U T Khun Myat, committee's works and Yangon Region Advocate-General U Kyaw Moe Naing, the role of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union.

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin reading out his paper at the workshop.—MNA

During his visit, the Attorney-General of the Union held talks with Japanese officials on cooperation between Myanmar and Japan and other legal affairs.—*MNA*

Firemen of over 25 years' service honoured in Htigyaing

HTIGYAING, 19 June— Firemen who have over 25 years' service in the Auxiliary Fire Brigade were honoured in Htigyaing Township 15 June.

At the ceremony held at Htigyaing Township Administrative Office, the Head of Katha District Fire Brigade presented certificates of honour to them.

It was attended by over 120 dignitaries including regional Hluttaw Representative U Sein Kyaing, departmental officials, members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade and townselders.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Meiktila MADB provides loans to farmers

MEIKTILA, 19 June— Meiktila Township Myanma Agricultural Development Bank has given agricultural loans to farmers as from 17 June.

On 17 June, 101 farmers from Nyaungkaing Village-tract took out K 31.3 million at the rate of K 100,000 per acre.

The bank will lease agricultural loans with low interest to farmers from 11,300 villages in the township at the rate of K 100,000 per acre of rice plantation and K 20,000 per acre of crop plantation.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (IPRD)

DRAIN DREDGED: ***Muse Township Development Affairs Committee is making strenuous efforts for development of the town and proper flow of water at drains. Photo shows workers of the committee led by Deputy Head of Department (Sanitation) U Baran Sai carrying out sanitation at drains under supervision of Executive Officer U Maung Maung Win on 17 June.***
KYEMON-TOWNSHIP DAC

Golf accessories presented

YANGON, 19 June—To improve the standard of golf courses in Myanmar, R&A donated golf accessories to golf courses yesterday.

At the ceremony held at Yangon Golf Club, Myanmar Golf Federation Vice-President U Min Thein made a speech and Joint-Secretary U Myo Tun explained the purpose of donation.

General Secretary U Aung Hla Han of MGF presented golf accessories to responsible personnel of the golf courses.

MGF Captain U Soe Win spoke words of thanks and they posed for a documentary photo.

NLM

Globetrotters visit Myanmar via Mae Sot of Thailand

KAWKAREIK, 19 June— Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and management of Marvellous Memory Travels and Tours Co Ltd of Myanmar and Cambodia-based Caravan Angkor Tours, a tourist flock comprising 24 Vietnamese, one Cambodian and two Australians made a pilgrimage trip to Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda of Mon State through Myawady, Kawkareik, Kyondoe and Hpa-an of Myanmar via Mae Sot of Thailand with the use of 10 automobiles on 16 June morning.

The team was led by liaison officer U Aung Kyaw Oo.

They planned to visit Bagan, Yangon and Mawlamyine from 16 to 21 June. On 21 June, they will leave Myawady for Mae Sot of Thailand through Friendship Bridge.

Kyemon-U Tin Win Hlaing (Kawkareik)

DHF campaign launched in Kawkareik

KAWKAREIK, 19 June— The voluntary tasks were undertaken in Kawkareik District of Kayin State on 15 June.

Departmental personnel, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigde, Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, students and local people led by Deputy Commissioner U Than Swe of the district, Deputy Township Administrator U Aung Myat Khaing and Executive Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Township DAC participated in sanitation tasks at District Hospital, basic education schools.

Kyemon-U Tin Win Hlaing (Kawkareik)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Saw Township Forest Dept opens BEPS

SAW, 19 June— Saw Township Forest Department opened a Basic Education Primary School (branch) at a forest plantation village on 15 June.

The construction of the school was mainly funded by the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

The school was formally opened by Hluttaw representatives, Saw Township administrators and education officer.

At the opening ceremony, they also contributed a mobile phone, a battery, cash, a clock and journals to the school.

Kyemon-465

Talks on combating illegal trading in timber, environmental conservation held in Indaw

MAWLU, 19 June—Staff Officer U Soe Lin Aung of the Indaw township Forest Department, Mawlu region senior forester U Saw Tin Win and staff of the Forest Department on 16 June gave talks on combating illegal trading in timber and environmental conservationat the meeting hall of the administrator's office of Simaw Village-tract in Indaw Township in Katha District, Sagaing Region.

On the occasion, Simaw Village Administrator U Thein Tan delivered an address.

The staff officer gave educative talks on combating illegal trading in timber and senior forester U Saw Tin Win, on environmental conservation.

Kyemon-6087

HEALTH ACTIVITY

Walking aid products donated to hospital, rural health centre

SHWEBO, 19 June— Chairperson of Support Group for Elderly Doctors (Mandalay) of Myanmar Medical Association Professor Dr Daw Kyu Kyu Swe and party on 16 June presented walking aid products for the patients, donated by Chairperson of Support Group for Elderly Doctors (Yangon) Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin, to Kyaukmyaung sub-township hospital of Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region and Ohnpauk Village's rural health Centre.

The donated walking aid products are four walking folder, four walking stick and 11 sets of crutch.

Chairman of Shwebo District Medical Association, Head of district Health Department Dr Daw Thet Thet Sein, General Practitioner Society Chairman Dr Tin Win and medical staff of Shwebo Hospital assisted in donating events.

Kyemon-572

China endeavours to boost wildlife protection

BEIJING, 19 June—To better protect the country's biodiversity, China is pooling efforts to further protect endangered species and crack down on illegal animal trafficking. "China will intensify and coordinate efforts to strengthen wildlife protection," said Yin Hong, deputy director of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), at a recent briefing.

China has rich wildlife resources. More than 6,500 vertebrate species, or about 10 percent of the world's total, live in China, according to SFA.

Over 470 land-based vertebrates are native only to China, including the giant panda, golden monkey, South China tiger and Chinese alligator.

China has paid great attention to the protection of endangered species and has achieved significant progress since it joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1981.

Over the past few decades, China has continuously worked on its legal framework to improve wildlife protection.

In 1988, China's Law on the Protection of Wildlife went into effect, laying down basic rules for the conservation of rare and endangered species, as well as the protection, development and rational use of wildlife to safeguard the ecological balance.

The government also put 256 species on a national protection list in 1988, stipulating that it would be illegal to slaughter or sell animals on the list.

Since then, China has built a complete legal framework for protecting wildlife, with a series of laws and regulations at both the central and local levels.

In addition, China has strengthened wildlife habitat patrols and strictly penalized those who hunt, sell, purchase and transport protected animals.—*Xinhua*

Dairy exports, tourism help drive down New Zealand current account deficit

WELLINGTON, 19 June—A rise in spending by overseas tourists and growing dairy exports helped New Zealand's current account deficit fall by 300 million NZ dollars (239.48 million US dollars) to 2.2 billion NZ dollars in the quarter ending March, the government statistics agency announced on Wednesday.

"Visitors to New Zealand spent more this quarter," Statistics New Zealand acting balance of payments manager Matthew Haigh said in a statement.

"The rise in dairy exports was mainly due to increased volumes, although prices also rose for the first time in almost two years."

A fall in imports of petroleum and petroleum products helped shrink New Zealand's current account deficit to 10.1 billion NZ dollars, or 4.8 percent of GDP, in the year to the end of March from 5 percent of GDP in the December 2012 year.

New Zealand's net international liability position was 146.7 billion NZ dollars, or 69.3 percent of GDP, at the end of March compared with 149.6 billion NZ dollars, or 71.4 percent of GDP, at the end of last year. "Almost a third of New Zealand's international assets are held in overseas sharemarkets. Rising prices in these markets helped boost our asset values by 2.4 billion NZ dollars this quarter," Haigh said.—*Xinhua*

Photo taken on 18 June, 2013 shows the newly built houses of local residents in Hukou Village of Enshi City in central China's Hubei Province. The tea-related industry has contributed a lot to local economy in recent ten years with an average annual revenue of 40 million Yuan (some 6.5 million US dollars).—XINHUA

An Exhibitor displays a latest video recording accessory equipment during the CommunicAsia and BroadcastAsia Exhibition in Singapore, on 18 June, 2013. The four-day exhibition opens at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Hall in Singapore on Tuesday.
XINHUA

13 die, 14 missing in Nepal due to floods and landslides

KATHMANDU, 19 June—A total of 13 people have lost their lives and 14 have gone missing due to landslides and floods trigged by heavy rainfall in different parts of Nepal by Tuesday evening, police said. With the beginning of monsoon season, the country is receiving heavy rainfall for the last few days, causing landslides, floods and house collapse at different parts of the country.

Nepal Police Spokesperson Keshav Adhikari told *Xinhua* that 13 people have been confirmed dead in Dailekh, Baitadi and Achham, the mid and far-west hill districts of Nepal.

Seven members of a single family were killed after their houses collapsed on Monday night due to landslides at Malika VDC-2 in Dailekh District. Four people have been killed at Siddheshwor VDC of Baitadi District when a landslide swept their house the same night. Similarly, two people have been killed at Kuntibandali village of Achham when landslide hit their houses while they were sleeping.

Meanwhile, fourteen people have been reported missing as they were washed away by the flood in Sannigad River in Kalikot District, the police said. Moreover, many houses along with two bridges over the river have also been washed away.

The district headquarters of Darchula in the north west Nepal is in panic as swollen Mahakali River intruded into the small town Sunday night. The Mahakali river bordering India has swept away 50 houses and displaced 1,500 people, the police said. Similarly, 1,500 houses have been inundated in Bardiya District due to the floods in the Karnali River. Around 700 families have been displaced due to flood in Sonaha, Murgarwa of Daulatpur VDC in Rajpur Tappu of Bardiya District.

Xinhua

Singapore, Malaysia hit by haze from Indonesian forest fires

Smoke haze shrouds the financial district in Singapore, on 17 June, 2013. Land and forest fires on Indonesia's island of Sumatra frequently create a thick, grey haze during the dry season. Winds carry the particulate matter north to Singapore and Malaysia, clouds the skies, reduces visibility, and creates health concerns.—XINHUA

SINGAPORE, 19 June—Singapore and Malaysia have been hit by "unhealthy" levels of haze over the past two days, with both countries blaming the air pollution on forest fires from Indonesia's Sumatra Island.

In Singapore, the Pollutant Standards Index reached an "unhealthy" level of 140 on Monday, with a strong burning smell detected across the city state. Parts of peninsular Malaysia, including Selangor and Port Klang, also reported "unhealthy" pollutant levels on Sunday.

The Pollutant Standards Index provides a measure of air quality on a scale of zero to 500. Environmental experts consider an index level of 101-200 as unhealthy and 201-300 very unhealthy.

The Singapore government has urged Indonesia to take urgent steps to ease air pollution triggered by forest fires. "Drier weather conditions in the region have led to an escalation in hotspot activities mainly over central Sumatra," Singapore's National Environment Agency said on Monday.

The smoke haze from the fires in Sumatra was brought over by prevailing winds, the agency said, adding that the haze could persist over the next few days. The Singapore government has urged the public to reduce outdoor activities.

Malaysia's Department of Environment said in a statement on Sunday that satellite images of the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre showed a dramatic rise in hotspots in Sumatra.

"The monsoon wind blowing in from the hotspots in Central Sumatra, Indonesia has brought the haze to the central and southern areas of peninsular Malaysia," it said.—*Kyodo News*

Death toll in rain-ravaged north India rises to 130, 60 missing

NEW DELHI, 19 June—The death toll rose to 130 in India's northern hilly states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, which have been ravaged by heavy floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains over the past three days.

At least 60 persons are missing while 73,000 people remain stranded in the rugged terrain, local media reports said.

The dead included five army personnel who were swept away by gushing water while trying to rescue stranded people.

Many of the stranded in Uttarakhand are believed to be pilgrims from other Indian states.

Rescue work has been hampered by the heavy rains, which have prevented rescue teams from moving heavy machinery in the difficult terrain.

The government has sent 5,000 soldiers and military helicopters to rescue marooned residents and pilgrims after homes and roads were washed away, according to media reports.

Kyodo News

Thai soldiers stretch ropes over a river in a disaster rescue drill in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on 18 June, 2013. The drill is part of a huge humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise involving 18 Asia-Pacific countries. The four-day ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise kicked off on 17 June, 2013, for the first time under the platform of the meeting of ASEAN defence ministers plus their eight Dialogue partner countries.—KYODO NEWS

Food safety watchdog blacklists 13 people, 2 eateries in Shanghai

BEIJING, 19 June—The Shanghai Food and Drug Supervision Administration has blacklisted 13 individuals and two restaurants for violating China's Food Safety Law and they are forbidden to engage in catering business any more.

It is the first time for Shanghai to publish the blacklist, which shows the determination of local authorities to fight food safety crimes. The two outlawed restaurants, Fula Hotpot Restaurant and Zhenjiang Sichuan Restaurant, used recycled soup in new hotpots served to customers. The practice is harmful to health. Their four owners are also on the blacklist.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

The Government of the Republic Of the Union Of Myanmar
Ministry of Information
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw
Invitation to open tender to construct building

1 Open tenders are invited from Myanmar entrepreneurs to construct buildings at Myanma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung).

Sr.	Location	Work name	Quantity
1.	Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung)	one-storey 120x25x12 ft 60-person-capacity RCC building with water and power supply	2 Lots
2.	Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung)	one-storey 60x30x10 ft 60-person-capacity mess hall of Brick Masonry Building with water and power supply	1 Lot
3.	Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung)	8-unit 20x10x8 ft Common WC Brick Masonry Building	1 Lot

2. The open tender forms and rules are sold out during office hours from 20-6-2013 to 19-7-2013. Open tender forms are to be submitted not later than at 16:00hr on 20-7-2013 and the tenders will be opened the same day.
3. Those wishing to submit the open tender are to pay deposit to Myanma Radio and Television for respective works and open tenders are to be submitted along with the copy of receipt. If more than one tender is submitted, deposits for the works must be paid before submitting the open tender.
4. The place where open tender document will be sold and submitted is Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon).
5. For further information about full text of the announcement, detailed rules, price of tender form and deposit, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mrtv and www.moi.gov.mm/mrtv:zg.
6. Detailed information are available at the maintenance section, Ph-067 79377 and Purchasing section, Ph 067 79135.

Myanma Radio and Television

The Government of the Republic Of the Union Of Myanmar
Ministry of Information
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw
Invitation to open tender to construct building

1. Open tenders are invited from Myanmar entrepreneurs for following construction tasks at re-transmittion stations of Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information in Hninthada, Manhero and Mongyu 105th-Mile (105 mile).

Sr.	Work name
1.	Re-transmittion Station (30' x 20' x 12') building (Brick Masonary)
2.	Generator House (10' x 10' x 9') building Brick Nogging
3.	(40'x 20' x9') two-unit staff quarters Brick Mansory
4.	(200' x 200' x 6') fencing with concrete post and barbed wire (including gate)
5.	Sinking of brick tube-well (3' x 30') in depth and repairing work of brick water tank (4'-0 x 3' -0 x3'-6")
6.	Erection of five lamp-posts for electricfication
7.	Laying 1m x 1m x 1m eight concrete foundations for tower foundation work

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Myanma Radio and Television

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.

Hot air balloons fly over the Millenium Bridge during the 7th Hot Air Balloon Festival and 2013 H1 China Hot Air Balloon Challenge in Haikou, capital of southernmost China's Hainan Province, on 18 June, 2013. 15 hot air balloons participated in the event Tuesday to to fly across the Qiongzhou Strait from the city of Haikou and reach a designated place in neighboring Guangdong Province.—XINHUA

Flooding displace over 98,000 people in S Philippines

COTABATO, (Philippines), 19 June—Flash floods brought about by tropical depression displaced nearly 98,000 people in Mindanao, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Tuesday.

Eduardo del Rosario, executive director of NDRRMC, said low lying towns in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Davao del Norte were flooded due to continuous heavy downpour caused by Tropical Depression Emong.

NDRRMC broke down the number of people affected to 335 people in Davao del Norte; 36,370 in Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and North Cotabato; and 61,947 in Maguindanao.

"So far there were no reported deaths," he said.

In the township of Braulio Dujali, Davao del Norte, the water level is high after a dam was destroyed.

The NDRRMC said its operations centre is on red alert status and has been continuously monitoring and disseminating weather advisories. Earlier, the US weather forecasters reported Tropical Depression Emong might become a strong tropical cyclone within the next 24 hours, citing the weather disturbance is likely to gain more strength as it tracks northward in the east coast of the Philippines.—*Xinhua*

A herdsman of the Owenke ethnic group rides a horse at the annual Sebin (Happiness) Festival in Owenke Autonomous Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 18 June, 2013. The Owenke ethnic group has the reputation of the "last hunting tribe in China".
XINHUA

India delivers indelible ink for Cambodian polls

PHNOM PENH, 19 June—Some 40,000 bottles of indelible ink, donated by the Indian government, were delivered to Cambodia's National Election Committee (NEC) on Wednesday for using in a general election on 28 July.

Speaking while accepting the ink from Indian Ambassador to Cambodia Dinesk k Patnaik, NEC's Chairman Im Suosdey said the ink totally cost 877,800 US dollars, and each bottle contains 70 cc.

"The Indian government always pays close attention and support for electoral process in Cambodia," he said. "The donation shows more constant solidarity, friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and India."

The indelible ink will be used to mark voters' fingers and it will be unable to be washed off for 7 to 15 days.

Cambodia is scheduled to hold a general election for the 123- seat parliament on 28 July, he said, adding that some 9.67 million Cambodians are eligible to cast their ballots.

Eight political parties will run in the election. Three major parties among those registered parties are the ruling Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen, the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party led by self-exiled leader Sam Rainsy, and the royalist Funcinpec Party headed by Princess Norodom Arun Rasmey, the youngest daughter of late King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

In the last election in 2008, the party of Prime Minister Hun Sen won 90 seats out of the 123 parliamentary seats, while the opposition totally won 29 seats, and the royalist group totally won 4 seats. Political analysts predict that Hun Sen's party will win a landslide victory in the polls next month.—*Xinhua*

Kanye West wins over critics with 'daring' new album 'Yeezus'

Recording artist Kanye West attends the NBA basketball game between Miami Heat and Los Angeles Lakers at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on 25 Dec, 2010.
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 19 June—Rapper Kanye West pushes the boundaries of hip hop with his latest album "Yeezus," using aggressive electro-dance music beats to channel his anger and win over critics, who have called the record "daring" and "ambitious."

"Yeezus," the 36-year-old rapper's seventh solo studio album, has also sped to the top of the iTunes digital music chart upon its release on Tuesday, led by the single "Black Skinhead."

The album's release coincides with the birth of West and reality star girlfriend Kim Kardashian's first child together, a baby girl born over the weekend.

But on the album the famously ironic and self-referential West avoids mentioning Kardashian and their high-profile romance, which has been heavily tracked by paparazzi and the Kardashian clan's plethora of reality shows on the E! Network.

Instead, he lets his anger out against critics, the public and "haters" on tracks such as "I Am a God," "Send It Up" and "Black Skinhead," a scathing message on modern day racism.

While West rages against the world, critics have been taken aback with the new sounds that West explores, moving away from the traditional hip hop of his earlier albums and fusing electro-dance and synthesizers with thumping beats.

"Yeezus" has so far earned a score of 87 out of 100 on review aggregator Metacritic.com.

Jon Pareles at the *New York Times* called the album "an aggressive demand for attention" while Rolling Stone's Jon Dolan said, "'Yeezus' is the darkest, most extreme music Kanye has ever cooked up, an abrasive album."

USA Today's Steve Jones called the album "daring and infectious," while the New Yorker's Sasha Frere-Jones labeled it "ambitious" and West's "most satisfyingly narcissistic record."

"Yeezus" features collaborations with French DJ duo Daft Punk — who provide beats on four songs, including "I Am God" and "Black Skinhead" — folk singer Justin Vernon from Bon Iver on "Hold My Liquor," and rappers Chief Keef, Kid Cudi and King L.—*Reuters*

Singer Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber hits photographer in Los Angeles car scrape

LOS ANGELES, 19 June—Teen pop star Justin Bieber struck a photographer with his Ferrari sports car while driving away from a comedy club in Los Angeles on Monday night, but the accident was not considered a hit-and-run, police said.

Video taken outside the Laugh Factory comedy club showed Bieber behind the wheel of his white Ferrari, surrounded by photographers as he was pulling away. Celebrity website TMZ said Bieber motioned the photographers to clear out of the way but apparently pinned one between his Ferrari and a parked car as he pulled out. He then drove away.

"It was not a hit-and-run," Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Bruce Borihanh said on Tuesday. "The investigation is ongoing."

He said the photographer's injuries were not life-threatening.

A representative for Bieber declined to comment.

Bieber is under investigation in a separate driving incident in May after his neighbours complained that he had been speeding through his gated Los Angeles-area community.

The Canadian singer has been the subject of a series of headline-grabbing incidents over the past year. German authorities seized a capuchin monkey Bieber had kept as a pet after he was unable to provide proper documentation for the animal at Munich airport. And in London, the singer scuffled with a photographer outside a hotel during a European tour.—*Reuters*

Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie stunt double sues News Corp over hacking

NEW YORK, 19 June—A stunt double for Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie has sued News Corp over allegations its British newspapers hacked her phone, the first lawsuit in the United States against the company since the scandal broke two years ago.

The lawsuit, filed on 13 June by professional stunt double Eunice Huthart, said reporters from News Corp's tabloids *The Sun* and the defunct *News of the World*, hacked her mobile phone while she was working for Jolie on location in Los Angeles.

The allegations include stories that ran in the tabloids about Jolie's budding relationship with actor Brad Pitt — when only a tight circle of people had knowledge of it — while they were filming the movie "Mr & Mrs Smith."

A spokesman for News Corp declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Huthart's lawsuit said the hacking occurred in 2004 and 2005 while she was in the United States and Britain and resulted in lost voice messages that she never received. It said the London police have a file of Huthart's phone logs demonstrating the times when representatives from *News of the World* called her mobile. The missing voice mails provided information later used in news reports, according to the court document in US District Court in California.

In one instance, Huthart was instructed to meet Jolie, who was checked into a hotel under the pseudonym "Pocahontas." Huthart said she never received the message with the code name even though Jolie's assistant said she left it for her on the phone. The lawsuit said that the tabloids intercepted messages left by Jolie regarding her movie career. It cited a News of the World article with the headline "Pitt Stop for Jolie" that began "Hollywood babe Angelina Jolie has threatened to quit the movies for good," according to the complaint. Huthart of Liverpool, England, is godmother to one of Jolie's children.—*Reuters*

SPORTS

Thiago hat-trick leads Spain to Euro Under-21 crown

JERUSALEM, 19 June— Captain Thiago Alcantara scored a first-half hat-trick to inspire Spain to a 4-2 win over Italy in the European Under-21 championship final on Tuesday.

The defending champions had little difficulty in breaking down Italy's unusually hesitant defence as Barcelona's Thiago scored with an easy header in the sixth minute, a close-range drive in the 31st and a penalty in the 38th.

Spain added the under-21 title to their collection of international crowns, the World Cup and the European Championship at senior level and the European under-19 championship.

Thiago became the first player to score a hat-trick in the final since the format was changed to a one-off match in 1994. The event began in 1976 and the first finals were held two years later.

Italy briefly lived in hope when Genoa forward Ciro Immobile chipped calmly over Spain goalkeeper David De Gea in the ninth minute to equalise at 1-1. It was the first goal the Manchester United keeper had conceded in the tournament.

Spain's Thiago Alcantara (C) holds the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after they defeated Italy to win the European Under-21 Championship final soccer match at Teddy Kollek Stadium in Jerusalem on 18 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Spain's Isco of Malaga added a fourth Spanish goal from another penalty in the 66th minute when he sent Italy goalkeeper Francesco Bardi the wrong way.

Striker Fabio Borini added a second Italian goal in the 80th minute with a powerful low strike from the edge of the area after a deft one-two with Lorenzo Insigne, but it came too late against the superior Spaniards.

Spain coach Julen Lopetegui was most pleased with the manner of his team's performances throughout the tournament.

"We are happy, not only for the victory but for the personality the team showed," he told a news conference.

"I think the players decided that individual talent without the strength of the group is wasted. I believe that was the key."

Italy coach Devis Mangia said his team lacked experience on such a big occasion.

"Perhaps the only shortcoming for my players was their lack of experience because in matches like this you need to have experience," Mangia said.

"They have less experience than the Spanish players. My players also have great qualities."

Reuters

Italy's Lorenzo Insigne (2nd L) and Spain's (2nd R) Thiago Alcantara fight for the ball during their European Under-21 Championship final soccer match at Teddy Kollek Stadium in Jerusalem on 18 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Quick visit to mum puts Li Na right

EASTBOURNE, (England) 19 June — Who can a woman turn to when everything falls apart? Her mother, of course—even if, in Li Na's case, it necessitated a 12-hour flight from Paris to China after her early exit from the French Open.

Wimbledon might not be her most successful tournament but Li says she is feeling "totally relaxed" ahead of next week's grass-court grand slam, thanks to the flying visit home.

"I had one week off, I was feeling in need of having time to myself to relax. I couldn't stress all the time, so I went back to China to see my mum and to see friends," the world number six told *Reuters* in an interview.

"I really inside myself was feeling I had to go back," added Li, who would not normally return to Wuhan until after Wimbledon.

"I really wanted to go back to see my mum."

"When I unlocked the door my mum was like: 'What are you doing here?' So I said: 'Mum, I just wanted to see you, say hi, have dinner, blah blah...'"

Li left Paris berating herself for losing in the second round to American Bethanie Mattek-Sands at a tournament where she became Asia's first grand-slam champion in 2011.

The defeat included a seven-game losing streak, and Li departed Roland Garros vowing to "talk to myself and my team to see what happened".

So what did happen? The 31-year-old shrugged as she stood in Eastbourne's sunshine.

"I was giving her the chance to play well," she said, clearly having moved on from the Paris heartbreak."—*Reuters*

Li Na of China hits a return to Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the US during their women's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 30 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Campbell-Brown could avoid maximum doping ban

KINGSTON, 19 June— Twice Olympic 200 metres champion Veronica Campbell-Brown could avoid a maximum two-year doping ban because she declared a cream containing a banned diuretic, sources close to Jamaican athletics told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

Jamaica's most successful female athlete tested positive for a diuretic, which can be used to mask the use of performance-enhancing drugs, at the International Invitational World Challenge on 4 May. The sources said the banned drug was contained in a cream which Campbell-Brown was using to treat a leg injury and which she declared on her doping control form.

They said an important factor was whether or not the banned drug appeared on the label of the cream. The World Anti-Doping Agency has a strict liability policy under which athletes are held responsible for any drug found in their body.

The Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA), which up to now has said it has not received notification of the B sample and has avoided identifying Campbell-Brown, is expected to make a statement on Tuesday. "As soon as we get notification of the B sample we will be moving to empanel a disciplinary team to carry out a speedy hearing," JAAA president Warren Blake told *Reuters.*

Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica (L) leads compatriot Anneisha McLaughlin to the finish line winning the women's 200 metres final at the Diamond League Adidas Grand Prix in New York, on 25 May, 2013. REUTERS

The 200 metres world champion and her agent Claude Bryan have yet to comment but on Saturday her high school mentor Neville Myton told Television Jamaica that the sprinter would soon speak about the doping violation.

Reuters

Venus Williams pulls out of Wimbledon

LONDON, 19 June— American Venus Williams has pulled out of this year's Wimbledon because of a back injury, the five-times singles champion said on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old has not played since pulling out of the doubles at this year's French Open.

"I will not be able to participate in Wimbledon," Williams wrote on her Facebook page. "I am extremely disappointed as I have always loved The Championships."

Williams won her last Wimbledon title in 2008. Her sister Serena is the defending champion in this year's tournament which starts on Monday.—*Reuters*

Venus Williams of the US hits a return to Urszula Radwanska of Poland during their women's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 26 May, 2013.
REUTERS

Platini praises Israel as Spain take spoils once again

JERUSALEM, 19 June— Israel came in for warm praise from European football's supremo Michel Platini as the Euro Under-21 football championships ended with Spain thrashing Italy 4-2 to retain the title. "The stadiums were wonderful and well organized, the pitches excellent and the atmosphere in the stadiums was great with many families with young children attending.

That is exactly the type of tournament that I like to see," Platini told a news conference. Spain stood out above all their opponents, winning all their matches without conceding a goal until the final and their flowing style captivated the crowds. They won a fourth title in Jerusalem, one fewer than the record held by Italy.

Israel qualified as hosts and were on paper the weakest team in the event, although they managed to beat England in a meaningless encounter and forced a draw with eventual semi-finalists Norway. It was a disappointing outing for Germany, Russia and England, who never threatened to advance to the semi-finals, while the Netherlands showed flair but were frail defensively.—*Reuters*

UEFA President Michel Platini

GENERAL

A woman carrying her son takes a look at the watermelons displayed during a watermelon festival in Fucheng County, north China's Hebei Province, on 18 June, 2013. The Fucheng County is a well-known watermelon growing area in north China, which grows 119,000 mu (about 8,000 hectares) watermelons and produces 550,000 tonnes of watermelons annually, with the annual sales volume reaching about 1 billion yuan (163.2 million US dollars).

XINHUA

Poland could postpone nuclear power programme

WARSAW, 19 June—Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Tuesday said the country's nuclear power programme could be postponed due to the increased global importance of natural gas.

According to local media reports, Tusk said the policy change had resulted from a rise in the significance of natural gas, including domestic deposits.

There were optimistic signals on the energy market forecasting a fall in natural gas prices due to shale gas extraction and a drop in the prices of CO2 emission allowances.

Tusk stressed his stance towards nuclear power had not changed, but added he would remain flexible.

The construction of Poland's first nuclear power plant was scheduled to start in 2018 with the first power unit expected to be operational at the turn of 2023 and 2024.

The state-owned Polish Energy Group (PGE) is the main contractor of the project tasked with constructing two nuclear power plants generating 3,000 MW each.—*Xinhua*

No clear signal on Paraguay's re-entry into Mercosur

MONTEVIDEO, 19 June—Paraguay's Foreign Minister Jose Felix Fernandez Estigarribia said he has yet to see a "clear signal" from the South American Common Market (Mercosur) for his country's re-entry a year after it was suspended from the trade bloc, local media reported on Tuesday.

"The member countries said the sanctions against Paraguay would last until new elections are held. Elections have been held and there has been no news," said Fernandez, referring to the presidential elections held on 21 April.

Mercosur's three other founding members, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, are "constantly changing the criteria" governing Paraguay's continued suspension, complained Fernandez.

"There is no clear signal for resolving the difficulties," he said, adding the solution "has to come from the countries that have made decisions that are not in line with international law."

Uruguay, which currently holds the six-month rotating presidency of the bloc, first announced that the next Mercosur summit, which is to be held at the end of June in Montevideo, would be delayed until after 15 August, when Paraguay's president-elect Horacio Cartes takes office.

But last week, Uruguay's Foreign Minister Luis Almagro confirmed the summit will be held on 12 July without Paraguay.

Fernandez said the fact that Venezuela will assume the pro tempore presidency of the bloc at the upcoming Montevideo summit "is not good news.

"Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay temporarily suspended Paraguay from Mercosur after the nation's conservative congress ousted leftist President Fernando Lugo in a snap impeachment widely described as a "legislative coup."

With Paraguay out of the way, the other three were free to welcome Venezuela to the bloc, a move that had been obstructed by Paraguay's congress.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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Australia, Iran and South Korea head for Brazil

ULSAN, 19 June—Australia and Iran booked their fourth World Cup finals appearances with nervous 1-0 victories in a dramatic finale to Asian qualifying on Tuesday.

South Korea joined them and Japan in qualifying for the finals after sneaking through on goal difference and Uzbekistan and Jordan retained hope of making it five Asian sides in Brazil after taking the third spots in the groups to set up a playoff.

The teams will meet over two legs in September with the winners taking on the fifth-placed side in South America in a similar playoff in November for a place at the finals.

That route was something most Australian fans were facing as their match against Iraq remained goalless with only seven minutes remaining and leading goal threat Tim Cahill having been substituted.

His replacement, though, turned out to be the saviour as Josh Kennedy, representing his country for the first time in over a year, was left free to head home a cross from the right and hand the Socceroos the win that secured a third consecutive finals appearance.

"At times you reach a phase in a game where you have to make things happen and it was about the time," Australia coach Holger Osieck told reporters after booking second place behind Japan in Group B. That time never came for South Korea but a ninth appearance will as they slipped through on goal difference despite a 1-0 home loss to Iran in Group A.

The build-up to the match had seen Korea coach Choi Kang-hee going on the offensive, stating his side would beat Iran after he claimed to have been "badly treated" in the reverse fixture in Teheran last year.

The Koreans only needed a draw to ensure another appearance at the finals but they pushed and pressed for the win with their abundance of attacking talent, only to come unstuck against an assured Iranian backline.

Iran's Reza Ghoochannejhad (L) fights for the ball with South Korea's Kim Young-gwon during their World Cup qualifying soccer match in Ulsan, southeast of Seoul on 18 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Choi had said he would step down once qualification was assured and the coach was in no doubt his reign had been poor after a number of disgruntled voices in the Ulsan crowd watched one of Asia's most talented sides stutter over the line. "I would like to express gratitude to the players who had hard times due to a bad coach," Choi said in a televised interview.

Choi had said that Uzbekistan were going to join them in qualifying but it was Iran who topped Group A, leaving Carlos Queiroz to enjoy the last laugh after the "bad manners" row.

"We were technically superior and decisive in the face of crisis," Queiroz said after the backs-to-the-wall victory.

The Uzbeks knew they had to record a four-goal win at home to Qatar and hope Iran drew with Korea to have any hope of sealing an automatic qualifying berth and a first finals appearance.

The home side dominated from start to finish against their already-eliminated opponents but found Qatar's debutant goalkeeper Ahmed Abonora in good form.

Eventually, though, the pressure told and five goals came in the final 30 minutes but Korea edged second place behind Iran courtesy of having a better goal difference by two.

"Life goes on and we will give our best to qualify for Brazil," Uzbek coach Mirjalol Kasimov said.

While they will start as favourites against Jordan they will not fancy the first leg trip to the King Abdullah Stadium where Jordan followed up home wins over Asian heavyweights Japan and Australia by beating Oman to pinch a playoff berth. Ahmad Ibrahim stooped low to score a second-half header, maintaining Jordan's unbeaten home run and denying Oman a place in the playoff.

Reuters

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Thursday, 20 June, 2013

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with senators, representatives in US

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June— Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, met with Opposition leader Senator Mitch McConnell at the Capitol Hill in Washington DC on 11 June to the US at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States of America and the US Government.

The meeting was also attended by members of the Myanmar delegation Chairmen of the committees of Pyithu Hluttaw U Thein Swe and U Hla Myint Oo, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee U Khet Htein Nan, Members of the Pyithu Hluttaw committees Dr Win Myint and Dr Myo Aung.

On 12 June, the Myanmar delegation led by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held meetings at Capitol Hill separately with Senator Ms Diane Feinstein, Senator Benjamin Cardin, Senator John McCain, Representative Joseph Crowley and Representative Jerrold Nadler.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation held talks with Ms Nancy Pelosi, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives and Senator Briam Schatz at the Capitol Hill.

Afterwards, the delegation met with Representative David Price and Representative Peter Roskam.

On 11 June morning, he also met with former US Secretary of State Ms Hillary Clinton at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington DC.

On 17 June morning, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met with Mayor of San Francisco Mr Edwin Mah Lee at Ritz Carlton Hotel there.

On 9 June morning, the Myanmar delegation held a meeting with President of the National Democratic Institue (NDI) Mr Kenneth Wallack, President of International Republican Institute (IRI) Mr Lome Craner and President of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) Mr Carl Gershman.

In the afternoon, the Speaker attended a dinner hosted by former US Congressmen Mr Jim Jones and Mr James Slattery and retired US Congresswoman Mrs Nancy Johnson, and visited the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the US Government Accounta-bility Office (GAO).

On 11 June morning, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held talks with officials of the US State Department and visited the US Congress and Library of Congress.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party visit Library of Congress of US.—MNA

In the afternoon, he also attended a meeting with the US-ASEAN Economic Council held at the US Chamber of Commerce.

On 13 June, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIC) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation at Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC.

During the dinner, the Speaker clarified the democratic reform and answered the questions raised by those present at the meeting. On 14 June morning, they visited the Google Headquarters in New York.

On 16 June, the Speaker met with Myanmar community in San Francisco.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the City Hall of San Francisco. In the evening, the delegation met with Professor Larry Diamond.

During the meeting with US senators, representatives, presidents of the institutes, advisers to the US President and Vice-Presidents, officials from US Department of State and US Chamber of Commerce, the Speaker said the visit of Myanmar delegation aimed at promoting the friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and the US and learning the democratic system and roles and tasks of the US congress.

Myanmar has transformed into the multi-party democratic system and the market-oriented system as the Tatmadaw government laid down the foundations for the systems, he said.

Myanmar needs to walk along the road of the market-oriented system and democratic system which were adopted constitutionally, he said.

He pledged that Myanmar would continue to work to achieve unity of all national races, national reconciliation, rule of law and community peace and gaining permanent peace at home.

(See page 9)

Golden Jubilee Myanma Gems Emporium continues for 5th day

Local and foreign gems merchants seen on the fifth day of Golden Jubilee Myanmar Gems Emporium at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June—The Golden Jubilee Myanmar Gems Emporium continued for the fifth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, today.

The local and foreign gems merchants visited the Jade Hall and put the tender price on record.

In the morning, the tenders for jade lots from No. 1 to No. 1800 to be sold were scrutinized and 1500 jade lots sold successfully.

A total of 60 gems lots were sold through the tender and the competitive bidding system.

Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung looked around the jade hall till 6 pm.

Daw May Pwint Thaw of Excellent Ruby & Sapphire who bought the gems most was presented gifts by Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe.

MNA

Myanmar-EU Forum
Nay Pyi Taw, 17-18 June 2013
Joint Press Release

The first Myanmar-EU Forum convened on 17-18 June 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw. It was co-chaired by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Mr David O'Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service.

A Working Group on Trade and Investment and a Working Group on Cooperation, established on the occasion of the Forum, also met and reported to plenary.

The Forum discussed ongoing cooperation and priorities for the future, focusing on the implementation of the Joint Statement by President U Thein Sein, President of European Council Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso of the 5 March 2013 on "Building a Lasting EU-Myanmar Partnership".

In that regard, the meeting discussed ways to support the transition of Myanmar and meet related challenges. It was agreed *inter alia* to establish a bilateral dialogue on human rights, and to consult in the coming months on the practical modalities for this. It was noted also that the Task Force meeting to be held in Myanmar on 14-15 November 2013 would be an excellent opportunity for a wide-ranging and productive discussion on all aspects of EU-Myanmar cooperation.

The two sides also exchanged views on political and economic developments in Myanmar and in the EU, as well as on regional and international issue.

Both sides viewed the Forum as a useful mechanism to advance bilateral relations and agreed to convene again next year in Brussels.