

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses work coord meeting of Rakhine State Peace and Stability and Development Implementation Central Committee



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses work coordination meeting of Rakhine State Peace and Stability and Development Implementation Central Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June — Central Committee on Implementation of Peace and Stability and Development in Rakhine State held its work coordination meeting No (3/2013) at the meeting hall of the President Office, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the central committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the central committee Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, secretary and committee members, the

Rakhine State chief minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

In his address, the Vice-President called on peace and stability and rule of law work committee and security, community peace and tranquility committee to maintain already-achieved peace and stability while respective tasks of other work committees are being realized to a certain extent.

He said that immigration and citizenship scrutiny work committee had experienced disturbances while its arrival of a village where its tasks was jeopardized by groups of people.

Although the citizenship scrutiny task was currently delayed, it would continue at an opportune time.

He called on temporary relocation and resettlement work committee that were supervising construction of houses and schools there to make necessary coordination with organizations concerned for timely completion of remaining works.

He acknowledged the effort of socio-economic development work committee that made coordination with the ministries concerned and state government for the resumption of livelihoods of victims.

He urged work committees to continue help victims to be able stand on their own feet. He stressed the importance of mobile team in providing health care before clinics are available, effective health measures in order to prevent against infectious diseases and adequate supply of drinking water.

He urged international cooperation work committee to take necessary measures to facilitate the works of INGOs and NGOs and try hard to bring a mutual interest.

Next, the Vice-President called on central committee members and work committee members

to make a field trip to Rakhine State and to present reports on work progress, difficulties they are facing and requirements for works to be done. He also stressed to implement the work programs.

Then, the Vice-Chairman of the central committee reported on ongoing tasks of respective work committees and work progress.

Afterwards, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin explained implementation of peace and stability and development in the state and progress of resettlement and rehabilitation works and requirements.

The Union ministers who chair the work

committees and officials concerned elaborated on work progress and follow-up tasks.

Next, Secretary of the central committee Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win made a report on progress in implementation of suggestions of the investigation commission's report.

Then, Union ministers and deputy ministers made supplementary reports on tasks of socioeconomic development, security and community peace and tranquility, education, health, agriculture and economic sectors.

The Vice-President attended to the needs and the meeting ended.

MNA

Myanmar, US ink Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—The Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement between Myanmar and the US was signed by Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek J. Mitchell at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this afternoon.

Then, Deputy Minister U Set Aung said that the agreement was a new chapter taken place between the two countries

after 1988 and the US Government will provide economic, technological and humanitarian aid to Myanmar Government. Signing the agreement will develop not only economic and technical cooperation between the two countries but also trade, investment and relations between the two peoples, he added.

US Ambassador Mr. Derek J. Mitchell said since taking office by new

Myanmar government, democracy reform processes have been obvious; adding that he believes all-inclusive sustainable development will be gained from those reforms. The signing of agreement between the two countries will assist in materializing those reforms, he said.

The agreement provides economic, technological and humanitarian assistance being implemented by Myanmar Government.—MNA

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Motherless baby elephant gets new mother



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DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of Mingala-Mandalay Central Business District Project gaining momentum

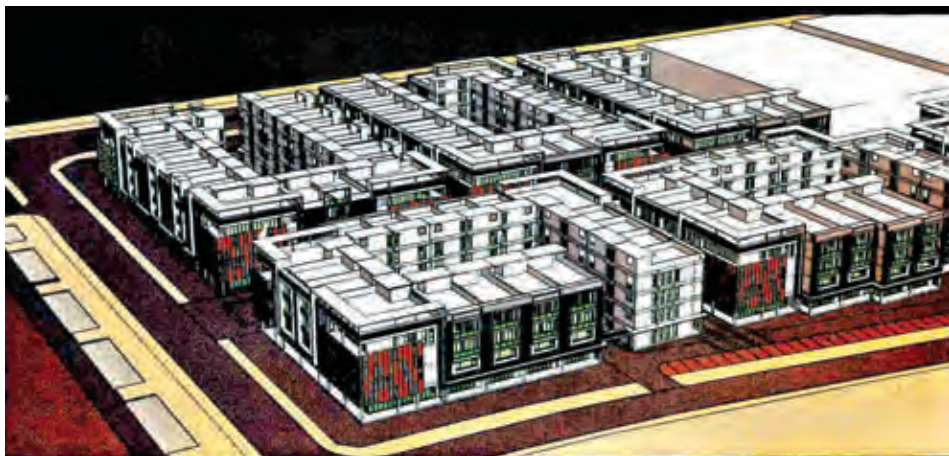


Photo shows scale model of Mingala-Mandalay Central Business District Project being implemented with international standard underground sewage system on 73rd street between Thazin street and Ngu Shwe Wah street in Mandalay.

YANGON, 27 June — According to Project Engineer Architect U Zin Min Swe, implementation of civil structure for Central Business District in front of an international stadium on 73rd street between Thazin and Ngu Shwe Wah streets in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay has been completed by 80 per cent. The Mingala-Mandalay Central Business

District Project is being implemented by local and foreign technicians and the project includes international standard underground sewage system.

Jointly-implemented by Mandalay City Development Committee and New Star Light and CAD Construction, the project started on 5 September 2012 on an area of 47 acres. The first phase of the project includes construction of a four-storey building with 125 apartments and a five-storey Oshin Super Centre with parking lots for 1000 vehicles. Moreover,

a three star hotel with 53 rooms of MCDC and MCDC Condo with 96 units are also included. Construction works are in progress with the manpower of 2000 day in, day out and it is set to complete prior to SEA Games.

It is planned to construct buildings which are completely resistance to an earthquake of 8 magnitudes on the Richter Scale with the help of foreign technicians and 12 well-experienced Myanmar engineers who came back from Singapore.

The second phase of the

project includes a housing project with 69 plots, a Mingala condo with 104 units and Novotel Hotel (Mandalay) with 365 rooms. The second phase is set to complete in early 2015. Moreover, construction of swimming pools is included in the project.

As a model project, adequate numbers of car parks, the first-ever market stall and a landscape program will be included in the project. It was learnt that first batch of shady trees and flowery plants for the landscape program had already arrived there. As an underground sewage system meeting international standard will be used in the business district, a 50-ton water treatment plant will be built. Being a cutting-edge infrastructure for Mandalay, 24-hour electricity will be available at the business district. Besides, a fire station, an administrator office and a police station will also be included. Upon completion, 5000 jobs will be created for local people as a drive to alleviate poverty.

Kyemon-Kyaw Min Thaw (Mandalay)

ACCIDENT

Hmawby middle-age man dies after being struck by vehicle

YANGON, 26 June — A 40-year-old man died after being fatally struck by a vehicle during his way to Yangon General Hospital.

While he was crossing the road at a place in front of Yegyaw bus-stop of Myaungdaka village in Hmawby Township, U Than Htoo, 45, of Hmawby Township was knocked down by the vehicle en route to Taikkyi from Yangon

driven by U Tun Min, 51, of Mayangon Township near mile post No (38/7) on Yangon-Pyay Road at about 9 am on 23 June.

The victim sustained cuts and bruises on his head, face and knee and he was pronounced dead during his way to the hospital.

Driver U Tun Min was charged with reckless driving by police.

Kyemon-31

FIRE

Stove fire reduces house to ashes in Dagon Myothit (North)



YANGON, 27 June — A fire occurred at a house at the corner of Seinta Kyaw Thu U Aw street and P Moe Hnin street in ward-48 of Dagon Myothit (North), here, at about 11.30 am yesterday.

An electric stove was blamed for the fire as it was left forgotten to turn off while boiling a kettle of water

when the electricity was off. The stove fire reduced the one-storey wooden house to ashes.

Fire crew accompanied by 11 fire trucks put out the fire. Dagon Myothit (North) Township Police filed a lawsuit against house owner Daw Khin Aye Shwe, 68.

MNA

CRIME

Transport of illegal teak, hardwood and forest products interrupted

YANGON, 27 June — While foresters are taking actions against transports of illegal teak, hardwood and forest products in Sagaing Region with might and main, forest staff of Sagaing Region Forest Department seized 83.6404 tons of ownerless illegal teak and hardwood in Shwebo, Monywa, Kalay, Katha and Tamu districts on 13.16 and 18 June.

They interrupted transport of 8.2692 tons of illegal hardwood on Kawlin-Pinlebu motorway in Wuntho Township and Ahlon forest area in Monywa

Township and arrested two drivers and three owners together with two vehicles on 13 and 18 June. They were charged with forest laws.

On 17 June, foresters of Kalay District Forest Department confiscated 15 viss of dried orchids and arrested the owner at Indaingyi village in Kalay.

Likewise, foresters of Monghsat district seized ownerless 1.0097 tons of hardwood at a place, one-mile east of Taungthonlon village in Mongpyin Township on 21 June.

Kyemon-Forest Dept

CRIME

Street brawl between driver, pedestrian leaves factory staff hurt

YANGON, 27 June — A street brawl between a driver of a ferry bus and a pedestrian left factory staff on board the bus injured in Shwepyitha Township. It was learnt that the driver of the ferry bus had a quarrel with the pedestrian who crossed the road at the top of the 3rd street in ward-9 in the township at about 7.30 am on 21 June and he got into a fight with the pedestrian. Shortly after he drove off, a mob ran after the bus and threw sticks and stones at the bus. The incident left a bus conductor and five factory staff—four men and one woman—injured.

“When the driver drove off, a group of nearly 20 people appeared behind the bus and ran after it,” says Ko Kyi Tun who was in a seat next to the driver. The injured were given treatment at Shwepyitha and Insein hospital and Shwepyitha police station is investigating into the case.

Kyemon-Htin Paw Win (Kamaryut)

Artifacts assumed to be from Pyu era unearthed in Paung Township



PAUNG, 27 June — Ancient artifacts—silver coils and gold and silver bracelets—were unearthed in a field near Kadonsi ward in Paung Township of Mon State.

Maung Aung San Oo and Maung Tun Aye, sons of U Maung Kyaing at Kannar sector in Kadonsi ward of the township, discovered an earthen pot while they were transplanting paddy in a field

of Daw Yay at about at about 3 pm on 25 June. They found 32 silver coils with letters which are similar to characters in Pyu era, weighing one viss and 20 tical, a silver bracelet and a golden bracelet which is two inches in diameter, weighing over 10 tical in the earthen pot. They then handed over the unearthed ancient artifacts to the Kadonsi ward administrator who sent them to Paung Township

Administrator's Office.

After a thorough examination of Administrator U Myint Naing and experts, they commented that the unearthed ancient artifacts are believed to be from Pyu era and sent them to Archaeological Department in Mawlamyine of Mon State in order to assess the time and standard the ancient works.

Kyemon-569

ODD NEWS

WORLD

Abe says overcoming deflation not easy, victory in July polls vital

TOKYO, 27 June—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday pledged to devote the next three years to pulling the Japanese economy out of decades of deflation, and said winning next month's national election is vital to take control of the opposition-dominated upper house to follow through on his policy prescriptions.

"It's not an easy task for a country to overcome 15 years of deflation...I'd say it's a historic task," Abe said at a Press conference.

"For the next three years, I'll concentrate on that (overcoming deflation) by ensuring political stability," Abe said, adding that the economy has surely improved but "the hard part" lies ahead.

Abe was speaking after the opposition-controlled upper house passed a last-minute censure motion against him on the final day of the first Diet session since he took office in late December. Political parties are gearing up for the cru-



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe holds a Press conference at his office in Tokyo on 26 June, 2013, the final day of his first Diet session since taking office in late December.—KYODO NEWS

cial House of Councillors election, which is expected on 21 July.

The prime minister said ending the so-called "divided Diet" would help accelerate economic growth. The ruling coalition's landslide victory in last Sunday's Tokyo metropolitan assembly election came as a vote of confidence as the ruling bloc aims to secure an overall majority in the upper house.

Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party secured a majority in the House of Representatives in a general election last December. But they need to rely on opposition support to pass legislation in the House of Councillors.

His relatively high support stemmed primarily from public expectations over his economic policies dubbed "Abenomics" that comprise the "three arrows" of massive fiscal stimulus, bold monetary easing and a growth strategy.

Abe, known for his hawkish stance both at home and abroad, has expressed his desire to revise the Constitution that currently bans exercising the right to collective self-defence.

But he has apparently toned down his rhetoric on such controversial issues and is trying to play it safe heading into July as he called for a much deeper and broader national debate on Wednesday.

Kyodo News

UN chemical weapons team in Turkey to investigate Syria claims

AMSTERDAM/ANKARA, 27 June—UN-appointed inspectors, blocked from entering Syria, are in Turkey to gather information about possible use of chemical weapons in the civil war, officials said on Thursday.

Members of the team assembled by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had been on standby in Cyprus since April, unable to enter Syria as Western governments accused President Bashar al-Assad's forces of chemical weapons attacks.

They were sent to Turkey this week and its head, Swedish scientist Ake Sellstrom, was meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Thursday, a senior Turkish official told Reuters.

The Syrian government and rebels fighting it have accused each other of using lethal chemical agents, including sarin gas, in the two-year-old conflict.

More than 100,000 people have been killed since fighting began in

March 2011 in what is the longest and most violent of the recent Arab uprisings, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Western governments have grown frustrated that the UN mission has been unable to make progress on

interview or take blood samples from witnesses or victims of alleged attacks.

"As he cannot travel to Syria, Sellstrom visits countries like Turkey, France and Britain that have some information about possible use of chemical weapons in Syria," said the Turkish of-



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad walk in Khan al-Assal area near the northern city of Aleppo, on 23 March, 2013.—REUTERS

investigating the claims, a diplomat told Reuters.

From Turkey, the team will be unable to gather soil samples or scientific evidence needed to prove chemical use, but could compile intelligence and

official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sellstrom visited the Turkey-Syria border area and talked to officials who shared data on chemical weapons use, he said.

Reuters

Rotting corpses spark fears of epidemic amid India floods

NEW DELHI, 27 June—Rotting corpses contaminating water sources and poor sanitation amid devastating floods in northern India could lead to a serious outbreak of diseases such as cholera and dysentery, aid groups warned on Wednesday.

The floods, triggered by heavy monsoon rains more than 10 days ago, have killed at least 822 people in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand and forced tens of thousands from their homes. Officials say the death toll may cross 1,000 and thousands are still reported missing.

Authorities have so far been focusing on rescuing thousands of pilgrims who visit the region for its sacred Hindu temples and shrines,

but aid agencies, struggling to get past roads choked by landslides to local villagers, warned of another disaster unfolding in form of an outbreak of diseases.

Aid workers said they were concerned that a combination of heavy rains and corpses lying out in the open would contaminate streams and rivers.

"We are getting reports from the field that there are rotting bodies lying around, many of them semi-buried in soil and rubble that came down from the mountains," said Zubin Zaman, Humanitarian Manager for Oxfam India, which is working in Rudrapur, one of the worst affected districts.

"There are also carcasses of livestock in rivers and streams and this has,

of course, contaminated so many of their water sources. But people are desperate and are being forced to consume water they wouldn't otherwise."

Zaman said he was concerned of outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery, adding that he had received reports that 400 people were admitted to a medical camp in Sonprayag.

The disaster — the worst floods India has witnessed since 2008 when around 500 died in the eastern state of Bihar — has swept away buildings, washed away farmland and destroyed major roads and bridges.

The floods and landslides have been dubbed a "Himalayan tsunami" by the



Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel search for flood victims in a damaged house in Uttarkashi in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand in this handout photo released on 26 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Indian media due to the torrents of water unleashed in the hilly region, which sent

mud crashing down, burying homes and other buildings.—Reuters

ROK president arrives in Beijing for visit

BEIJING, 27 June—Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye arrived in Beijing on Thursday morning, kicking off her first state visit to China since taking office in February.

During her four-day tour, Park will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who invited her to visit China, and meet with Chinese Premier Li

Keqiang and top legislator Zhang Dejiang.

The two sides will exchange views on bilateral ties and major international and regional issues of common concern, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Besides Beijing, Park will visit Xi'an, capital city of Shaanxi Province in western China.—Xinhua

Syria death toll tops 100,000, rebels lose border town

BEIRUT, 27 June—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces have retaken a town on the Lebanese border as they press an offensive against rebels in a conflict that has now cost more than 100,000 lives, activists said on Wednesday.

The army took full control of Tel Kalakh, driving out insurgents and ending an unofficial truce under which it had allowed a small rebel presence to remain for several months.

The fall of Tel Kalakh, two miles from the border with Lebanon, marks another gain for Assad after the capture of the rebel stronghold of Qusair this month, and consolidates his control around the central city of Homs, which links Damascus to his Alawite heartland overlooking the Mediterranean coast. Like Qusair, Tel Kalakh was used by rebels in the early stages of the conflict as a transit point for weapons and fighters smuggled into Syria to join the fight against Assad.—Reuters



South Korean President Park Geun-hye embarks a plane at an airport in Seongnam, South Korea, on 27 June, 2013. Park Geun-hye flew to China on Thursday for a four-day visit.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BSNL restores 272 mobile towers, 44 telephone exchanges in Uttarakhand

MUMBAI, 27 June—State-run telecom operator BSNL has restored 272 mobile towers in Uttarakhand and 44 telephone exchanges, CMD RK Upadhyay said on Wednesday.

The company, however, could not restore telecom infrastructure at three locations, Dharchula, Narayan Bazar and Kedarnath where all equipments of the company were washed away in the devastating floods, he added. The BSNL chief said technology makes it possible for authorities to find out the exact number of people in the affected areas based on their

mobile phone usage.

"It is technically possible to know how many customers were there (during the calamity) in that area at a particular time. That can be done," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director RK Upadhyay said. When asked if BSNL tried to find out the number of its customers who could have been hit by floods, the BSNL CMD said: "This is for government to consider. As a licencing authority, the government can task any operator to do that."

Technical systems of each operator is independent and BSNL can find out about

it customers." The death toll has crossed over 800 due to unprecedented flash floods in Uttarakhand and initially over 70,000 pilgrims were estimated to be stranded in affected area. As on date 8,000 people are still estimated to be stranded in flood area.

Upadhyay that over 1,250 people used BSNL's mobile tracking service, accessible through helpline number 1503 and 09412024365, to know last location of their friends and relatives using BSNL mobile connection in flood-hit areas.—PTI



BSNL

China plans to launch Tiangong-2 space lab around 2015: official

BEIJING, 27 June—China will continue to carry out development and construction of space lab and plans to launch *Tiangong-2* space lab around 2015, an aerospace official said on Wednesday.

This is in line with China's overall outline and plan for the country's manned space programme, Wang Zhaoyao, director of China's manned space programme office, told a Press conference after the reentry module of the *Shenzhou-10* spacecraft landed after a 15-day mission.

Wang said the engineering work of a manned space station is carried out simultaneously according to the plan, and China plans to put in orbit an experimental core module of space station around 2018.

By 2020, China's manned space station would be built, he added.

Prior to that, China will launch a series of cargo and manned spacecraft to deliver material supplies and transport astronauts to the future space lab and space station, Wang said.—Xinhua



LONDON, 27 June—A British team has set a new world record after its lightweight electric powered car touched the top speed of 328.6 km per hour.

Drayson Racing Technologies broke the world land speed record for a lightweight electric car as its Lola B12 69/EV vehicle surpassed the previous top speed of 281.6kph at a Royal Air Force base in Yorkshire.

The company's chief executive Lord Drayson, who was behind the wheel, said the achievement was designed to highlight electronic vehicle

technology's potential.

The previous 281.6kph record was set by Battery Box General electric in 1974, the 'BBC News' reported.

"What it, I hope, shows to people is just what the future potential of electric cars is," Lord Drayson said shortly after his record-breaking time was confirmed.

"It is a pointer to the future the technology that we developed for this car will filter down to the cars we use every day," he said.

In order to qualify for an attempt on the Federation Internationale

de l'Automobile's (FIA) world electric land speed record, the team had to make its vehicle weigh less than 1,000kg without the driver.

To do this it adapted a Le Mans Series car it had previously designed which originally had a bio-ethanol fuel engine and replaced the part with a lightweight 20 kilowatt hour battery offering 850 horsepower.

The team also adapted the vehicle's chassis, which is made out of recycled carbon fibre, to minimize air friction.

PTI

Airtel ties up with Google to offer free search, Google+ and Gmail services

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 June—Bharti Airtel on Wednesday said it has partnered with Google to launch a service 'Free Zone', wherein subscribers will be able to access Google services such as Gmail, Google+ and Google search on their mobile phones without any data cost. The users, however, have to pay for advanced services such as attachment downloads, the company said in a statement.

"Free Zone powered by Google, will give Airtel mobile customers access to mobile web search and feature phone friendly versions of Gmail and Google+ in India. The first page of a website linked from search results is provided at no data cost," Airtel said. The company added when users leave the Free Zone to navigate deeper into a website or download an attachment they are informed about the data charges and given the option to purchase an appropriate data package.

"In this market, where feature phones predominate, our association with Google to bring Free Zone to India will encourage millions of users to discover the power of mobile Internet for the very first time and leverage the amazing world of information search, email and social collaboration at no incremental cost," Bharti Airtel Chief Marketing Officer (Consumer Business) N Rajaram said. Users can have unlimited access to Gmail from their mobile browser but if they click on a link or attachment within the email they are directed to a

page where they can purchase a data package. In the same way, subscribers can search Internet and access the first page of websites from the results for free.

If they click further into a website after that, they are directed to a page where they can purchase a data package, it added. "The mobile Internet user base is growing really fast in India. We hope this initiative will encourage more Indians to experience the value of the Internet and gain from it," Google India VP and Managing Director Rajan Anandan said.—PTI



Acer Iconia W3 tablet with 8.1-inch screen, Windows 8 launched for Rs 30,499

TAIPEI, 27 June—Acer Iconia W3, the first Windows 8 tablet in the world with a 8.1-inch screen, has made its India debut, a few weeks after it was launched at Computex.

Acer Iconia W3 is powered by a 1.8GHz dual-core Intel Atom Z2760 processor and is rated at 8 hours of 720p video playback a single charge. The tablet comes with a 1280x800 pixels LED-backlit display with ten-point multi-touch.

It comes with 2-megapixel front and rear cameras and connectivity options include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, Micro-USB and Micro-HDMI.

The device weighs 540 grams and is 11.35mm thick. With storage options of

32GB and 64GB, the device also includes a microSD card slot that will allow up to 32GB of external storage.

The Acer Iconia W3 comes with a pre-installed copy of Microsoft Office Home & Student 2013 on

top of Microsoft Windows 8.

Acer Iconia W3 comes with an optional full-size Bluetooth keyboard that is also capable of holding the tablet upright from typing and doubles up as a screen-protector/cover for the tablet when not in use. Acer Iconia W3 will be available for Rs 30,499 for the 32GB variant, though the company is offering the tablet for Rs 27,999 "for a limited time."

PTI



Samsung to launch three new Galaxy Tab 3 tablets

BEIJING, 27 June—Samsung has announced the launch dates and prices for three new Galaxy Tab 3 tablets: in 7, 8 and 10.1-inch screen sizes. All three tablets will start arriving in the US on 7 July, with Samsung starting to accept pre-orders on Tuesday. The models sold in the US will be Wi-Fi-only, with no cellular capability.

The specs vary a lot. The 7-inch, priced at 199 dollars, has a 1.2-GHz dual-core Marvell processor, a 1,024-by-600 screen and Android 4.1. There's a 3-megapixel camera on the back and a

1.3-megapixel camera on the front. The 8-inch model, priced at 299 US dollars, steps up to Android 4.2 and uses a more mainstream 1.5-GHz Samsung Exynos dual-core processor.

This unit has a 1,280-by-800 screen, a 5-megapixel rear camera and a 1.3-megapixel front camera, along with 16GB of storage.

The Galaxy Tab 3 10.1 model, priced at 399 dollars, uses a 1.6-GHz Intel Atom Z2560 "Clover Trail+" processor, and it'll be the first Intel Android device released in the US.—Xinhua

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours Red Square



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit Red Square.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June— Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with embassy staff and their families and scholars from Tatmadaw at Myanmar Embassy in Russia on 25 June evening.

In meeting with them,

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged the scholars to intensively pursue further studies in order to make the most of it.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented cash assistance to the scholars and warm coats to the embassy staff and the scholars.

After having the dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador and wife, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looked around the Lenin's Tomb, memorial to fallen hero and other buildings in Red Square at 9 pm LST.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits KBP Instrument Design Bureau in Tyla

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June— The Myanmar delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday visited KBP Instrument Design Bureau

in Tyla 193 kilometers south of Moscow.

There, the deputy chief engineer of Bureau reported to the Senior General on the history of Bureau and its products through projector.

Then, the Senior General and party looked round the products displayed inside the hall, and enjoyed the luncheon hosted by KBP Instrument Design Bureau.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party view round products of KBP Instrument Design Bureau.—MNA

Press release about granting telecommunications...

(from page 16)

open to competition all local and foreign private businessmen and consumers' choice is being set up in a transparent manner according to existing laws.

5. The selection process of qualified telecommunications operators is in compliance with such existing laws as State-owned Business Law (Section 3 (f) of Law No. 9/89 of State Law and Order Restoration Council. Following work processes are being undertaken to be in compliance with law and ensure transparency:

(a) Works are being done in consultation with experienced Roland Berger Strategy Consultant Ltd on a contract in preparing, inviting and scrutinizing tender to select telecommunications operators in line with Section 4 of the State-owned Business Law;

(b) Communications Consultancy Selection Committee was formed to work in coordination with the potential communications consultancy in line with the Section 8.

(c) Telecommunication operator tender selection was formed as an independent committee with respectful, qualified and experienced persons who are assigned with specific duties to invite tender from local and foreign companies. This process has been systematically publicized and scrutinized and pre-qualifiers selected.

6. Moreover, telecommunications operator job, a form of telecommunications network service, not a restricted business model under the provision of Section 4 of Foreign Investment Law but business model allowed operating under specific circumstance according to Notification No. 1/2013 issued by Myanmar Investment Commission on 31-1-2013.

7. Twelve out of 91 bidders were selected tentatively in a transparent manner. To select the two, local

or foreign operators for final, related information will be put forward to the cabinet meeting which will give guidance in issuing license according to the law. The reason behind the preference of foreign operator is to promote foreign investment and import technologies from them.

8. Furthermore, it is planned to grant license to two local operators—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Myanma Economic Corporation as a joint venture and the other Yatanarpon Teleport Co which will reshape itself as a public company. In reconstituting Yatanarpon Teleport Co as a public company, 85 companies concerned were invited and discussions were made transparently to enable local companies to buy shares.

9. Therefore, I sent a message explaining issuing of telecommunications operator license aimed at technological advancement and serving the interests of the nation and its citizens.

5. Although the message has been sent for understanding, a representative forwarded a motion at the seventh day session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw regular meeting held on 26-6-2013 saying that the communication bill was under discussion and it still could not be passed, that if operator licenses are granted to two foreign companies in the absence of the communication law, local companies could suffer much, that as local companies are unable to compete with their foreign counterparts, they would find it difficult to stand as business institutions, that the granting of licenses without proper communication law could result in difficult and complicated matters, that steps should be taken to complete the passing of the law as soon as possible, and that therefore the granting of license needs to be currently suspended. The motion was seconded by the Hluttaw representatives no objection.

6. The President sent a message dated 27-6-2013 with letter No. 107 (2)/8/President Office to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, clarifying the efforts of the government in

the granting of operator licenses to local and foreign companies in accordance with the existing laws, rules and regulations and in a transparent manner. The full text of the message is as follows:-

"1. A Hluttaw representative forwarded a motion at the seventh day session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw regular meeting held on 26-6-2013 saying that the communication bill was under discussion and it still could not be passed, that if operator licenses are granted to two foreign companies in the absence of the communication law, local companies could suffer much, that as local companies are unable to compete with their foreign counterparts, they would find it difficult to stand as business institutions, that the granting of licenses without proper communication law could result in difficult and complicated matters, that steps should be taken to complete the passing of the law as soon as possible, and that therefore the granting of license needs to be currently suspended. And it was found that the motion was seconded by the Hluttaw representatives no objection.

2. Only when there is ICT development, will Myanmar be able to communicate with other nations for ensuring economic development, thereby fulfilling the need in communications development for the people. Currently, there are 7.08 per cent telephone subscribers of the population. That's why, measures are being taken to increase the density of telephone subscribers to 22.8 per cent in 2013-2014 fiscal year, to 50 per cent in 2014-2015 fiscal year and to 75-80 per cent in 2015-2016 fiscal year.

3. The reference (2) of the message disclosed that as national economic development calls for ICT development, steps are being taken phase by phase for ICT development under the State enterprises law (Law No. 9/89 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council) and Order 1/2013 issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission under the Foreign Investment Law on 31-1-2013.

(See page 6)

NATIONAL

Telecommunications Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee issues press release

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Telecommunications Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee issued a press release dated 27 June 2013. The following is the full text of the press release:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telecommunications Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee

Nay Pyi Taw

Press Release

Telenor Mobile Communications and Ooredoo selected as Successful Applicants in the Nationwide Telecommunications Licence Award Process

Date: June 27, 2013

The Telecommunications Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee, with the approval of the Union Government, is pleased to announce that Telenor Mobile Communications and Ooredoo have been selected as the two successful applicants in the Nationwide Telecommunications Licence Award Process. A consortium consisting of France Telecom-Orange and Marubeni Corporation was named the back-up applicant in the event one of the two successful applicants does not fulfill the post-selection requirements contained in the Invitation to Tender previously issued by the Committee.

Based on the recommendation of the Independent Selection Committee, which was supported by a technical team of international experts, the Union Government will now enter the process of finalising the granting of the two Nationwide Telecommunications Licences and Associated Spectrum Licences to the two successful applicants.

Before they can receive the licences, the two successful applicants must fulfill a set of post-selection requirements. These include accepting the licences, which are expected to be awarded to the two successful applicants pursuant to the new Telecommunications Law which the Parliament is expected to adopt in the current session.

Licence Award Process

The selection of Telenor and Ooredoo marks a significant step in a process that began in late 2012, when the Union Government established an independent committee, the Telecommunications Operator Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee, which was charged with conducting an objective and transparent process to select the operators to whom the licences will be awarded.

The Committee first invited interested parties to submit Expressions of Interest. This stage was completed on February 8, 2013, with 91 EOs received. The Committee next invited interested parties to submit “pre-qualification” applications, in which the applicants needed to demonstrate that they met objective requirements designed to show

that they are qualified to deploy a nationwide public telecommunications network in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On April 11, 2013, the Committee announced that 12 of the 22 applicants had been “pre-qualified” and invited them to respond to an Invitation to Tender (ITT). Applicants were required to provide both a technical submission and a separate spectrum licence fee offer.

On June 4, 2013, eleven of the pre-qualified applicants submitted responses to the ITT. The Committee disqualified one applicant because its proposed coverage commitments fell short of the minimum requirements contained in the ITT.

The Committee then assessed the ten remaining applicant’s technical submission. Applicants were eligible to receive up to 1,000 points, allocated among the following eight categories:

- (1) Network roll-out, infrastructure and coverage commitment (325 points);
- (2) Robustness of technical plan (125 points);
- (3) Quality of marketing plan, value added services and distribution commitment (125 points);
- (4) Tariff commitment for mobile voice services, for mobile data services and for handsets (75 points);
- (5) Human resources management, organization and capabilities, including the applicant’s commitment to recruit, develop and promote citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (75 points);
- (6) Quality of customer care and billing plan (50 points);
- (7) Corporate Social Responsibility, including the commitment of the applicant to contribute to the development of ICT or the local inclusion development plan

argued at the sessions of the Hluttaw being held at that time.

6. It was local companies and experienced foreign companies that competed for the operator licences. At present, the government which took systematic measures for ensuring transparency is held high regard by local and foreign companies. Meanwhile, the enterprise has turned out to be a phenomenon in the eyes of the international community. If the choosing of tender is suspended under the remonstrations included in the above-mentioned para-1 of the Pyithu Hluttaw, this will greatly tarnish the image of the nation whose economy is making much progress and harm the national development. Consequently, foreign investment in the country can be backward.

7. As the government asked the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to implement the process in accordance with the law, rules and regulations, the ministry undertook the activities as follows:-

- (a) The process was implemented in a proper way in line with the law, rules and regulations in the framework of the ministry’s administrative authority
- (b) As the fulfillment of people’s wishes with

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Mr Hu Wei Hsin, Chairman of China-Myanmar Economic and Cultural Exchange Association at the meeting hall No.1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, this evening.

had a cordial discussion on further strengthening relations between the two countries and economic and culture matters. Also present at the call together with the deputy speaker were Pyithu Hluttaw Committee members and officials of the Hluttaw office.

At the meeting, they

MNA

- (50 points); and
(8) Soundness of business plan and financing strategy (175 points).

The Committee used a comparative methodology and compared each of the applications on approximately 200 separate criteria.

As provided in the ITT, the Committee opened the spectrum licence fee offers of the five applicants whose technical submission received a score of at least 500 points. The Committee awarded an additional 500 points to the applicant with the highest spectrum licence fee offer, and a proportionate number of points to each of the other remaining applicants based on the amount of their offers. The Committee then added those applicants’ technical and financial scores. The two applicants with the highest total score were designated as successful applicants. The applicant with the third highest total score was designated as the back-up applicant.

The Committee submitted its assessment to the Union Government, who directed that the two successful applicants be designated subject to their compliance with the post-selection requirements.

Coverage and service commitments

Each successful applicant has made binding commitments regarding the launch and roll-out of its service with stringent quality of services commitments. These requirements exceed the minimum requirements set in the ITT (e.g., a minimum of 75% geographic coverage for each region and state for voice 5 years after the effective licence date). The two licences also have committed to offer a wide range of services to the public at affordable prices in both urban and rural areas.

If the licences do not meet their coverage and quality of service commitments in any of the first five years, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology will have the right to exercise a performance bond.

cheap telephones was beyond the budget of the government, extended efforts were thus made to do so in a short period in cooperation with local and foreign companies

(c) The government was taking every possible measure over the suggestions of the respective Hluttaws that to restrict the State sector and promote the private sector in order to reduce a budget deficit and to fulfill the people’s wishes through the administrative sector

(d) The process was implemented according to the international rules and regulations

(e) The process was made public not only to the people but also to the international community

8. This being the case, the message had been sent over the process of granting communication operator licenses according to the original program for understanding.

7. Therefore, the government has issued a statement to make public the granting of the operator licenses in accordance with the existing laws, rules and regulations and in a transparent manner to the people and international community with the aim of ensuring development of economy and communication sector of the State.

Information Team

Press release about granting telecommunications...

(from page 5)

4. In doing so, steps had been taken since July 2012 in order to ensure a fair competition and transparency among the people. In inviting tender for operator licenses, Roland Berger Strategy Consultant Ltd had been chosen among 64 companies as International Consultancy in order to be able to adopt the tender rules and regulations of the international standard, and seek its advice.

5. Moreover, the Telecommunication Operator Tender Scrutiny Committee has been formed with qualified, experienced and sensible personalities as an independent committee and duties were assigned to it in order to choose the right companies in accord with the tender rules and regulations adopted by Roland Berge Strategy Consultant Ltd. When tender was invited on 15-1-2013, altogether 91 local and foreign companies presented their applications. To ensure a fair completion and transparency, tender invitation was made public through newspapers, TV and Internet website in advance and explained to media. Although the process had been made in a systematic manner, it was not put forwarded and

LOCAL NEWS

RULE OF LAW

Shwedwington police meet townselders



NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Shwedwington police station in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 23 June met townselders and the village-tract administrator at the police station.

The meeting was attended by acting commander of Zeyathiri Township Police Force Police Maj Than Win, commander of the police station Police Captain Kyaw Nu, Police Sub-Inspector Kyaw Zeya

The township police force commander called for cooperation of the townselders in security, measures against rumours, gambling and crimes. The police station commander and Police Sub-Inspector Kyaw Zeya briefed them on crimes in the area.

The townselders and the officials then discussed difficulties of the area and measures to crack down crimes.

MMAL-Kyaw Thu Win (Myanma Alinn)

MCDC donates vehicle to traffic police

MANDALAY, 27 June—Mandalay City Development Affairs Committee donated an Extra 9 AB vehicle to traffic police corps on 24 June.

The donation ceremony at the committee office was attended by Mandalay Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Moun, the committee secretary, the joint secretary, executives, the Commander of Mandalay Region Police Force Police, traffic police officers and guests.

The MCs elaborated on purpose of donation.

The mayor then handed over documents related to the vehicle to a traffic police officer who spoke words of thanks.

The donation is second of its kind by MCDC to Mandalay Region Traffic Police Corps.

MCDC donated a Land Rover to the traffic police for traffic rules enforcement works.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Mandalay police charges four with illegal recruitment

MANDALAY, 27 June—Mandalay Region anti-human trafficking squad detained four suspects for recruiting workers for footwear factories in Yunnan Province of China on 18 June.

Thet Naing Oo and three others are suspected by the police of working for agents in China to recruit in Myitkan, Salay and

Gwebin villages in Madaya Township to work in the factories in Yunnan.

The recruitment started since 19 February, 2012.

The police has filed a lawsuit against Thet Naing Oo, Zaw Oo, Soe Khaing and Hein Ko. None of them is licensed agents.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Tatkon police seek advice from townselders



TATKON, 27 June—Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Police Force consulted with townselders in the township on control against crimes at the office of the township police commander on 23 June.

Commander of

Township Police Force Police Maj Win Tin elaborated on conditions of gambling and other crimes in the township.

The townselders then gave advices.

MMAL-021

Sitagu Sayadaw pays fines for Myanmar workers

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Ven Dr Nanissara, one of the most reverend monks in Myanmar, paid fines for Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia who found it difficult to pay enough fine to return to their home land in fear of violence in Malaysia.

The founder of Sitagu Buddhist Academy paid fines for 100 workers on behalf of Sitagu Missionary Group.

“Sayadaw arrived in Malaysia on 24 June and paid fine of 40000 ringgits for 100 troubled Myanmar workers, 400 for each. He also helped Myanmar workers who couldn’t reach Myanmar embassy,”

secretary of the group U Han said.

The most influential monk in Myanmar formed a Sitagu support group in Malaysia to help Myanmar migrant workers there.

Ayeyawady Foundation established by Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw also offered 100 free flight tickets to those workers.

The foundation also arranged a shuttle bus to the airport.

The foundation and Ayeyawady volunteers group (Malaysia) are also working to helping out Myanmar workers there.

MMAL-Khin Yadana

HEALTH

Free traditional medical care provided to villagers in Patheingyi Tsp



PATHEINGYI, 27 June—Free traditional medical care was provided to villagers in Mya Kan Tha model village in Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region on 24 June.

The traditional medicines team provided treatment to diabetes and orthopaedic patients.

The team was formed with Head of Mandalay

Region Traditional Medicine Department U Ohn Swe Myint, District Department Head Daw Than Oo, Township Department Head U Thit Lwin, township executives and volunteers.

The team will continue to provide free healthcare to residents in the township.

MMAL-Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

Pyay erects billboard to hail Myanmar Women's Day



PYAY, 27 June—A billboard commemorating Myanmar Women’s Day was erected in Pyay Township in Bago Region on 21 June.

The ceremony was attended by Pyay District and Township Women’s Affairs Organization executives and members.

MMAL-105

MMCWA CECs meet Bago volunteers



BAGO, 27 June—The chairperson, the secretary and CEC members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association met township MMCWA members at Bago General Hospital on 19 June morning.

Secretary Daw Thazin Nwe reviewed 27 projects in Bago Township with volunteers.

The CEC members visited the delivery room and Hinthagon Kindergarten and attended to the needs.—MMAL-121

Beware of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 June, 2013

Customer protection

In economics, a market is where buyers and sellers come together to engage in business. Sellers seek money from sales and consumers wish to buy something they want or need. The situation suits both parties, as long as they both gain from the exchange. Buyers want to buy products at the best price possible. However, in order to stay in business, retailers must ensure that they make a profit by selling products at a price which covers all costs and provides a profit for risk taking and future development.

Costs include the price at which the product was purchased, staff costs, store operation costs, delivery and other overheads. Buyers have a right to expect that the goods are safe, properly described, priced correctly and will continue to work for a reasonable period of time. Reputable companies should recognise that the customer has the right to expect these things as a basic minimum. However, in a totally open uncontrolled market, rogue traders could misdescribe products deliberately, sell damaged, unsafe or unfit products to customers who would have no redress.

There are many other laws which control credit, the sale of age restricted products (e.g. DVDs and videos) and specific laws relating to different sectors of the economy e.g. food, alcohol and medicines. In order to control the market, the government has enforced laws giving customers rights about the quality of the goods they buy. It has created criminal offences if sellers mis-describe, charge the wrong price or sell unsafe products. It needs to protect customer rights in line with the customer protection law.

All National Races Democracy Party (Kayah State) applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registration as a political party. All National Races Democracy Party (Kayah State) applied for registration as a political party to the UEC today.

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Complaint Mechanism opened in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June— The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security today opened a Complaint Mechanism (Nay Pyi Taw) at Nay Pyi Taw Office No (51) in order to handle people-centered services of the ministry, job opportunities at home and abroad, rights and responsibilities for employees and employers and matters related to migrant workers in foreign countries.

Those wishing to make a complaint concerning the above matters may dial 067-430184 or 067-430284, and visit complaint.moles@gmail.com.

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NATIONAL

Outstanding matriculation students in Nay Pyi Taw honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—A ceremony to honour our outstanding matriculation students was held at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Township General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday, with an address by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

He called for cooperation between students, parents and teachers for achieving educational goal.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint explained educational matters. After that, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and officials presented awards to outstanding students and teachers.

On behalf of students, a student spoke words of thanks. Afterwards, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye reported educational matters. The meeting came to an end with a concluding speech by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann presents cash assistance to an outstanding student.—MNA

It was also attended by Wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Daw Khin Lay Thet, Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee Dr Chan Nyein, Chairman of International Relations

Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Win Thein from Camp Commandant's Office under the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commandant of National Defence Collage Maj-Gen Tin Aung Chit, Nay Pyi Taw Council

members Dr Paing Soe and U Kan Chun, Secretary of Education Promotion Committee Dr Mya Oo, member of Legal Affairs and Special Case Assessment Commission U Khin Maung Tun and parents of outstanding students.

MNA

Public announcement for remonstrations

1. All National Races Democracy Party headquartered at Na/101 on Thiridaw Street in Naunggyar (Ka) Ward in Loikaw Township of Kayah State on 27-6-2013 submitted its application to register as a political party under the Article-5 of Political Parties Registration Law. In its application, it is mentioned that the party will use its name, flag and

seal described hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

Flag of All National Races Democracy Party



Seal of All National Races Democracy Party



Union Election Commission

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointments
1. U Maung Maung Deputy Director-General Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Monetary Supervisory Department Central Bank of Myanmar
2. U Ye Myint Deputy Director-General Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Planning and Monetary Department Central Bank of Myanmar
3. Dr Daw Sandar Oo Pro Rector Institute of Economics (Yangon)	Director-General Monetary Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar

Four teams visit Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—The 21-member delegation led by Karee Knudsen, Director of External Affairs, East-West Center of the USA, the eight members of Open Hands Media, the seven members of 1972 Botany Graduates Team and the two members of Vriens & Partners observed seventh regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw that continued its third day session this morning.

They viewed round the Hluttaw Buildings and left there.

MNA

NATIONAL

Suspending of telecom licenses could lose trust of foreign investors, tarnish county's image

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein explained the urgent proposal on urging the Union government to delay the award of telecom licenses only after the telecommunications law has been enacted.

The Union Minister said that Myanmar's mobile telephone density is 7.8 percent and extremely low if compared with other regional countries. The phone density target set by the ministry for 2013-2014 FY is 27 percent; for 2014-2015, 50 percent; and for 2015-2016, 75 to 80



Union Minister U Myat Hein makes clarification on urgent proposal.—MNA

percent. A total of 64 local and foreign Telecommunications Tender Consultants companies submitted proposals. Communication Consultancy Selection Committee and two experts from ITU selected Rolant Berger Strategy Consult-



U Win Sein submits committee's reports.
MNA

ant Co.

Telecommunications Operator Tender Scrutiny Committee invited tender for two telecom licenses. A total of 91 local and foreign applications were received. Twelve of prequalification contenders were chosen as



Daw Nan Wah Nu reads out the report of Bill Committee.—MNA

second step on 11 April. Eleven of 12 last contenders have submitted the tenders on 3 June. Two telecom operators who win licenses will be announced today. There will be four telecom operators including new telecom operators. Thanks

to it, competition in ICT sector could bring better services to the people. Delaying the award of telecom licenses could lose the trust of foreign investors in the country there by tarnishing county's image. It is impossible to break promises in consideration of country's images and dignity and people's interest.

Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency said that selection of telecom operators has transparency. Her personal assumption is that submission of urgent motion is dishonest. It can tarnish country's image and hamper FDIA. Granting of telecom licenses should be

done as promised for national interest and country's long-term interest.

U Thein Swe of An Constituency said the Ministry's undertakings have transparency. And selection of telecom operators should be done as promised.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein submitted the Bill amending the Myanmar Aircraft Act and Multi Transport Bill.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Win Sein submitted committee's reports. The fourth day meeting will go on tomorrow.

MNA

Private entrepreneurs allowed to export finished jade and gem products

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—The third day regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw was held under 20 agendas and five questions were replied, one bill and three reports submitted, one proposal discussed and approved and three new proposals submitted.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 asked whether there is a plan to allow exportation of finished jade products. Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung replied that finished goods of jade and uncut jade products, pearl lots, jade and gems wares, jewellery ornaments, figurines and other gold and silver products are exported through foreign exchange.

Private entrepreneurs are allowed to export finished jade and gem products and there is no plan to



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than responds to the questions.—MNA

export the products through other ways and means.

U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No.10 raised a question that whether there is a plan to expose and take action against those of Yangon and Bago Regions who do not abide by the Farmland Law, transforming farmlands to land plots for other purposes and constructing buildings on the plots so the number of sown acreage de-



Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung replies to questions.
MNA

clines. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than answered the question.

Vice-Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Kyaw Htoo submitted the Nay Pyi Taw Development Bill, and the Hluttaw decided to discuss it.

Members of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U



Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 asks questions.
MNA

Sun Dok Ciint read the reports on the Bill Amending the Civil Procedure Law, U Soe Myint the Bill the Amending Defile Traffic Act and U Tin Yu bill amending the Maritime Barriers Act.

Four Hluttaw representatives discussed the proposal urging the Union government to management of region or state



U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No.10 asks questions.
MNA

governments on religious affairs in line with the authority prescribed in the constitution.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win explained that it is no need to submit the applications on renovation, maintenance and construc-

tion of religious buildings of respective religions to the Ministry of Religious Affairs but to take permission from the respective region/state governments and Nay Pyi Taw Council. Moreover, the religious ceremonies are not to seek permission from the respective region/state governments. The Hluttaw approved the proposal.

Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No.9 submitted a proposal to extend consulates-general and honorary consuls for promotion of international trade. The Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal.

The meeting ended in the afternoon, and the fourth day session continues tomorrow.—MNA

Union Attorney-General meets guests of MSF from Holland

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received Senior Legal Advisor Mr. Jasper Pauw and Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Vickie Hawkins of Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) from Holland at International Hall of the Union Attorney-General Office, here, this morning.

At the meeting, the guests said that MSF was carrying out health care services in Myanmar in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, expressing their satisfaction for ensuring rule of law, human rights

matters and nurturing law officers in cooperation with international organizations by the Union Attorney-General Office. The Attorney-General of the Union on his part said that his office was holding discussions for human rights matters and rule of law, conducting courses and disseminating knowledge to the people and clarified the role of Union Attorney-General Office.

Also present at the meeting together with the Attorney-General of the Union were officials of Union Attorney-General Office.—MNA

Golden Jubilee Myanmar Gems Emporium concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—The final day of Golden Jubilee Myanmar Gems Emporium concluded selling 76 jade lots through the competitive bidding system, here, today.

Patron of Central Organizing Committee of the Emporium Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung accompanied by Chairman of the Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung, Vice-

Chairman of the Committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials visited the Emporium where the officials gave necessary assistance to local and foreign gems merchants.

Although 346 jade lots were displayed at the Emporium, a total of 228 jade lots have been sold out so far.—MNA

Trade deficit in April/May

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Myanmar's total export value for May (2013-14 FY) has reached USD 721.60 million—USD 540.20 million (normal export value) and USD 181.40 million (border export value); and total import values, USD 1012.98 million—897.79 million USD (normal import value) and 115.19 million USD (border import value). There was a total trade deficit of USD 291.38 million in May.

From April and May

(2013-14 FY), normal export value has amounted to USD 1050.97 million and border export value USD 423.28 million, totaling USD 1474.25 million while normal import value has reached USD 1644.93 million and border import value, USD 242.47, totaling USD 1887.40 million. A total deficit was USD 403.05 million, according to monthly import and export report of Central Statistical Organization.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Sunday, 14th July, 2013

School Environment Day

Let all basic education schools participate in activity

Ministry of Education

HRD

One BEPS upgraded in Meiktila Tsp



MEIKTILA, 27 June—Opening ceremony of upgraded Basic Education Primary School was held in front of the school in Gwaygyi Village, Myinkan Village-tract, here, yesterday and Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representative Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadara U Kyaw Aye, Meiktila Township Administrator U Myo Hlaing and Deputy Township Education Officer U Khin Maung Htay cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the Hluttaw representative and

the Township Administrator gave opening remarks. Then, the Deputy Township Education Officer explained the upgrading of the school and presented a certificate to the Headmaster who returned a commemorative pennant. After that, the Headmaster accepted K 50,000 donated by the Hluttaw representative and exercises books by the wellwishers, and member of the school board of trustees spoke words of thanks.

Kyemon-Thein Myint
Kyaw

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Talks on environmental conservation held in Kamayut Tsp



YANGON, 27 June—A ceremony to share knowledge about environmental conservation and showcase wall magazine and photos organized by the staff and Head of Township IPRD

Daw San San Aye was held at Pyinya Tazaung Library in Ward-6, Kamayut Township in Yangon Region on 21 June.

On the occasion, the Head of Township IPRD

shared knowledge on lifestyle with environmental conservation and census taking process in 2014 and those presents observed the wall magazine and photos.

Kyemon-Aung Myint

Opium seized in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 27 June—A special Anti-drug Squad on 23 June seized two bottles of opium weighing 28 gram each from Sai Sam (a) Arwai driving a Dream 125 motorbike leaving Monghsat for Tachilek on the detour near Hwayye Village checkpoint and Lawetawkhaw Checkpoint in Lawetawkhaw Village-tract in Tachilek.

The team comprised Police Corporal Htoo Aung, Police Constables Win Myint Hlaing and Nyi Kham

from Tachilek Special Anti-drug Squad and witnesses U Khin Maung Myint and U Thein Zaw.

When the team searched the suspect, they found 56 grams of opium worth K 840,000 kept inside the bottles branded “Sponsor”,

concealed behind his black trouser.

Actions are being taken against the suspect Sai Sam (a) Arwai aged 31, son of Vendor U K Si from Sansai Ward, Tachilek by Tachilek Police Station.

Kyemon-Myintmo
(Tachilek)



Motherless baby elephant gets new mother

YEDASHE, 27 June—A motherless baby elephant (male) was being provided with milk and kept at Kyaukmahsin forest reserve of 9th Mile elephant camp in the area of Po Kyar Elephant Camp in Yedashe Township of Bago Region after his mother was dead.

The four-month-old baby elephant was moved to 9th Mile elephant camp where he is being kept together with other elephant called Myint Sein that had already given birth to a baby elephant under the protection of mahout U Myint Htay.

“Everyone thought the two baby elephants were twins. The baby elephant of Myint Sein is 24 days younger than the motherless baby elephant. Myint Sein first did not accept him, pushing and kicking him

away. I beat her with a bamboo stick whenever she does like this. Two or three days later, she changed her motives and started breastfeeding him,” says mahout U Myint Htay.

“She has become slim as she has to breastfeed two baby elephants. I have no money for supplementary food—rice, sticky rice, gram pea and banana. I once fed her sugarcane as supplementary food. It costs K 1 million per month for her feedstuff. Baby elephants can eat foodstuff when they are six-month old. We have to give special care to them, providing them with milk regularly,” he continued.

Everyone is glad to see the relationship between the female elephant and two baby elephants.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

ANTI-NARCOTIC DRIVES

Educative talks on crime reduction held in Yedashe

YEDASHE, 27 June—Yedashe Police Station on 24 June gave the educative talks on crime reduction to the local people from six villages of Konkya Village-tract at Pylonchantha Dhammayon in Konkya Village-tract in Pyisok Village in Yedashe Township, Bago Region.

Police Inspector Thaug San from Swa Police Station explained criminal cases occurred in the area, shared knowledge about preventive measures against crimes and distributed pamphlets.

Police Inspector Aung Thein talked about “Crimes and reasoning power”, and Township Police Force Commander Police Major Nyan Win, “Experience and reasoning power from criminal cases and taking actions in line with the law”.

Kyemon-578-Ko
Lwin (Swa)

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office

of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

MNA

ODD NEWS



REGIONAL



Sailors aboard a ship of the training squad of Japan visit Panama City, capital of Panama, on 26 June, 2013. The Japanese ships Kashima, Isoyuki and Shirayuki, commanded by Fumiyuki Kitagawa, with a total crew of 750 people, are on a visit to Panama, according to the local press.—XINHUA

New Zealand launches search for US vessel missing in South Pacific

WELLINGTON, 27 June—New Zealand search and rescue officials said on Thursday they had grave concerns for the crew of a United States sailing boat that has disappeared en route from New Zealand to Australia.

Aboard the 21-metre-schooner, *Nina*, were six US nationals—three men aged 17, 28 and 58 and three women aged 18, 60 and 73—and a British man aged 35, said a statement from the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ).

The vessel, which was built in 1928, left Opuia, in the north of New Zealand, on 29 May for Newcastle, in

New South Wales, and had not been heard from since 4 June, when it was about 370 nautical miles west-northwest of the northern tip of New Zealand's North Island.

It was equipped with an emergency beacon, which had not been activated.

After concerns were raised by family and friends, RCCNZ started a communications search on 14 June, using a range of communications methods to broadcast alerts to the vessel and others in the area. RCCNZ search and rescue mission coordinator Kevin Banaghan said a New Zealand air force P3 Orion had completed two

extensive searches: the first covering 160,000 square nautical miles on Tuesday and a second covering 324,000 square nautical miles on Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, no sign of the vessel has been found," Banaghan said in the statement.

"Our records show that conditions at the last known position for the vessel, on 4 June, were very rough, with winds of 80 km per hour, gusting to 110 km per hour, and swells of up to 8 metres. We do hold grave concerns for the *Nina* and her crew but remain hopeful of a positive outcome."—Xinhua

Vietnamese President to visit Indonesia to seek strategic partnership

HANOI, 27 June—Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang will pay a state-level visit to Indonesia from 27-28 June, at the invitation of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

During the visit, leaders of the two countries are due to lift bilateral relations to a strategic partnership level, ushering in new cooperation opportunities for the development and prosperity of each nation, according to state-run *Vietnam News Agency*.

The two countries established their relationship at a consul-general level in December 1955, which was upgraded to an ambassadorial level on 15 August, 1964.

Over the past years, the traditional friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Indonesia have continued to grow.

They regularly exchange all-level delegations, which include Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's official visit to Indonesia in September 2011, and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's

state-level visit to Vietnam in October 2010.

The two countries have signed an Action Plan for the 2012-2015 period and more than 30 agreements to lay a solid legal foundation for bilateral cooperation in various realms.

Vietnam is one of Indonesia's 14 comprehensive and strategic partners that the country prioritizes developing ties with.

Bilateral economic, trade and investment cooperation has seen stable development. Two-way trade has grown steadily from 3.3 billion US dollars in 2010 to over 4.6 billion US dollars in 2012. The figure is expected to exceed 5 billion US dollars before 2015.

Vietnam primarily exports rice, crude oil and farm produce to Indonesia and imports fertilizer, oil and gas, packaging, machinery, fabric, paper and confectionery.

As of this April, Indonesia ranked 27th out of 101 countries and territories worldwide investing in Vietnam, with 35 projects worth over 282 million US dollars focusing on oil and gas surveying and exploitation, coal mining, banking,

tourism, wood processing and export, fiber production, and garment manufacturing.

Over the past years, national defence and security have upheld the tradition of fine cooperation. The two sides inked a Memorandum of Understanding on defence cooperation and are working to sign other deals in this field.

Cooperation in education and training, agriculture, forestry, energy, culture and tourism has been promoted. Indonesia offers hundreds of language, arts and information technology scholarships to Vietnamese students.

President Sang's visit to Indonesia aims to affirm Vietnam's consistent policy of fortifying friendship and comprehensive cooperation with Indonesia, a traditional and important partner of Vietnam in ASEAN and the region.

It also looks to boost economic, trade, investment, national defence and security cooperation opportunities, and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including ASEAN cooperation.—Xinhua

Cambodia's political parties launch campaign for July polls

PHNOM PENH, 27 June—Eight political parties set to contest in the 28 July polls began a month-long election campaign on Thursday.

Three major parties among them are the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, and the royalist Funcinpec Party.

The ruling party launched its campaign with about 20,000 supporters, gathering at the capital's Diamond Island Centre. The party's leaders, including

President of the Senate and Party's President Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly and Party's Honorary President Heng Samrin, and Prime Minister Hun Sen, the Party's vice-president, were present at the rally to encourage their supporters.

After the rally, the activists proceeded through main roads in the city by motorcycles and cars that were equipped with loudspeakers and decorated with the party's logos, flags and banners.—Xinhua



Supporters of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) attend a campaign rally in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 27 June, 2013. Eight political parties set to contest in the 28 July polls began a month-long election campaign on Thursday.—XINHUA

Japan, Australia in showdown over whaling at int'l court

THE HAGUE, 27 June—Japan and Australia met in court on Wednesday in a legal showdown over Japan's whaling programme in the Antarctic Sea that Australia claims violates international law.

Australia said Japan's so-called scientific whaling "lacks any justification" and called for its halt at the opening of oral hearings at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, while Japan awaited its turn to counter the claim next week.

The oral hearings lasting through 16 July are the final phase in proceed-

ings for the case and the 16-member court will effectively decide whether Japan can continue its whaling programme in the Antarctic Sea in the future.

The decision by the ICJ, which could come before year-end, will be final as there is no appeals court. It is the first time for Japan to be a party to an ICJ case, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Australia argues that Japan's whaling programme is a cover for commercial whaling in breach of its obligations under the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation

of Whaling. Commercial whaling has been halted since a moratorium came into effect in 1986.

Japan argues its whaling is for scientific purposes and is conducted lawfully on the basis of Article 8 of the convention, which permits whaling for scientific research.

The country also says whale meat sold in its market complies with Article 8, which states any whales taken as part of research whaling shall be processed and the proceeds shall be dealt with in a manner instructed by government.

Kyodo News

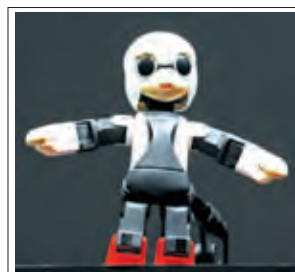


Photo shows a small talking humanoid robot unveiled by a team of Japanese researchers in Tokyo on 26 June, 2013. The robot called *Kirobo*, which is 34 centimetres tall and weighs around 1 kilogram, will be sent to the International Space Station in August to communicate with astronauts stationed for long periods. KYODO NEWS

Laos police settle 1,457 drug cases in past year, seize over 208 kg of heroin

VIENTIANE, 27 June—Counter narcotics police in Laos have settled 1,457 drug cases over the past year, seizing 208.6 kg of heroin, around 13 million methamphetamine tablets, 4.6 tons of dried cannabis and 128.8 kg of opium, said a senior official on Wednesday.

This was revealed by Kou Chansina, acting chair-

man of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, at a commemoration of the 26th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held here.

In a review of its efforts to curb drug trafficking and addiction in the country, the Lao government said that in the attempt to curb these problems in the past

year there had been some law reforms, greater national awareness through provincial level campaigns, increased support to opium farmers in Northern Laos to develop alternative crops, and increased support to victims of addiction.

Chansina also outlined Laos' participation in regional and international forums and bodies on drug

control and harm prevention, such as the Joint Operation Safe Mekong which involves China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos. In pursuing the national goal of bringing opium cultivation down to zero, the government has pursued a "three-builds" policy, which aims to develop drug and crime-free communities.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



Children's Art Enrichment Programme

You are cordially invited to our grand opening of the first globalart centre in Myanmar...

New OPENING



Date : 29th June 2013(Saturday)

Time : 10am - 12pm

Venue : No. 97, Kabaraye Pagoda Road
(near Pho Pyone Cho stationery),
Bahan TSP, Yangon, Myanmar.

Contact : 0949319573, 0949319574

Fun activities for kids

1. Free trial lesson 2. Face Painting
3. Ballon making 4. Mini art contest for kids
5. Lucky draw programs for kids
6. Making 3D model with clay 7. Live cartoon character

The school will open on the First day of July.

No. 97, Kabaraye Pagoda road, Yangon, Myanmar.

f : www.facebook.com/pages/Global-Art-Myanmar

09-49319573, 09-49349574

www.globalart.com.mm

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (108)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (108) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (004)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (559)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (559) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy

Proposal for Aviation Fuel Business

1. It is announced that both local firms and foreign firms who are able to incessantly import and sell the aviation fuel that meets the internationally recognized specifications, can submit the proposals to the following address:

Ministry of Energy
Office Building No.(6)
Nay Pyi Taw

2. For more details please contact the following phone numbers during office hours: 067-411135, 067-411053, 067-411136.

Ministry of Energy

Most Canadians receive higher education

OTTAWA, 27 June—More Canadians are pursuing a higher education and the retail-trade sector is the country's largest employer, according to the data released here on Wednesday by Statistics Canada.

Almost two-thirds (64.1 percent) of the Canadian population — or 11,782,700 adults between the ages of 25 and 64 — had postsecondary qualifications in 2011, based on the data from the voluntary National Household Survey conducted that year.

By comparison, the last mandatory long-form census conducted five years earlier, which the household survey has replaced, found that 60.7 percent of Canadians in the same age group had the same academic qualifications.

Of those Canadians

aged 25 to 34 with a university degree, 59.1 percent of them were women — and the percentage in this age bracket was even higher for women, at 62.2 percent, for those with a medical degree. Nearly half (47.3 percent) of the 25-to-34-year-olds with an earned doctorate were also women.

While men still dominated the percentage (67.4) of adults between the ages of 25 and 64 with university degrees in science and technology, engineering, and mathematics and computer sciences (STEM), more younger women aged 25 to 34, at 39.1 percent, had degrees in those disciplines compared to their 55-to-64-year-old female counterparts, whose share was 22.6 percent.—Xinhua



Visitors taste Spanish food at Food Taipei 2013 exhibition in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 26 June, 2013. The four-day Food Taipei 2013 show kicked off Wednesday at Taipei World Trade Centre Nangang Exhibition Hall.—XINHUA

UN pledges quick support for humanitarian needs in Sahel region

BANJUL, 27 June—Robert Piper, the United Nations Humanitarian coordinator for the Sahel region, said on Wednesday his office will quickly respond to the current humanitarian needs to minimize future crisis and disasters in this area.

"I have met with government officials previously

and I was briefed about the humanitarian situations resulting from flood, drought and coastal erosion as well as refugees in particular. We will make sure that those problems will be solved," Piper told a press briefing in Banjul, capital of Gambia. Earlier in the day, Piper also held a similar meeting with senior officials of the UN

offices, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, government officials and other agencies that provide relief support and assistance in Gambia.

According to Piper, his visit had accorded him an opportunity to get the first hand information of the humanitarian challenges fac-

ing the disaster-hit Gambia and west African region.

The UN official said donors have applauded Gambian government for its achievements in health, education and disaster reduction. He encouraged the government to foster cooperation with NGO partners and to achieve further success.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Oprah tops Forbes most powerful celebrity list



Jury President of the 66th Cannes Film Festival Steven Spielberg

NEW YORK, 27 June—After two years as a runner-up, Oprah Winfrey was named the most powerful celebrity on Wednesday by Forbes, heading the six women and four men who make up the top 10.

It was the fifth time the former talk show host who runs her own TV network has headed the annual ranking of 100 celebrities.

Singer Lady Gaga came in second, followed by director/producer Steven Spielberg and singers Beyonce and Madonna.

"There is nobody else with that kind of consistency and power," said Dorothy Pomerantz of Forbes.com. "There are only three people who have been on every single one of our lists since 1999. It is Oprah, Howard Stern and Steven Spielberg."

Singer and actress

Jennifer Lopez, who was No 1 last year, dropped to 12th place.

With earnings of \$77 million from June 2012 to 2013, Winfrey was not the highest earning celebrity, an honour that went to Madonna who made \$125 million, but Forbes said Winfrey's position in Hollywood and her presence in the press, on television and in social media propelled her to the No 1 spot.

"She still wields an enormous



Madonna.

amount of power, which is really what we look for in our fame matrix. She is taking this cable network and turning it around just through the sheer force of her will, her connections and her ability."

Despite hip surgery, which forced her to cut short a tour, Lady Gaga earned \$80 million in the past 12 months which, along with her army of fans and powerful social media presence, assured her second place.

"She is still a huge force in pop music. Even when she is not playing, people are talking about her and speculating about her," Pomerantz said.

Spielberg, with earnings of \$100 million in the last year, was the top man on the list, ahead of rock star Bon Jovi at No. 7, tennis champion Roger Federer and Justin Bieber, the youngest member of the list, squeezed into the top ten at No 9. Although only 23, sixth place singer Taylor Swift, made the list for the first time and rounded out the top 10 along with Emmy-award winning TV talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

Forbes based a celeb-



Oprah Winfrey

rity's earnings on income from tours, books, contracts, endorsements, movies and residuals. Each celebrity was given a marketability score, developed by California market research firm E-Poll.

It gauged fame and influence by how often celebrities



Lady Gaga

appear in the media. It used Starcount, a Singapore-based company that looks at 11 social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, to determine their presence in social media. "In today's world celebrities have this enormous ability to reach out to their fans, who really are their customers, and to sell their product, which is really themselves. If they don't take advantage of that it hurts them," said Pomerantz.

Pop stars, most notably Bieber, Lady Gaga, and Barbados-born singer Rihanna, are particularly good with handling social media, according to Forbes.

Top celebrity couples include Beyonce and her husband Jay-Z (32), American football quarterback Tom Brady (65) and his model wife Gisele Bündchen (81), and actor Ashton Kutcher (53) and his girlfriend Mila Kunis (89).

Best actress Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence, who was No 49, is a newcomer to the list this year, as is

Hugh Jack - singers Beyonce



Scarlett Johansson

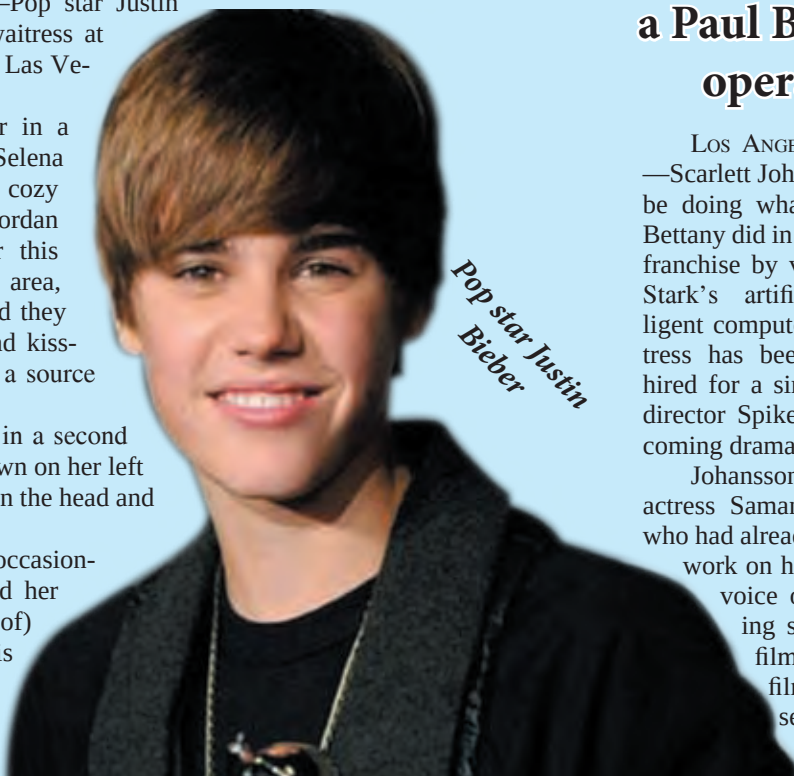
Justin Bieber kisses waitress?

LOS ANGELES, 27 June—Pop star Justin Bieber reportedly kissed a waitress at an indoor skydiving centre in Las Vegas recently.

Bieber, who was earlier in a relationship with singer Selena Gomez was caught getting cozy with the blond waitress Jordan Ozuna at the centre earlier this month. "In the waiting room area, she was sitting on his lap and they were kissing. Little pecks and kisses," femalefirst.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

"Right before the flight, in a second waiting room area, he laid down on her left side. She was caressing him on the head and shoulders," the source said.

A witness said: "He was occasionally putting his hands around her waist, (giving her) a couple (of) quick kisses." However, his skydiving experience ended on a sour note, as Bieber was reportedly banned from the centre for life because he didn't pay for it.—PTI



Pop star Justin Bieber

Scarlett Johansson to do a Paul Bettany, voice an operating system

LOS ANGELES, 27 June—Scarlett Johansson might be doing what actor Paul Bettany did in the Iron Man franchise by voicing Tony Stark's artificially intelligent computer, as the actress has been reportedly hired for a similar stint in director Spike Jonze's upcoming drama.

Johansson has replaced actress Samantha Morton, who had already completed work on her role as the voice of an operating system in the film Her, but the filmmaker subsequently decided to take the project in a different direction and

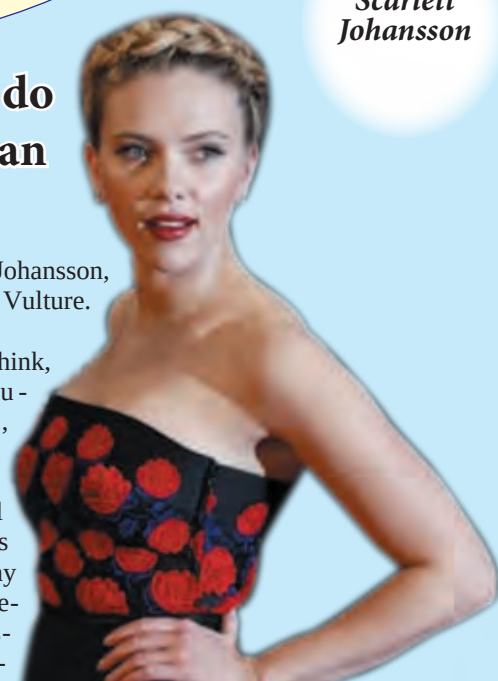
hired Johansson, reports Vulture.com.

"I think, unfortunately, it's pretty normal in terms of my not-quite-painless-for-everyone-involved 'process' of discovering what the movie is. Samantha was with us on set and was amazing," said Jonze.

"It was only in post production, when we started editing, that we realised

man, who was No 11, and new father Channing Tatum (23). The full list of the top 100 celebrities can be found at www.forbes.com/celebs.

Reuters

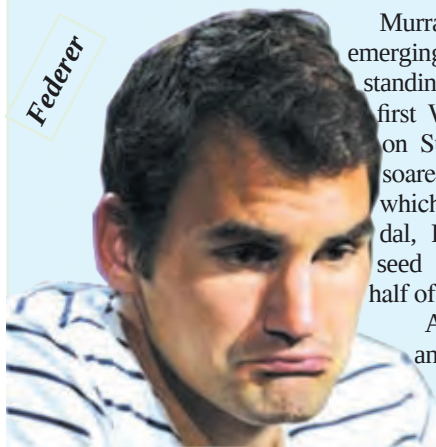


that what the character/movie needed was different from what Samantha and I had created together. So we recast and since then Scarlett has taken over that role," he added.

PTI

SPORTS

Federer and Sharapova exit in Wednesday Wipeout

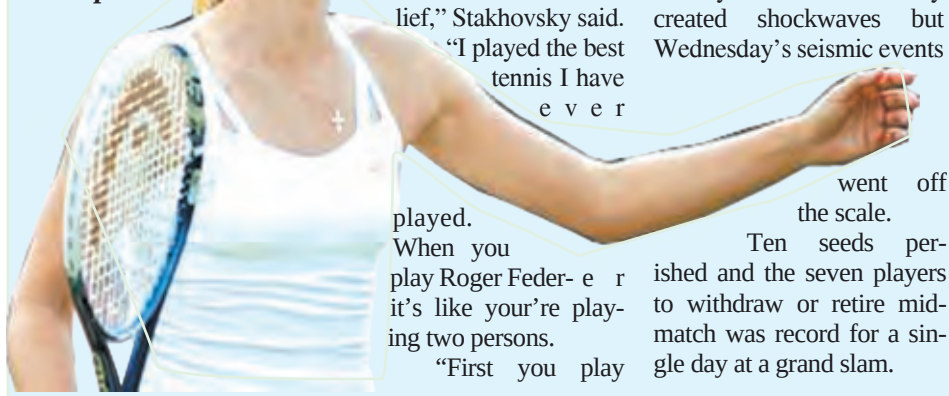


LONDON, 27 June—Wimbledon king Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova endured jolting second-round losses to opponents outside the world top 100 in a freakishly dramatic ‘Wednesday Wipeout’ that saw seven players withdraw injured and the draw shredded.

Second seed Victoria Azarenka, Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and even Steve Darcis, man-of-the-moment after his opening day victory over Spaniard Rafa Nadal, were among the casualties as the medical bulletins piled up.

With title contenders dropping like flies, some before even striking a ball in anger, home favourite Andy Murray must be licking his lips after avoiding the scrapheap with an incident-free second round win over Taiwan’s Lu Yen-Hsun.

Sharapova



Murray’s hopes of emerging as “last man standing” to claim his first Wimbledon crown on Sunday week have soared after two rounds which have culled Nadal, Federer and sixth seed Tsonga from his half of the draw.

After a day of slips and slides, strained shoulders and aching knees, seven-times champion

Federer was expected to glide serenely above the mayhem around him when he stepped out on Centre Court to play Ukraine’s Sergiy Stakhovsky.

Three hours later on what former champion John McEnroe called “the craziest day ever” the Swiss great’s dream of an eighth title was over.

Playing old-school serve and volley tennis the like of which was supposed to have gone out of fashion, the 27-year-old world No.116 won 6-7(5) 7-6(5) 7-5 7-6(5) to snap third seed Federer’s streak of reaching 36 consecutive grand slam quarter-finals.

“I’m still in disbelief,” Stakhovsky said. “I played the best tennis I have ever

played.

When you play Roger Federer it’s like you’re playing two persons.

“First you play

Roger Federer, then you play his ego. I couldn’t play any better today. It was a fantastic day for me.”

For once, Federer’s box of tricks could not rescue him and there was an “end of era” feel as the 31-year-

old walked into the Centre Court shadows to a standing ovation.

“It’s normal that after all of a sudden losing early after being in the quarters 36 times, people feel it’s different,” Federer, who

Victoria Azarenka

suffered his earliest Wimbledon defeat since a first-round loss in 2002, defiantly told a news conference.

“Usually I do turnarounds pretty good. I’m looking forward to what’s to come. I hope I can play a good summer.”

Nadal’s first round defeat by Darcis on Monday created shockwaves but Wednesday’s seismic events

went off the scale.

Ten seeds perished and the seven players to withdraw or retire mid-match was record for a single day at a grand slam.

Andy Murray



take to the court to play France’s Kenny De Schepper after a knee injury flared up, described Wednesday as a “very black day”.

Third-seed Sharapova was sent across the grounds to the bowl-like Court Two to face Portuguese firebrand Michelle Larcher de Brito and found the 131st-ranked qualifier too hot to handle as she slipped and slid to a 6-3 6-4 defeat.

Sharapova needed a 10-minute injury timeout after one of several falls left her clutching her hip and at one stage was overheard describing the court surface as “dangerous.”

“I don’t think I’ve ever fallen three times in a match before in my career, so that was a little strange,” the Russian former champion told reporters.

Women’s ninth seed Caroline Wozniacki also fell heavily on Court Two in her defeat by Czech Petra Cetkovska while second seed Azarenka did not even start against Italy’s Flavia Pennetta due to the knee injury she suffered in a first-round tumble. “I don’t know if it’s the court or the weather,” the Belarussian told reporters. “I can’t figure it out.”

“Would be great if the club or somebody who takes care of the courts would examine (it).”

Reuters

Woods hopes elbow will be ‘good enough’ for British Open

ARDMORE, (Pennsylvania), 27 June—Tiger Woods did not express confidence about being 100 percent fit for next month’s British Open but said on Wednesday his injured left elbow would be “good enough” for the year’s third major championship.

The American world number one has been hampered by a left elbow strain for the past six weeks, and was advised by his doctors to skip this week’s AT&T National in Bethesda, Maryland where he was scheduled to defend his title.

Woods aggravated the problem earlier this month during the US Open at Merion Golf Club, and was seen wincing and shaking his left arm on several occasions after playing golf shots out of the thick rough.



Tiger Woods

“I pushed it pretty good at the (US) Open,” Woods told reporters at Congressional Country Club on Wednesday. “Made it worse by hitting the ball out of the rough and eventually got to a point where I wasn’t able to play here.”

“I listened to my docs and I’m not touching a club. We’re treating it, and eventually I’ll start the strengthening process of it, then start hitting balls to get up to speed for the British.”

Asked whether the elbow would be fully healed in time for the July 18-21 British Open at Muirfield in Scotland, Woods replied: “How about ... good enough.”

A 14-times major champion who has not won a major since the 2008 US Open, Woods first suffered the elbow injury during last month’s Players Championship at the TPC Sawgrass where he eventually triumphed by two strokes.

“It didn’t feel good then early in the week, but I pushed through it,” he recalled. “It progressively just got worse. Got to a point where I was starting to struggle a little bit.”

Reuters

Confederations final important growth tool for 2014 - Scolari

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 27 June—Making the final of the Confederations Cup following a tense 2-1 win over Uruguay on Wednesday signalled to Brazil’s fickle fans that their team could go on and succeed at next year’s World Cup on home soil, coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said.

“We achieved our goal of getting past the first stage, getting to the final and give the players a sense of unity and the fans an idea that we have a good team that can get to the final of the World

Cup,” Scolari said after Paulinho’s late header propelled them to the final.

“That is what we want to do and you only do that by winning. So we have achieved our objective. Now our objective is winning the final.”

Scolari, who guided Brazil to their last World Cup triumph in 2002, has been criticised in recent matches with Brazil fans chanting “donkey, donkey” as his team struggled to home draws with Chile and England.—Reuters



Brazil’s coach Luiz Felipe Scolari (C) celebrates after they defeated Uruguay in their Confederations Cup semi-final soccer match at the Estadio Mineirao in Belo Horizonte on 26 June, 2013. REUTERS

Late Paulinho goal sends resilient Brazil into final

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 27 June—Brazil took another step towards recovering their once famous invincibility when Paulinho scored with a late header to seal a 2-1 win over Uruguay and take the hosts into the Confederations Cup final.

Wednesday’s result was Brazil’s fifth win in five games and meant they will face either Spain or Italy in Sunday’s final at the Maracana in Rio de Janeiro. The European duo meet in Fortaleza on Thursday.

Both sides said the decisive moment of the match

came in the 13th minute when Chelsea defender David Luiz wrestled Uruguay captain Diego Lugano to the ground. Diego Forlan’s weak penalty was well saved by Julio Cesar, who dived to

his left to turn it round the post. “More than having an effect on my team, it had a huge effect on the opponent,” Uruguay manager Oscar Tabarez told a news conference. “They had been



Brazil’s Paulinho (R) heads the ball to score a goal past Uruguay’s Martin Caceres and goalkeeper Fernando Muslera during their Confederations Cup semi-final soccer match at the Estadio Mineirao in Belo Horizonte on 26 June, 2013.—REUTERS

second best until then and as of that moment they grew.”

Brazil went on to take the lead in the 40th minute when Neymar latched onto to a long ball from Paulinho and his deflected shot fell to Fred who bundled the ball home from just inside the six-yard box.

But it took Uruguay just three minutes of the second half to draw level. The Brazilian defence repeatedly failed to clear the ball and when Thiago Silva’s weak pass fell to Cavani he made no mistake with an angled drive.—Reuters

GENERAL

Djokovic aims to get in the zone for journeyman danger

LONDON, 27 June—World number one Novak Djokovic will aim to get in the zone to negotiate the dangers of facing a low-ranked player in his second-round match at Wimbledon on Thursday while women's top seed Serena Williams must improve.

The Serb faces American world number 156 Bobby Reynolds on Centre Court with Rafa Nadal's shock departure at the hands of 135th-ranked Steve Darcis in the first round serving as a reminder of the perils of the journeyman.

"There are a lot of quality players who have nothing to lose really coming on the Centre Court or Court One, playing in front of 10,000 or more people," Djokovic told a news conference after his 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 victory over Florian Mayer in the first round.

"Against one of the top players, you know, what can you really lose? You're going and you're playing your best tennis."

Djokovic, chasing a seventh grand slam title, said he needed to get in a special psychological place



World number one Novak Djokovic

on court.

"Being in the zone means that you have focused your all abilities, mental, emotional, physical, and you're determined to play your best on the court," he said.

Women's world number one and holder Williams said she needed to step up her performance after what she described as a 'rusty' effort in her first round victory over Mandy Minella.

The American, who plays France's Caroline

Garcia on No 1 Court, told a news conference: "There's so many ways that I can improve and that I'm going to need to improve if I want to be in the second week of this tournament."

Laura Robson, the last British woman in the singles draw, faces Colombia's Mariana Duque-Marinero on Court two and this time is the favourite against a player ranked below her after her stunning win over 10th seed Maria Kirilenko in the first round.

Reuters

Colombia seizes 6.5 tons of drugs

BOGOTA, 27 June—Colombian authorities seized 6.5 tons of drugs on Wednesday, including six tons of marijuana and half a ton of cocaine, official sources said.

The marijuana was hidden in a truck intercepted by police on a highway in the country's southwestern department of Valle del Cauca, police said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the navy said in a report that it seized more than half a ton of cocaine in the country's north-western region, bringing to 3.3 tons the total amount of cocaine it has confiscated this year.

The navy added that so far this year they have handed over 43 people to the programme of Humanitarian Attention to the Demobilized, which provides food, housing, health and education for those who voluntarily lay down their arms.—Xinhua

Greek PM inaugurates COSCO-run port facilities, invites further Chinese investment

ATHENS, 27 June—Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras on Wednesday attended the inauguration ceremony of new port facilities run by a subsidiary of Chinese shipping conglomerate COSCO, saying his country welcomes more investment from China.

"The answer to the crisis, regardless of its intensity, is investment," Samaras said after cutting the ribbon with COSCO Group President Wei Jiafu for the launch of testing operations of the Pier III facilities at the country's main Piraeus port.

Calling Wei "a true friend of Greece," he said his country is looking forward to more Chinese investment in various sectors.

"Greece can, and I say that it will be the gate of commerce between China and Europe. From the port of Piraeus we started our first cooperation. We invite you to join more success-

ful cooperation in other sectors, like transportation, trains, ports and shipyards," Samaras said.

He added that during his official visit to China in May, he reaffirmed the great potential of further enhancement of bilateral ties and China's role in Greece's growth prospects.

Piraeus Container Terminal, the COSCO subsidiary that runs the port facilities, launched operations in Greece at Pier II at Piraeus port in 2009, with a plan

to turn it into the leading container terminal in the Mediterranean Sea region, and ever since has built Pier III and posted remarkable results.

Pier III will be fully operational after the installation of another two super-post Panamax type cranes as of 1 July, much sooner than 2016 as initially anticipated under a contract for the concession of the management of part of Piraeus port facilities to PCT.

Xinhua

West Africa becomes transit point of illicit drug trafficking

BANJUL, 27 June—The West African region has become a transit point of illicit drug trafficking and more efforts are needed to combat this situation in Africa, drug experts said.

The Gambia, like many countries in the region, has become a target for the transit of illicit drug, said Abubacarr Senghor, chairman of the National Drug Enforcement Agency.

Senghor further said the mental health related to the use of drugs especially cannabis has become a public health problem.

Samba Gajaka, director of the agency, pointed out that 2,161 people have been arrested for cultivating the cannabis sativa from 2010 to 2011, of which 92 percent are Gambians.

Gajaka said his agency is working tirelessly against

illicit drug abuse and trafficking. He expressed satisfaction about the political commitment of the government to making Gambia a drug free nation. Momodou Jaiteh, deputy mayor of the Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC), reaffirmed the council's unflinching support for the fight against drug trafficking. He called on parents to protect their children from drug menace.

Earlier in the day, the Gambia commemorated International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit drug Trafficking with a theme slogan: Make health your 'new high' in life, not drug.

World Drug Day, which falls on June 26 each year, is designated by the United Nations to increase public awareness about physical and psychological effects of drugs.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-6-13 09:30 am ~ 29-6-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Shots and Logs (Ko taikae) (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Try Your Best
- * Local News
- * Ywar Thit Monhingar
- * Myanmar Betels
- * World News
- * Kambawzathardi Golden Palace (A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days)
- * Local News
- * Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
- * World News
- * PaO in the Union
- * Local News
- * Learn Modesty...at Monastery
- * All about Orchid
- * World News
- * Choral Dance (Duel)
- * Local News
- * Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Diverse National Costumes and Their Fashion Trend (Episode-1)
- * Local News
- * Those who never give up (In pursuit of ...A Dream)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Sport Special Canoeing
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * School for the blind
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Movie Impact "Yes Boss"
- * A Flower of Music (Win Lei Thu-Vocalist)

Myanmar TV

(28-6-2013, Friday)

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|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 18. Dance & Song of National Races |
| 6:25 am | 4:25 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Botany) |
| 6:35 am | 5:00 pm |
| 3. Dance & Song of National Races | 20. News |
| 7:00 am | 5:15 pm |
| 4. News | 21. Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 7:20 am | 5:30 pm |
| 5. Teleplay | 22. India Drama Series |
| 8:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 6. News/International News | 23. News/ Weather Report |
| 8:25 am | 6:20 pm |
| 7. India Drama Series | 24. Amazing World |
| 9:20 am | 7:00 pm |
| 8. Mono Classical Songs | 25. News |
| 10:00 am | 7:15 pm |
| 9. News | 26. TV Drama Series |
| 10:15 am | 8:00 pm |
| 10. TV Drama Series | 27. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 11:10 am | 8:35 pm |
| 11. CLEVER | 28. People Talks |
| 12:00 am | 8:50 pm |
| 12. News/International News/Weather Report | 29. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 12:25 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 13. Myanmar Movies | 30. News |
| 2:40 pm | 31. Mono Classical Songs |
| 14. Musical Programmes | 32. Traditional Boxing |
| 3:00 pm | 33. Coiffure & Attire of Myanmar Ladies (Yadanabon Period) |
| 15. News | 34. TV Drama Series |
| 3:15 pm | |
| 16. TV Drama Series | |
| 4:00 pm | |
| 17. News/ Weather Report | |



Dancers perform hula at Sendai airport in north-eastern Japan on 26 June, 2013, to commemorate the launch by Hawaiian Airlines the same day of regular service between Honolulu and the Miyagi Prefectural capital of Sendai.
KYODO NEWS

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits No 2 Armoured Corps, receives Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association, President of Novel Oil Company and Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Military Technical Cooperation Joint Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 25 June visited Armoured Corps Museum in Alabino, Moscow Oblast in Russia. The Senior General signed in the visitor's book there.

The Senior General presented insignia and gift to Commander Major General Sichevoy A.I who returned gift to the Senior General. Then, the Senior General and party attended a luncheon hosted by President Mr. Demechevko of Iz kut Corporation at Parisience Restaurant.

In the evening, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr. Dmitriev at Brusov Hall of Metropol Hotel.

At the meeting, the chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association explained undertakings and future programmes by forming Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association. The Myanmar side submitted a

proposal for formation of Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said that diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Russia had been established in 1948 and turns 65th anniversary. He pledged to assist in forming Myanmar-Russia Friendship Association by Myanmar side and expressed his belief that there will be much progress if the two associations make more cooperation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also received President of Novel Oil Company and Vice-Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association Alexandra Bycob at Red Hall of Metropol Hotel on 25 June evening.

The president of Novel Oil Company offered to construct Russian Cultural Center in Myanmar for Russia-Myanmar friendship, adding that he will satisfy if Myanmar government allows.

The Senior General said Russia has experience



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends luncheon hosted by President of Iz kut Corporation Mr Demechevko.—MNA

in deep well drilling and underscored to promote cooperation between Russia and Myanmar. The Senior General also urged Novel Oil Co to make more investments in Myanmar.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Chairman Mr. Alexander Fomin of Russia-Myanmar Military

Technical Cooperation Joint Commission in Moscow on 26 June evening.

Both sides discussed mutual cooperation between the two armed forces.

After the meeting, The Senior General presented gift to the joint commission chairman. In commemoration of 60th Anniversary

Russia-Myanmar military technical cooperation, the chairman of Joint Commission presented insignia and gift to the Senior General. The Senior General and party arrived in Leningrad Railway Station in Moscow and left for Moscow Railway Station in St Petersburg and arrived

there at 8:40 pm LST.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander Major General Mareinyuk V.O and officials of Western military region. The Senior General and party proceeded to Ambassador Hotel where they will stay.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Information Team

Press Release No (9/2013)

4th Waning of Nayon, 1375 ME

27th June, 2013

Press release about granting telecommunications operator licence

1. The government has been putting a series of reforms in place for stability of the State and national economic growth, adopting various levels of policies. In improving economic performance of the country, ICT development is a must to communicate with global countries and to fulfill the telecommunication demands of the citizens in short period.
2. To meet such requirements, Communications and Information Technology Ministry was tasked with issuing telecommunication operator licenses according to the law, rules and regulations in a transparent manner. The ministry started taking systematic steps in a transparent manner according to the law as of July, 2012 to issue such licenses.
3. Meanwhile, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sent a message dated 13-5-2013, serial number 13/patha (sawa) 4/2013-004 addressed to the President asking him to discourage hasty steps in issuing telecommunications operator licenses. Moreover, the Speaker also sent a duplicate copy to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and the full context of the message is as follows:

“1. The chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee has sent a letter to Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann regarding putting contract for

telecommunications service out to tender before the communications law could be enacted.

2. The letter says: it is learnt that the Communications and Information Technology Ministry has put contract for telecommunications operators, a telecommunications service of Myanmar, out to tender through newspapers and been considering to decide the contract winners; that the communications bill put forward by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is still under discussion at Amyotha Hluttaw; that it could be promulgated in coming Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session; that since foreign investment law does not provide precise provisions about telecommunications service, issuing operator licenses to foreign telecommunications operators prior to the enactment of communications law shall threaten the interests of the nation and its citizens; that necessary coordination should be made with relevant Union level agencies to ban issuing telecommunications operator licenses in a rush before the communications law commensurate with the age could be enacted so as to safeguard the long-term interests of the nation and its citizens.
3. Therefore, I sent this message along with the letter of committee chairperson to reconsider hasty issuance of telecommunications operator license before the promulgation of communications law for the sake of the nation and its citizens.

4. The President returned a message date 27-5-2013, serial number 108 (1)/8 President Office addressed to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker along with a duplicate copy addressed to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, explaining the necessity of ongoing measures being undertaken according to the law, rules and regulations for the

sake of the citizens as regards to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker's call for a ban on hasty issuance of telecommunications operator licenses. The following is the full context of his message:

- “1. I received the message of the Pyithu Hluttaw along with the letter of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee referring to issuance of telecommunications operator license calling reconsideration of the hasty issuance of telecommunications operator license before the promulgation of communications law for the sake of the nation and its citizens as foreign investment law does not provide precise provisions about telecommunications service.
2. I have been leading the Union government in undertaking a series of reforms adopting different levels of policies for stability of State and national economic growth. In striving for better economic performance of the country, ICT development is a condition to communicate with developed countries in various sectors.
3. The telephone density of the country only covers 7.08 per cent of the population and is ranked tenth in ASEAN. Likewise, serious shortcomings ranging from lack of technicians to lack of supporting facilities and networking technologies are obvious in communication technology sector. So, ICT development is prioritized as a must in adopting national development policies.
4. The expansion and upgrading of telecommunications service, one of tasks for ICT development, is a part of the above-mentioned work programme. Therefore, a telecommunications service system

(See page 5)