The New Light of Myanmar

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President U Thein Sein felicitates King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden, which falls on 6 June 2013.—*MNA*

Main objective of reforms undertaken by government in last two years has been to create a brighter future for prosperity

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—President U Thein Sein met with Young Global Leaders who arrived here to attend the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia at the Thabin Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 9.40 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, departmental heads and Young Global Leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, President U Thein Sein said:

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be addressing the leading members of the Young Global Leaders Network just when our country is hosting the World Economic Forum East Asia Summit for the first time in our history. I understand that while the World Economic Forum aims at bringing the global business community together, the Young Global Leaders Network came into being when talented young people from more than 78 different countries came together to discuss various global challenges.

Since the end of the cold war, all nations in the world have come to realize that they cannot live in isolation. These nations have also come to accept that it is not confrontation but mutually beneficial cooperation that has paved the way to the unprecedented level of progress in various sectors of mankind.

However, the recent global economic recession has given rise to new challenges for our family of nations. Additionally, the entire world is facing various challenges and threats, ranging from natural disasters and communicable diseases to poverty to the shortage of food to terrorism. The entire international community must work together in trying to overcome these challenges and threats. The Young Global Leaders Network has brought talented young leaders from various parts of the world together in order to study the sensitive nature of these global problems and to find a way of resolving them. I am very glad to know that you are intent on up with innovative ideas and approaches to deal with all the challenges we are facing world-wide.

Myanmar is hosting the World Economic Forum East Asia Summit at a time when the country is trying to leave its isolated past behind and become an active and responsible member of the international community. This shows that Myanmar, as a member of the family of nations, is prepared to cooperate with the rest of the international community in dealing with global issues.

President U Thein Sein meets with Young Global Leaders who are in Myanmar to attend the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia.—MNA

Our country of 60 million people sits at the new crossroads of Asia. With China to our northeast, India and Bangladesh to our west, the other nations of ASEAN to our south and east, we border more than two billion people and the fastest growing markets in the world. Our country, once isolated not just by politics but by physical barriers, is now poised to break those barriers. We are becoming the door to Asia. In undertaking democratic reforms and development programs in our country, we are focusing on working to the betterment of the 60 million citizens of the country. We want to adopt broader and innovative approaches that will allow us to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Asia region as a whole.

Let me give you an overview of our reforms. We started with the most fundamental aspect of our reforms: political reform by introducing constitutional governance and new governance institutions. Many of our institutions must be adapted, others entirely reformed. Some institutions must be newly created.

We are also in the process of helping institutions such as the legislature, the judiciary, political parties and the media to play effective roles perform their governance roles as a system of checks and balances. In order to provide better public services, we are engaging in Public Administration Reform.

Our Peace Building Process is one of the most essential ingredients for the success of our political reforms. We have come a long way with the ethnic armed groups, further than our predecessors, and are confident that we will be able to sign a nation-wide ceasefire agreement together with all the armed ethnic groups in the nation.

Thanks to these reform efforts, we are setting up a more transparent and inclusive political process. We understand that changing the political system alone is not sufficient for a successful democratization process. We have to let the political culture and values grow within the relevant stakeholders and our citizenry as a whole in order to be able to foster our democracy.

In trying to transform the centralized economy into a free market economy, we have ended the old practice of having economic relations with a small

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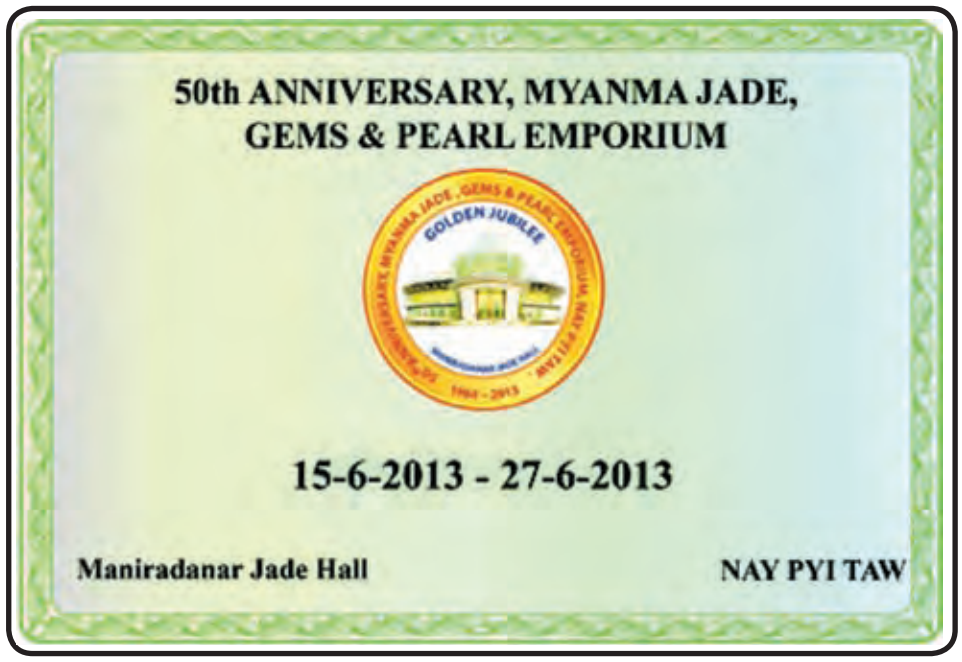
LOCAL NEWS

Greater Yangon Urban Development Plan discussed

YANGON, 5 June—Yangon City Development Committee and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly organized a Seminar on Strategic Urban Development Plan of Greater Yangon at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Construction on 3 June, with an address by Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin.

Senior Representative Mr. Akihito SANJO of JICA, President Dr Takashi ONISHI of Science Council of Japan and the University of Tokyo and Team Leader Mr. Koji YAMADA from Project for Strategic Urban Development Plan of Greater Yangon took part in the discussion. The officials of the ministries and Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committees gave suggestions for urban development of Greater Yangon.—*MNA*



HEALTH ACTIVITY

DHF prevention at BEHS No 1 in Kayan

YANGON, 5 June—Prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever was taken at Basic Education High School No 1 in Kayan of Yangon South District on 1 June.

As a community activity, the staff of Township General Administration Department, Township Development Affairs Committee and departments led by the Township Administrator and the Executive Officer of DAC, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigades, Women's Afairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, students and teachers led by the headmistress together with the local people participated in carrying out of sanitation, dredging drains and fumigating at lakes and tanks in the compound of the school.

Kyemon-Ko Min (Kayan)

Sanitation carried out for proper flow of water at drains

YANGON, 4 June—Sanitation is being carried out at Basic Education Primary, Middle and High Schools in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon East District for proper flow of water at drains.

On 2 June, workers of Township Development Affairs Committee and Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges), students and local people from 19 wards of the township participated in carrying out sanitation tasks at the drain in front of North Okkalapa Post-Primary School.

Local people at sanitation tasks.

Kyemon-Tun Win

Relief aid provided to victims in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 3 June provided eight items of relief supplies worth K 3,693,730, 1500 bottles of one-litre purified drinking water worth K 212,500 and 1500 packets of instant noodle worth K 190,000, totaling K 4,096,230 to 1266 people from 235 households who take shelter at Manhsu monastery due to recent conflict in Lashio Township of Shan State.

MNA

Painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting contests held in Lashio

LASHIO, 5 June—To mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the 16th contest of painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting was held at Kanbawza hall of Basic Education High School No.6 in Lashio, Northern Shan State, yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Col Win Tun, Deputy Commander (Lashio) Police Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Oo and members, Lashio University Rector U Maung Maung, State Additional Education Officer U Myint Kyi, District level departmental officials, Lashio Special Anti-drug Squad Head Officer Police Captain Ye Naing and members, teachers and non-governmental organizations.

A total of 62 students from primary, middle and high school participated in painting, cartoon, poster and computer painting contests.

Two primary-level students, seven middle school students and six high school students took part in the painting contest; six primary students, seven middle school students and four high school students in cartoon contest; five primary students, eight middle school students and four high school students in poster contest; and seven middle school students and six high school students in computer painting contest.

Kyemon-Zaw Lwin (Lashio)

Embankments under repairs in Myeik

MYEIK, 5 June—Under the supervision of Head of Township Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Myint, a total of 25 workers are upgrading the embankment to become the 7000 feet long embankment in Kalwin Ywama Ward of Kalwin Village-tract in Myeik Township. On completion, the embankment will prevent flooding 800 acres of farmlands.

Moreover, they are repairing two 26 feet long and one foot diameter plastic pipes at Kalwin Yaypon Ward for ensuring proper flow of water as of 24 May.

Upon completion, the facilities will prevent flooding 500 acres of farmlands.

Kyemon-Moe Hein (Myeik)

FIRE

Vessel fire at Theinbyu Jetty

YANGON, 5 June—A fire broke out at the pilot ferry of Myanma Port Authority, driven by U Soe Naing and stoker U Zaw Win Aung of Small Vessel Branch of Myanma Port Authority at Theinbyu Jetty of Mithasu Ward in Seikkan Township of Yangon Region at 6.30 am on 3 June where the vessel was anchored at the jetty.

While repairing the vessel, some of diesel spilled on the exhaust pipe that sparked the outbreak of fire at the engine.

The people around the vessel put out the fire within 10 minutes.

In the incident, U Soe Naing sustained injuries at left and right hands and thigh and stoker U Zaw Win Aung at his face.

They are now under treatment at the intensive care unit of Yangon Workers' Hospital but are not in critical conditions.

Kyemon-Zarni

Fire breaks out at paper warehouse in Myaungmya

MYAUNGMYA, 5 June—An outbreak of fire occurred at an old warehouse of the funeral vehicle built in the compound of Township Development Affairs Committee before No 4th Street in Ward 9 of Myaungmya in Ayeyawady Region on 31 May evening.

Members of Fire Services Department, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people participated in putting out of fire with the use of fire engines of Township Fire Brigade.

The warehouse where there is no resident keeps paper and the fire started from the base of the pile of paper.

Myaungmya Police Station takes action against Ko Aung Win, 54, of No 68 on 4th Street in Ward 7, who stores the paper.

Kyemon-Zaw Min Thwin (Myaungmya)

WORLD

NATO expansion in Nordics would force Russian response

KIRKENES, 5 June—Any expansion of NATO to include Sweden and Finland would upset the balance of power and force Russia to respond, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday, underlining Moscow's nerves over moves to bring the Western alliance closer to its border.

Although Sweden and Finland are not actively seeking membership, both nations cooperate extensively with NATO and have openly debated the possibility of joining.

Speculation over Sweden mounted after it warned earlier this year that its defence capabilities were alarmingly limited.

It was embarrassed in April when it could not respond to Russian military jets nearing its border, according to media reports. Finland shares a long boundary with Russia.

"New participants emerging close to our border will change the parity and we'll have to take this into account and respond to that," Medvedev told a news conference at a summit of Nordic and Russian leaders in Norway.

"NATO ... has a military potential which can be used against our country in certain cases," Medvedev said, as Finnish Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen and Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt looked on.

Russia has been concerned about NATO's expansion since former Soviet satellites began joining the Western alliance in the 1990s and has voiced particular opposition to the spread of military infrastructure closer to its borders.

Moscow has opposed the anti-missile shield the United States is deploying in Europe with help from NATO, saying it suspects its purpose is to weaken Russia's nuclear deterrent and upset the post-Cold War strategic balance.

"The fact that Norway is a member of NATO has not had any negative effect whatsoever on the development of cooperation in this part of the world," Sweden's Bildt said in response.

Danish planes flying from a NATO base in the Baltics eventually responded to the Russian planes approaching Sweden's border in April.

The aircraft turned back just short of the boundary, according to a report by Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet*.—*Reuters*

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (2nd L) and his Norwegian counterpart Jens Stoltenberg are pictured flanked by military representatives from Russia and Norway, at Boris Gleb, a crossing point on the border between Norway and Russia near Kirkenes, in the extreme north-east of Norway, on 4 June, 2013.— REUTERS

S Korea, US fail to narrow differences on reprocessing, uranium enrichment

SEOUL, 5 June—South Korean and US negotiators on Tuesday failed to narrow differences over Seoul's bid to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for its civil nuclear energy programme, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Tuesday, citing a South Korean Foreign Ministry source.

"We did not narrow differences on key issues," the unidentified official was quoted as saying after two days of talks in Seoul.

South Korea seeks to revise a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement that currently bans it from reprocessing spent fuel because doing so could yield plutonium that could be used to build atomic bombs.

The talks between Ambassador Park Ro Byug, South Korea's chief negotiator for the bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement, and Thomas Countryman, US assistant secretary for international security and nonproliferation, were first of their kind since the two sides agreed in late April to extend the current agreement until March 2016.

They will hold another round of negotiations in September in Washington, the official quoted by *Yonhap* said.—*Kyodo News*

US expected to extend waivers on Iran sanctions to India, China

WASHINGTON, 5 June—US Secretary of State John Kerry is likely to renew waivers on Iran oil sanctions for India, China and several other countries as soon as Wednesday, in exchange for their reducing purchases of crude from the Islamic Republic, two government sources said.

The 180-day exceptions to the oil sanctions would be the third round since President Barack Obama signed the bill in late 2011.

The Obama administration issued waivers on the sanctions to Japan and 10 European Union countries in March.

The oil sanctions are one of the main tools Washington has for its strategy of trying to choke off funding to Teheran's nuclear programme. Countries in the West suspect its purpose is to seek the capability to make nuclear weapons. Iran says the programme is for generating power and medical devices.

US and EU sanctions last year helped to cut Iran's oil exports in half, depriving the government of revenues worth billions of dollars, helping to devalue the Iranian rial, the country's currency, and driving up inflation.

Critics of the sanctions say that more diplomatic efforts are necessary to avoid pushing Iran's leaders to continue funding the nuclear programme.

India has led reductions in Iranian oil purchases, cutting imports by nearly a fifth since December. China's reductions have been more modest. China's cuts could end up being about 5 percent to 10 percent for all of this year, according to trade officials familiar with China's state refiner.

The State Department delayed granting China an exception in June last year for a few weeks, but that is not expected this round.

Reuters

A view of a petrochemical complex in Assaluyeh on Iran's Persian Gulf coast on 28 May, 2006.— REUTERS

UN believes chemical weapons used in Syria

GENEVA, 5 June — United Nations investigators said on Tuesday they had "reasonable grounds" to believe that limited amounts of chemical weapons had been used in Syria in a conflict where brutality was now a tactic of war.

In their latest report, human rights investigators said they had received allegations that Syrian government forces and rebels had used the banned weapons, but most testimony related to their use by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

Increasing reports from the battlefield of the use of chemical weapons have sounded alarm bells in the West, lending urgency to a new diplomatic push to end the war. US Secretary of State John Kerry said last week that the use of chemical weapons was unacceptable.

In Syria, Qusair came under renewed missile attack as fighting there dragged into its third week, prompting calls for humanitarian access to offer some relief to the thousands trapped in the city under siege by government forces.

Those hoping to save themselves were faced with the agonising choice of digging holes in the ground to escape the bombing or embarking on a perilous cross-country trek to neighbouring Lebanon.—*Reuters*

Animal carcasses lie on the ground, killed by what residents said was a chemical weapon attack on Tuesday, in Khan al-Assal area near the northern city of Aleppo, on 23 March, 2013.— REUTERS

Somali, conflict prevention top on UN June agenda

UNITED NATIONS, 5 June — The UN Security Council, while keeping an eye on preparations for the upcoming Geneva conference on Syria, is expected to discuss Somalia, conflict prevention and natural resources and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, the British ambassador, the council president for June, said on Tuesday.

Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, London's envoy to UN Headquarters, told reporters here the Syrian situation remains high on the list of topics member of the 15-nation panel discuss between themselves in closed-door sessions.

To follow up on the outcome of the recent London Conference on Somalia, the British minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds, was expected to attend a session on Somalia on Thursday when UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson will brief the council, he said. An open debate on Conflict Prevention and Natural Resources was slated for 19 June to highlight how transparent management of extractive industries can prevent conflict, fight corruption, protect human rights and promote sustainable development, Lyall Grant said.

Eliasson, World Bank Managing Director Caroline Anstey and Africa Progress Panel Chair Kofi Annan, will brief by video from Geneva, the ambassador said. Another open meeting was scheduled for 24 June on the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict, chaired by British Foreign Secretary William Hague, Lyall Grant said.

The focus of the session was to be on accountability for crimes of sexual violence on the national level and how the UN can better support states in holding perpetrators to account, he said. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Hawa Bangura were to brief.—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Twitter back online after brief outage

An illustration picture shows the log-on icon for the Website Twitter on an Ipad in Bordeaux, Southwestern France, on 30 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

San Francisco, 5 June — Twitter was down for about a half-hour for an unknown number of users on Monday after a glitch during a "routine change." The microblogging service said in a short post that it had rolled back the changes, fixing the issues though some users experienced delays in getting updated tweets.

Earlier on Monday, users trying to click on trending topics and other posts received an error message that began with "something is technically wrong." "Due to an error in a routine change, Twitter was not available from 1:08pm PDT to 1:33pm PDT. We rolled back the erroneous change as soon as we identified the issue," the company said.

Twitter's phenomenal growth since its 2006 birth means it has struggled to handle an ever-rising volume of tweets. It currently claims more than 200 million users, generating about 400 million tweets — or 140-character messages — daily. Since enduring repeated criticism about its infamous "fail whale" outage icon in its early years, the microblogging service has devoted considerable resources to improving reliability, in a move to project itself as a mature, polished brand.—*Reuters*

Apple signs deal with Warner for streaming music

San Francisco, 5 June —Apple Inc has signed an agreement with Warner Music Group for music licenses in a push to create a streaming music service to unveil at a conference of its developers next week, *the New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* reported on Monday, citing anonymous sources.

The iPhone maker has been considering a music-streaming service to complement iTunes, the largest repository of music for sale, for the past year, but progress has been slow in hashing out deals with music companies, sources told *Reuters* earlier. An Apple spokeswoman could not be immediately reached for comment.

Apple inked the deal with Warner over the weekend for both recorded music and publishing rights, the *New York Times* said, attributing the information to people briefed on the talks. The iPhone maker also signed a deal with the Universal Music Group for only its recorded music rights, according to the newspaper.

Apple is also in talks for music rights with Sony Music Entertainment and Sony's separate publishing arm Sony/ATV, the newspapers said. Apple may find it difficult to launch a streaming music service at its developer conference, which begins on 10 June in San Francisco, without a deal with Sony.—*Reuters*

Men are silhouetted against a video screen with an Apple logo as they pose with an Apple iPhone 4 smartphone in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 17 May, 2013.—Reuters

Zynga slashes work force by a fifth, shares dive

San Francisco, 5 June —Zynga Inc announced on Monday its biggest ever round of layoffs and warned of weak bookings for the current quarter, raising doubts about the social game developer's attempt at a recovery. Zynga said it will cut about 520 jobs, or roughly one-fifth of its work force, and close some offices in the United States. Analysts said the latest warning on quarterly bookings, a measure of sales, boded poorly for the "FarmVille" developer, which began trimming staff late last year. Zynga's shares slid as much as 15 percent in frantic trade before closing down 12 percent at $2.99, near its four-month low.

Player avatars from Zynga's FarmVille 2 are seen on a stairway at the entrance to Zynga headquarters in San Francisco, California on 23 April, 2013.
Reuters

"I admire them for aligning costs with revenue," Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter said. But Monday's bookings forecast, following a series of downward revisions in the past year, prompted new and increasingly urgent questions about Zynga's ability to retain players, he said. Investors "thought they were already guiding to a low number that they would sail over, but it's coming in even lighter," Pachter said. "Are they in a state of persistent revenue declines? One quarter doesn't tell the story, but we need to hear what else they're doing."

One of the first firms to seize upon Facebook as a game-publishing platform years ago, Zynga has struggled to keep hold of players as people increasingly turn to their mobile devices — and games from Zynga's rivals - for entertainment. Zynga's chief executive, Mark Pincus, has shut studios, retired more than a dozen games and laid off hundreds of employees as part of a turnaround effort that focuses resources on developing mobile games.

As the company began notifying laid-off employees on Monday afternoon, Pincus issued a company-wide memo that acknowledged Zynga's ongoing struggle to adapt to the mobile world. "The scale that served us so well in building and delivering the leading social gaming service on the Web is now making it hard to successfully lead across mobile and multi-platform, which is where social games are going to be played," said Pincus, who founded the company in 2007 and still maintains majority control.

The series of cuts contrast starkly with Zynga in early 2012, when it paid $183 million to acquire game studio OMGPOP, which became its New York studio, and total headcount ballooned to nearly 3,000. Zynga has lost 70 percent of its market value since its 2011 debut. Trading was briefly suspended twice on Monday afternoon, and the stock drop marked Zynga's largest single-day loss since 26 July, when it badly missed earnings expectations and shares plunged 37 percent.

Reuters

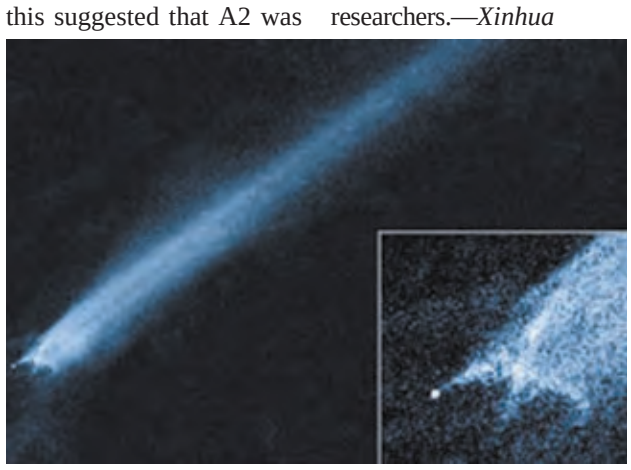
US astronomers image asteroid with long tail

Washington, 5 June— US astronomers said on Monday that they have found the tail of a peculiar asteroid much longer than previously supposed, stretching roughly three times the distance from the Earth to the Moon.The tail of dust streaming from the asteroid P/2010 A2 is about one million kilometers long, according to new images taken by One Degree Imager (ODI), a wide-field optical camera at the WIYN telescope on Kitt Peak in the US state of Arizona.

Asteroids generally have no tails, and asteroid A2 was initially given a cometary designation upon its discovery in 2010. But it's an asteroid. Within a month of its discovery, analysis of images taken by the US Hubble space telescope suggested that its tail was generated by dust and gravel. Researchers said this suggested that A2 was disrupted recently, either by a collision or by its own rotation.

"Previous images of A2 clearly indicated the tail extended beyond those relatively small fields of view: we wanted to use the superb image quality over a wide field that ODI offers to see just how much," said Jayadev Rajagopal, WIYN scientist at the US National Optical Astronomy Observatory, in a statement. "But I don't think we were quite expecting to see a tail that extends out to and beyond even the ODI field!"

The disruption of asteroid A2, which the team estimates happened about three and a half years ago, has resulted in centimeter-sized particles being spread out in a tube-like tail. Over time, these particles, under the gravitational pull of the Sun, will form a meteor stream surrounding the Sun, said the researchers.—*Xinhua*



Blowfly insecticide resistance could help develop antidote

Sydney, 5 June—Researchers have cracked the molecular structure of a protein that helps blowflies resist insecticide, the Australian National University (ANU) announced on Tuesday. The discovery could save hundreds of millions of dollars' damage to the sheep industry caused by blowfly each year, and may pave the way to an antidote for chemical warfare agents.

Sheep blowflies currently cost the Australian wool industry about 161 million AUD (157 million US dollars) every year in lost production, stock deaths and pest management — including 126 million AUD (123 million US dollars) in treatment costs. Wool residues from pesticide use also pose a market threat, as well as potential health risks to humans.

The effectiveness of commonly-used organophosphate insecticides, which block nerve signals, has been decreasing in recent years as the blowflies develop resistance. Organophosphates are also highly toxic to humans, meaning farmers who are accidentally poisoned and victims of biochemical terror attacks are very difficult to treat.

It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of people are killed every year as a result of this poison. The researchers hope their findings can be used to develop an antidote.The research was funded by the US Defence Threat Reduction Agency and carried out in collaboration with the CSIRO.—*Xinhua*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

'Healthier' chocolates gives US cocoa demand a shot in the arm

New York, 5 June— In an increasingly diet-conscious nation where the amount of chocolate candy sold has tumbled in recent years, a niche segment of the US market is taking off: so-called "healthier" chocolate. Studies declaring health benefits found in cocoa, combined with new chocolate products touting lower fat and calories, have helped manufacturers to capitalize on a growing consumer appetite for these alternative sweets in the United States, the world's biggest chocolate consumer.

Nestle USA says the lower-calorie chocolate line that it launched in 2011 was one of its snack division's best-ever debuts. A year later, Hershey Co brought out Simple Pleasures, a brand with almost a third less fat than average milk chocolates. The world leading maker of industrial chocolate for retail brand companies, Barry Callebaut, says products with health benefits now make up 5 percent of its sales. Rising demand for these products is increasingly apparent in a recent improvement in the North American cocoa market, where demand slowed throughout much of 2012.

A surprising turnaround was seen in the first quarter when "grindings", the term for processing cocoa beans which is shorthand for commercial demand, rose nearly 6 percent in North America, the biggest annual jump in nearly two years. In Europe and Asia, first quarter grindings tumbled. Also included in the supposedly better-for-you chocolate segment are bars that are gluten — or sugar-free, or that have additives like probiotics to help promote healthy digestion and other possible benefits. Francisco Redruello, Euromonitor International senior industry analyst for foods in London said these "healthier" products are already having an influence on grindings.

"There's really a concern about obesity in the US and this is having an impact on demand for chocolate confectionery," he said. "So 2012 has seen new concepts, new lines, trying to launch healthier chocolate with low fat."The tonnage of reduced fat chocolates sold in the United States jumped 5 percent in 2012, outperforming the overall chocolate confectionary market, according to Euromonitor, an international consumer market research firm.—*Reuters*

Chocolate beans and pods are displayed in New York on 17 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Shipbuilder Huntington eyes higher profits despite flat sales

Washington, 5 June —Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc (HII.N) is on track to boost profit margins and keep paying dividends despite flat revenues in coming years, the US shipbuilder's top executive said, citing ongoing efforts to cut costs and improve performance.

Mike Petters, chief executive of Huntington Ingalls, spoke with *Reuters* at the company's headquarters in Newport News, Virginia hours before the US Navy announced that Huntington beat out General Dynamics Corp (GD.N) for a larger share of a $6.1 billion Navy order for nine new DDG 51 destroyers.

"Whether you win it or lose it, it's your performance that will drive your returns," Petters told *Reuters* in an interview overlooking the *USS Roosevelt*, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier that Huntington Ingalls will finish overhauling and refueling for the Navy this year.

In March, the company won a $2.6 billion deal to refuel and overhaul another carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, and it recently completed work on the hull of the USS Gerald R Ford, a new class of aircraft carrier. Then on Monday, the Navy awarded Huntington Ingalls a contract to build five DDG 51 ships for $3.3 billion over the next decade.

Huntington Ingalls will earn a profit rate of 14 percent on the DDG 51 deal, according to Navy spokesman Chris Johnson.

Reuters

Mike Petters, president and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII), speaks to reporters at the National Press Club in Washington, in this 4 April, 2011 file photo.—Reuters

Corbat faces ghost of Weill's deals in Citi's machines

A man walks past a Citibank branch in lower Manhattan, New York on 16 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

New York, 5 June— When Vikram Pandit was abruptly ousted as Citigroup Inc's (C.N) chief executive late last year, senior bank employees speculated for weeks about who would follow him out the door. Chief Operating Officer John Havens had already left with Pandit, and the employees bet the new CEO, Michael Corbat, would push out other Pandit loyalists. High on their list was Don Callahan, who headed operations and technology.

But when Corbat named his new team in January, he kept Callahan, albeit in a reduced role. People familiar with the matter said Callahan survived because he oversees an effort critical to both Corbat and bank regulators — simplifying and standardizing thousands of Citigroup's information technology systems. The process, which ramped up in the aftermath of the financial crisis, will take at least two more years to complete, they said. Corbat's choice highlights how some 15 years after Sanford "Sandy" Weill merged Travellers Group and Citicorp to create Citigroup, the bank is still trying to integrate all its operations. For example, it still uses different account opening procedures and systems in different countries.

If Callahan gets it right, Citigroup will better track risks and satisfy US regulators who have been pressing it to improve its systems for more than 10 years, and will more efficiently sell products to retail, corporate, and institutional customers. It will help bring down costs and raise revenue, potentially adding $750 million to annual profits starting in 2015 from improvements in consumer banking alone. The bank spends around $18 billion a year — or about a third of its operating expenses — on operations and technology, including facilities, systems and hardware, making it a major area of concern for the board as well, two sources said. The board is considering hiring a new director with technology expertise to help monitor and assess management's efforts, they said.

Citigroup spokeswoman Shannon Bell said that the bank is simpler than it was before the financial crisis, having sold more than 60 businesses and $800 billion of assets that were not central to its strategy. "We have worked diligently to integrate and modernize or replace legacy systems while investing in their safety and soundness," Bell said. "The continued integration and consolidation of our technology platforms will improve productivity and client service across the company, improving results for all stakeholders."Weill, who retired as Citigroup CEO in 2003 and as chairman in 2006, told *Reuters* he was tireless in integrating companies he acquired.

Reuters

Sprint slams Dish's latest offer for Clearwire

New York, 5 June— Sprint Nextel Corp (S.N) urged Clearwire Corp (CLWR.O) to reject Dish Network's rival bid for the wireless service provider, saying that a deal under Dish's terms would be illegal and violate Clearwire's agreement with its shareholders. Sprint, which made its case in a letter to Clearwire's board on Monday, already owns a majority stake in Clearwire and is tussling with Dish to buy out minority shareholders. Satellite TV provider Dish offered $4.40 per share for Clearwire on 29 May, challenging Sprint's revised bid of $3.40 per share. The fight over Clearwire, which owns wireless airwaves that both suitors want, is part of a larger drama involving the fate of Sprint.

Dish has also made an offer to buy Sprint, the No 3 US wireless service provider, for $25.5 billion. Japan's SoftBank Corp (9984.T) already has an agreement to buy Sprint. Sprint said many of Dish's conditions in its Clearwire offer are impossible to fulfill because approval is required from all shareholders including Sprint, which said it would not give up any of its rights with regards to Clearwire's governance. Sprint said Dish's demand for the right to nominate three Clearwire board members runs roughshod over Clearwire's equity holder agreement, which includes a director selection process.

It also said that granting several of Dish's demands would violate Delaware law as well as Clearwire's existing agreements. "Many Clearwire stockholders appear to be under the mistaken belief that Dish's proposal is a viable alternative to the Sprint merger agreement, and this is simply not the case." Sprint said in its letter.

Clearwire has kept its recommendation to shareholders for the Sprint offer while its special committee reviews Dish's bid. Clearwire declined to comment on Sprint's Monday letter. Clearwire shareholders are due to vote on the Sprint offer at a special meeting on 13 June in which Sprint would need more than 50 percent of minority votes for its deal to succeed.

On top of its battle with Dish, Sprint also faces trouble from powerful activist shareholders. Four shareholders claiming 18.2 percent of the minority shares extended a pledge to work together until after the vote to try to get a better deal. The group led by investment firm Mount Kellett believes the Dish offer "is both actionable and obviously superior," according to a regulatory filing by Mount Kellett.

Another big investor, Crest Financial, which holds about 8 percent of Clearwire's public shares, blasted Sprint on Monday, demanding that Clearwire give full consideration to Dish's bid. Crest has been running a proxy battle against Sprint's offer.

Reuters

People walk past a Sprint store in New York on 17 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein meets CEO and Managing Director of Woodside Ltd

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr. Peter Coleman, CEO and Managing Director of Woodside Ltd based in Commonwealth of Australia.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—Republic of the Union of Myanmar President U Thein Sein received Mr. Peter Coleman, CEO and Managing Director of Woodside Ltd based in Commonwealth of Australia and party at the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

Present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw and heads of departments.

They had a cordial discussion on promotion of investment in energy sector and ensuring long-term investment to satisfy the demand of energy in Myanmar, making investment that benefits peoples of both countries, building of related factories for creating of jobs, community development and expansion of primary health care services.

MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Hong Kong-based Standard Chartered Bank Executive Director

President U Thein Sein greets Mr. Jaspal Bindra, Group Executive Director and a member of the board of Hong Kong-based Standard Chartered Bank.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar met a delegation led by Mr. Jaspal Bindra, Group Executive Director and a member of the board of Hong Kong-based Standard Chartered Bank at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

Present on the occasion together with the President were Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and departmental heads.

At the call, they cordially discussed the matters related to cooperation with the Central Bank of Myanmar in monetary affairs, extending of banking services and investments to create job opportunities in Myanmar.

MNA

World Environment Day (WED)...

(from page 16)

Some people took notice of Myanmar's environmental degradation while others were taking a blind eye to it. Myanmar had to enjoy the benefits of four rivers—Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Chindwin and Sittoung Rivers. Since the past decades, people had had to face floods and difficulties for water ways due to the eco-system degradation and degradation caused by people.

Over past years, Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Regions and other regions and states suffered the flooding, leading to losses of lives and millions of kyats. Inlay Lake in Shan State had been suffering from environmental effects in the recent years.

The Vice-President urged those competitors to write essays more about Myanmar in addition to the world environment. In his concluding speech, he called for avoiding waste production and consumption in each and every step of food production and consumption in accord with the motto of World Environment Day and make collaboration for sustainable development and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle system.

After that, the FAO resident representative read out the message of the UN Secretary-General and the UN-Habitat resident representatives, the UNEP executive director's message. Union Minister for Environmental Conserva-tion and Forestry U Win Tun and Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin presented awards to the winners in the competitions. Food Saving and Food Waste Manage-ment video slide was displayed.

The Vice-President, the Union ministers and the winners posed for documentary photos. After the ceremony, the Vice-President and party looked round documentary photos, posters and books on show.

MNA

Tatmadaw mobile teams give medical care to local people in NyaungU, Kyaukpadaung

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June— The Tatmadaw is providing health care services, which is basic need for the development of the country, to the people as part of its commitment to development of the country as the Tatmadaw is composed with national brethren across the country, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with the local people from villages in NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung townships today.

During his visit to Kyaukpadaung township where mobile medical team of the Tatmadaw is providing health care services to local people, the senior general and his wife greeted the local people receiving treatment at the monastery in Gyaing Village and Myayadanar Monastery in Hsintetkyin Village.

They also inspected the mobile team comprising eye, ear, nose specialists, dentists and general practitioners and presented food, household goods to the local people and exercise books to school children.

Divided into five teams, the mobile medical teams of the Tatmadaw has been giving medical care to the local people in two townships since 29 May, and so far, 8895 people have received treatment from them.

The Senior General and party visited "Paing" jiggery making business at Shwehlaing Village in NyaungU Township.—*MNA*

***Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets local people in NyaungU where mobile team gives medical treatments.*—MNA**

LOCAL NEWS

DONATION

Chinese ambassador's wife makes donation at child care centre

YANGON, 5 June—Ruan Wei, Madame of the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, donated food and accessories worth K 1.3 million to Shwegondine Child Care Centre of the Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Bahan Township of Yangon Region in commemoration of International Day of Children on 1 June.

Manager of the centre Daw Khin Mar Aye accepted the donation and returned certificate of honour.

MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

Donors fund poor children's education

MANDALAY, 5 June—U Maung Maung and wife Daw Khin Tint and their daughter Daw Myaing Myaing Thaw provided stipends to needy students of No. 2 Basic Education High School of Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay Region on 31 May.

At the ceremony at Writers Association Office in Mahaaungmye Township in 42nd street and 81st street in commemoration of School Enrollment Day, the donors also donated cash for the association.

Chairman of Township Writers Association U Yar Soe (Yar Soe-Luhmu) accepted donations of K 0.1 million for needy students and K 0.1 million for the association.

He spoke words of thanks and returned certificate of honour.

MMAL-Khin Khin Win (Education)

Shwetaung-Myaungdaga power grid installation to complete in 2013

YANGON, 5 June—Installation of Shwetaung-Myaungdaga double 230 KV Power Grid will be completed this year.

It would supply more electricity to southern part of the country upon completion.

"We will complete it in this 2013. A total of 500 KV electricity could be distributed from the double grid," an official of the project said.

The construction of the power grid started in earlier 2013 from Gyobyu model village in Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region.

One layer of the grid could distribute 250 KV electricity.

Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Mon State will enjoy profits from the power grid which will also serve as a reserve power grid.—*MMAL-Khin Lay Myint Aung*

LABOUR AFFAIRS

Garment workers' wage demand still unmet

YANGON, 5 June—The negotiation between employers and representatives of workers of a private garment factory in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region on 1 June bore no significant outcome.

Seven laobur reps lodged a complaint at Township Trade Dispute Committee on 22 May as workers of the factory has been out on strike, demanding higher wages.

The workers' demand is to increase the proposed wages tenfold.

Workers from more than 10 factories in Hlinethaya industrial zone are protesting about wages.

MMAL-164

New Way workers return to workplace as dispute settled

YANGON, 5 June—Workers in New Way garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon Region have returned to their workplace as the employer and the workers reached a deal on salary and ferry charge cuts from pay on 31 May.

Manager of the slipper and garment factory U Than Zin said, "We have reached agreement at Township General Administration Department office on 31 May with representatives of workers to increase the salary by K 10,000 and to not cut ferry charges from salary. It's all settled."

Township officials are dealing with labour disputes from 10 factories in the industrial zone.

The New Way factory is running with more than 1000 workers and 22 supervisors and producing footwears and garments for export.

MMAL-164

Bhamo hovercraft checked regularly for safety

BHAMO, 5 June—Bhamo of Kachin State is accessible both by motor way and waterway.

Two hovercraft associations—Ngwe Ayeyar and Manaw Zeyar Mandalar of Myitkyina Township are running routes of Bhamo-Katha, and Bhamo-Hsinbo-Talawgyi-Myitkyina—are transporting passengers and commodity.

Officials of Inland Water Transport are regularly checking whether the hovercraft conduct proper safety measures.

They will extend more hovercraft routes in early July as the monsoon has entere.

MMAL-Hsimikhon-Nan Yi

Under Supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Traffic Police Corps and Development Committee officials checking whether vehicles systematically parked in Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market on 31 May.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Disaster risk management workshop organized in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 5 June—Forty four trainees of disaster risk management capacity building course of Yangon Region and Kungyangon Township Disaster Risk Management Committee members participated in a workshop on disaster risk management at Township General Administration Department Office in Kungyangon Township in Yagon South District on 31 May.

Township Disaster Risk Management Committee Chairman U Kyaw Zeyar Lin elaborated on area-wise plans for any potential disaster in the township with Power Point slideshows.

The trainees raised questions about preparedness for disasters in the township.

Members of Township subcommittees answered the questions raised by the trainees on preparedness for disasters by each subcommittee.—*MMAL-Sein Toe (Kungyangon)*

Private hospital opened in Myitkyina

HEALTH

MYITKYINA, 5 June—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai attended the opening ceremony of a new private hospital in Myothitgyi ward in Myitkyina in Kachin State on 1 June.

Malizwep Hospital is established by Kachin businessmen association.

State Hluttaw Speaker U Rawan Jone, chairman of the association, Duwa Khamaitan and a religious leader formally opened the hospital.

The state chief minister unveiled the signboard of the hospital and viewed round the hospital.

The state chief minister, accompanied by state ministers, visited Myitkyina General Hospital where they comforted children undergoing surgery by Japan Hearts led by Japanese surgeon Dr Hideto Yoshiqka.

The Japan Hearts conducted 79 surgeries from 28 May to 1 June, with one day left on their visit.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Preventive measures against land erosion conducted in Nyaungdon

NYAUNGDON, 5 June—Executive officer of Township river course conservation group U Nyunt Win, Engineer in-charge U Thant Zaw Lwin led the efforts to prepare retaining walls and flood barrier along the bank of Ayeyawady River in Nyaungdon Township.

The measures to prevent land erosion in the rainy season are funded K 100 million by Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs. Land erosions are common in Nyaungdon Township in the rainy season after the construction of Panhlaing River canal in 1988.—*MMAL-Tun Kyaw (Nyaungdon)*

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 6 June, 2013

Happy schools

School bells rested for three months have rung again as a new academic year rings in. Schoolchildren have entered their new classrooms with full of energy as if the scattered showers of June give a new life to the schools with bunches of tiny white flowers in full bloom. Here starts a marathon academic year.

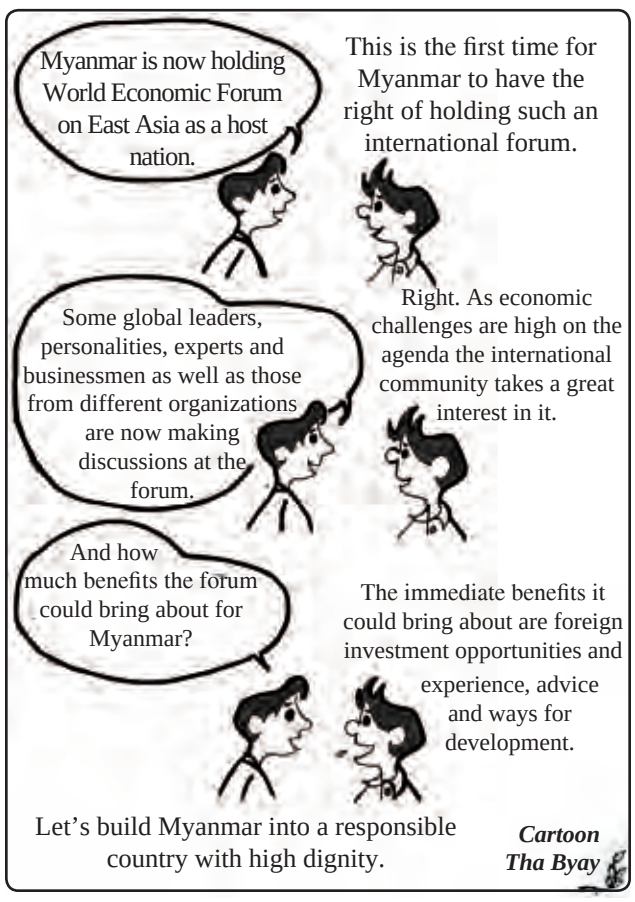
The start of a new school year is a time of rejoicing and a time of reunion with school friends. It seems easier to keep a school calm than to make it happy. To maintain the high morale among the students and among the teachers would be even more difficult. As the so-called education calender halves, the fatigue is brought on to the classrooms. School is then no more exciting, but clumsy.

We never explore solutions to keep all the students and teachers always in a good mood although we have an old motto hung over the walls of almost all schools that goes, "Happily schooled, one must excel in lessons."

Yet there are a lot of activities that a paper calendar could best mention. For schoolchildren, "school environment week" means a week mostly away from lessons only to mow the lawn of the school without knowing even why.

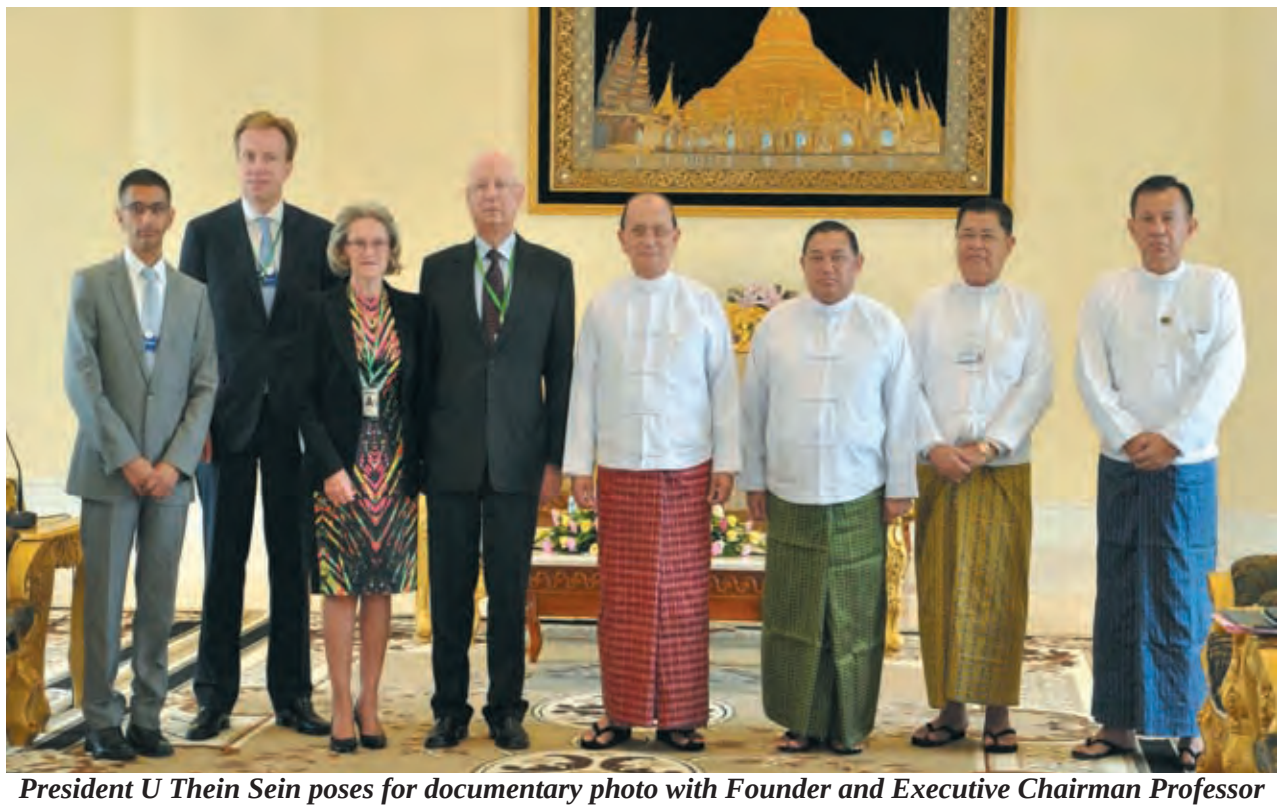
The calendar also smartly plans to suffocate the teachers with a load of lessons to complete on schedule and seemingly wise and practically time-consuming activities to kill its viability itself. To create more lively classrooms, no more "education calendar" is needed. Just allow teachers to plan their lessons freely. Let the headmaster/headmistress judge their performance independently. Shorten teaching hours and lengthen homeworks.

Bad teachers leave the class in turmoil. Good teachers keep it calm. The best ones make it happy. We have many good teachers. We need to just give them a try to turn the best ones.



NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives Founder and Executive Chairman of WEF on East Asia



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Founder and Executive Chairman Professor Klaus Schwab of WEF on East Asia and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Founder of World Economic Forum on East Asia and Executive Chairman Professor Klaus Schwab who arrived here to attend the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia in Myanmar and party at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 9 am today.

It was also attended by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and Dr. Kan Zaw and Heads of Department.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on further cooperation with World Economic Forum for successfully holding the 22nd World Economic Forum on East Asia in Myanmar and economic development of Myanmar.

MNA

Next, the President replied to questions raised by U Thura Ko Ko of Myanmar, on behalf of the Young Global Leaders.

After the meeting, the President cordially greeted the Young Global Leaders.

Later, the President posed for documentary photo together with the Union ministers and the Young Global Leaders in front of the Presidential Palace.

MNA

Main objective of reforms undertaken by government...

(from page 1)

number of countries and started undertaking the measures that will allow us to have close cooperation with the entire global business community. After seeking advice from such international organizations as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank, we have formulated a framework for social and economic development that is suited to our country's needs. I also want to underline that in trying to improve our cooperation with the international business community, we will be abiding by the international convention on business ethnics and environment.

It has come to my attention lately that some Myanmar watchers, when analyzing the reform process in our country, tend to confine their attention solely to the role of constitution, elections and political parties.

We, however, think it is crucial to more attention to helping our fellow citizens have a decent livelihood and overcome the hardship they experience in their daily lives. We are trying to the best of our ability to make sure that people who do not have access to education, health care, safe drinking water and electricity now have access to such basic services.

On the whole, the main objective of the reforms undertaken by our government in the last two years has been to create a brighter future for prosperity.

It is not exaggerated to say that the positive changes brought about by our reforms can now be seen and felt, not just by our citizens but by you all as well. You will also see that our people are now enjoying the fruits of these positive changes. We will not however be complacent. We will continue to work hard on laying a good foundation and creating positive political environment that are essential for the long-term development of the country.

The reforms we have undertaken are on the right track. This is the most salient point we should all be aware of. As we are working with international partners to ensure freedom from want and freedom from fear for our citizens, we are happy to welcome any of you who wish to join us in our efforts.

I hope that you will also have the opportunity to observe the fruits of our reform process.

Thank you for your attention.

May you all have a wonderful time in Myanmar.

Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn concurrently accredited to Argentina

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Argentina.—*MNA*

U Tin Yu concurrently accredited to Ukraine

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Yu, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Ukraine.—*MNA*

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong and party of the Republic of Singapore at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10 am today.

They had a cordial discussion on development of health and communication sectors in Myanmar, development of human resources, investment of Singapore's entrepreneurs in Myanmar and further strengthening of relationship between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Zeyar Aung and U Win Tun and Heads of Department.

The Singaporean Senior Minister and party were accompanied by the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar.—*MNA*

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein holds talks with Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong of Singapore.*—MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives S'pore's Emeritus Senior Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June — Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, received a Singaporean delegation led by Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chouk Tong at the Hluttaw Building here today.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on parliamentary affairs, bilateral friendship and cooperation, and reforms in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees U Htay Oo, U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Swe, U Soe Naing, U Hla Myint Oo and Secretaries Dr Soe Yin and U Maung Toe and responsible personnel from the Hluttaw Office. The guest was accompanied by Mr Robert Chua, Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong.
MNA

Union FM felicitates Swedish counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Sweden, which falls on 6 June 2013.—*MNA*

Committee for implementation of Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project Investigation Commission's report meets

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June— Coordination meeting of the Committee for implementation of Report of Investigation Commission on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project was held at Myanmar-Yangtzi Copper Ltd on 3 June, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun.

The Committee chairman said that the committee had discussed projects and implementation. He urged officials to implement works in cooperation with local people and prioritize socio-economic development of local people. After that, the vice-chairman called for respective departments' collaborations. The Chief Minister of Sagaing Region gave a speech. Union Minister Dr Myint Aung touched upon swift implementation of works.

Heads of respective groups Deputy Ministers reported on work implementation. They gave words of encouragement to workers of Myanmar-Yangtzi Copper Ltd.

So far, the committee has given back 208 acres of farmlands to 127 farmers and paid more than K 2432 million of compensation to 840 farmers. Wenbao Co has assisted K 1361.4 million for rural development. And education, health and regional development affairs of local people are being effectively carried out with the helps of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. Environmental conservation will be carried out in accord with international norms and standards. A total of 179,725 plants will be grown in this rainy season.

MNA

Philips, Yangon Heritage Trust, partner to highlight Yangon's cultural heritage sites

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—Royal Philips today announced that it has gone into a partnership with the Yangon Heritage Trust to help highlight and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Yangon making good use of its sustainable LED lighting solutions and make Yangon more livable and attractive for tourism.

The contribution from Philips will support the research and curation of historical sites and creation and installation of 200 blue plaques to highlight key cultural heritage sites through the country's commercial and cultural centre.

"Amdist all the changes in Myanmar, we believe its critically important to ensure we protect the beautiful and historically important city of Yangon," said Dr Thant Myint-U, founder and chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

"Yangon should become a very modern city, but we must remember, conserve and celebrate our heritage as well," he added.

"The blue plaque system till play a big role in doing just that, by marking buildings and other places of historical, cultural, and religious importance, not only for tourists but for the Myanmar people themselves," he said.

Philip is also working with stakeholders in Myanmar to help build the country's health infrastructure. "We are committed to helping the country build a better healthcare system, empower people to live healthier lives through our consumer products and help build a sustainable, high-quality lighting infrastructure," said Harjit Gill, Chief Executive Officer of Philips ASEAN and Pacific.— *NLM*

***Harjit Gill, Chief Executive Officer of Philips ASEAN and Pacific, and Dr Thant Myint U show a blue plaque to media.*—PHOTO A M SOE**

LOCAL NEWS

Panasonic Asia Pacific Pte Ltd opens Myanmar branch

YANGON, 5 June—A ceremony to open Panasonic Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) took place at Parkroyal Hotel, here, on 3 June morning.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Managing Director Mr Yorihisa Shiokawa of Panasonic Asia Pacific Middle East Africa Headquarters, Managing Director Mr Wong Peng Wah of Panasonic Singapore and Chief Representative Mr Hisakazu Maeda formally opened the branch.

Managing Director Mr Yorihisa Shiokawa extended greetings and the Chief Representative explained the purpose of opening the office. Panasonic Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) will distribute air coolers, refrigerators, washing machines, rice cookers, hair dryers, cosmetic materials and lamps and it will be a sponsor company for the XXVII SEA Games.

MNA

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 5 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

Prices of motorbikes raising in market of Monywa

MONYWA, 5 June—Due to increasing the rate of foreign exchange as of the end of April, the price of motorcycle is going up day by day in Monywa. The price is now exceeding K 35,000 to K 40,000 more than that of before the Maha Thingyan Festival period, according to Monywa Motorbike Dealers Market.

At the market, Kenbo 125 motorbike is sold at K 580,000, Cyclone K 690,000, Jalin K 460,000, Hyunju K 1.2 million, Honda K 850,000 and Follomedo and Jalindo around K 800,000. "The price of motorbikes follows the rate of foreign exchange gradually. However, the production price of factory does not change. Foreign exchange rate is instable. All the motorbikes have been paid duty to the State, so importation of motorbikes is streaming into the market daily. At present, sales of motorbikes is raising because now is school opening season," said a motorbike wholesaler from Monywa.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Talks raising public awareness for environmental conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—The 27th SEA Games Environmental Conservation Committee held talks in townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

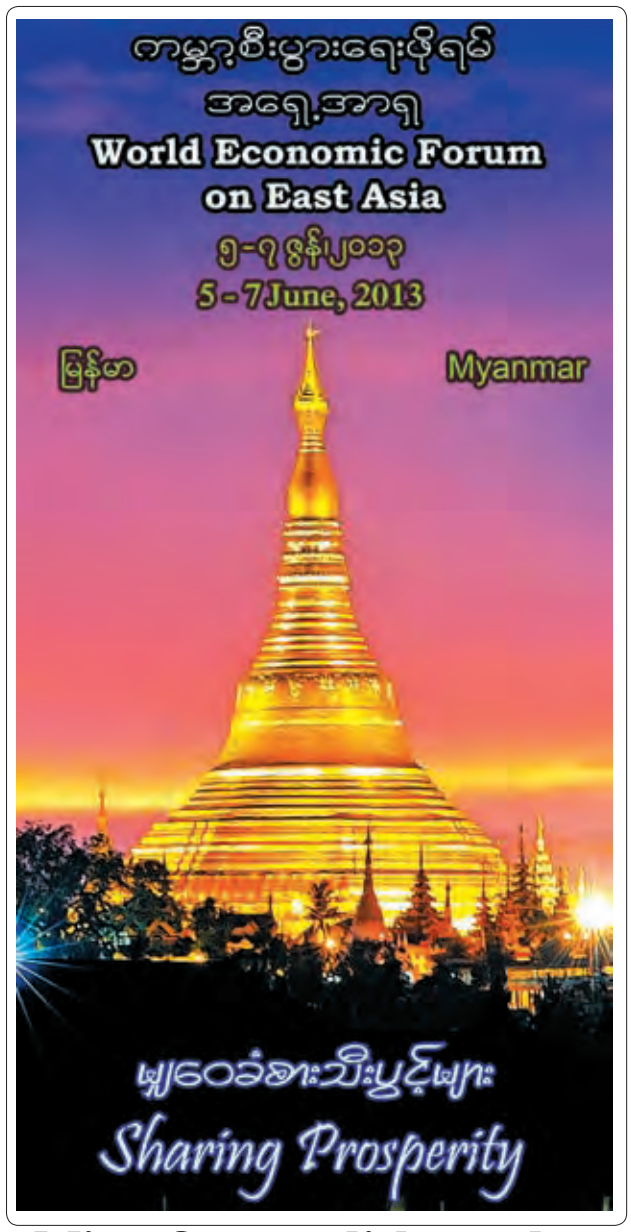
On 28 May, the Forest Department, Development Affairs Department and Health Department jointly organized the talks on raising ecological awareness of people in Yedi Village of Dekkhinathiri Township.

Staff Officer U Win Myint-5 of Forest Department gave lectures to the people. It was attended by village administrator, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, students and local people, totaling 166. Later, pamphlets were distributed to the attendees.

On 30 May, staff of Forest Department joined hands with those of Development Affairs Department and Health Department in holding the talks on prevention against pollutions in Minkon Village of Ottarathiri Township.

Staff Officer U Win Bo of Forest Department presented talks on prevention against pollutions, attended over 150 local people and members of social organizations. Later, a total of 200 pamphlets were presented to those present.

Kyemon-Forest Department



Microfinance disbursed to basic cooperative societies

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June—With the aim of narrowing the development gap between urban and rural areas and alleviating the poverty, cooperative societies are implementing the microfinance works for providing capitals of the local people in their businesses.

A ceremony to disburse loans to basic cooperative societies in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held at the hall of Pyinmana Township Cooperative Syndicate on 30 May morning.

It was attended by Director U Myint Aung of the Cooperative Department, Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Department U Nyi Nyi Zaw, Chairman of the syndicate U Khin Maung Myint and members of BOD, chairmen and secretaries of the basic cooperative societies. The director, staff officer and the chairman of the syndicate explained the purpose of disbursement and presented K 206.492 million to 32 agricultural cooperative societies, five livestock breeding societies and 23 general cooperative societies.

Kyemon-Myint Than

CRIME

Man arrested on suspicion of murder

BAGO, 5 June—A man has been arrested on suspicion of murdering a man in Nandawyar Ward 2 in Bago on 31 May.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Maung Cho (a) Cho Min Htet, 32, of Oaktha 13th Street, Bago, around 4 am yesterday in Myawady.

Action is being taken to bring him to the court in connection with the murdering Maung Bo Bo Aung, 22, of Alinyaung 7th Street, Nandawyar Ward. The case happened around 11 pm, on 31 May.

Kyemon-403

REGIONAL

N Korea opens floodgates at prestige dam

SEOUL, 5 June — North Korea recently opened the floodgates to discharge huge amounts of water from the Huichon hydroelectric power station in Jagang Province, a *Seoul* daily reported on Wednesday.

The Chosun Ilbo reported that images from a South Korean satellite show that the North lowered the water table behind the dam to a level at which power generation is impossible.

Even before that it only stored 10 percent of the full capacity of 550 million tons.

The development has led experts to speculate that the water was either discharged to brace for the rainy season or to lower the water table for emergency repair work on the trouble-ridden facility.

The dam, which has been regarded as a flagship for the regime, has a power generation capacity of 300,000 kilowatts.

A South Korean government official told the daily that rain in the area between December and April was the same as in previous years at about 128 millimeters, and that there was no special flood alert or warning for the area either.

The Huichon power station was built to solve chronic electricity shortages for Pyongyang and its vicinity, but serious leaks and cracks were spotted the moment the first phase was complete in April 2011.

Former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il regarded the power plant as his final achievement and visited the building site eight times before he died on 17 Dec, 2011.

Intelligence reports suggested that he died in a fit of rage on his way to the dam after learning that cracks had appeared due to shoddy construction, the report said.

Kyodo News

People look at the blast site after an explosion in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 4 June, 2013. One boy was confirmed dead after an air compressor exploded in a shop in Ho Chi Minh City early on Tuesday, according to Vietnamese state-owned news agency VNA. —Xinhua

Honda to begin trials of ultracompact EV in Japan

TOKYO, 5 June — Honda Motor Co said on Tuesday it will begin experimental use of its two-seater ultracompact electric vehicle from this fall in Kumamoto Prefecture and a city in Okinawa Prefecture.

The ultracompact EV, which is under development, will be run on public roads to gather information on its use as a transportation tool for the elderly, tourists and families with small children, the company said.

Kumamoto Prefecture plans to utilize the EV to attract more tourists, while the city of Miyakojima in Okinawa will check the effects of the new vehicle on cutting carbon dioxide emissions as it promotes steps to be a model environmentally friendly city.

Kyodo News

Photo taken in Tokyo shows a two-seat ultracompact electric vehicle from Honda Motor Co as the automaker said on 4 June, 2013, it will begin experimental use of the vehicle from the fall of 2013 in Kumamoto Prefecture and a city in Okinawa Prefecture. —Kyodo News

E Timor prime minister plans ASEAN tour to lobby for membership

SINGAPORE, 5 June — East Timor Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao said on Tuesday he will visit member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year to lobby for support for his country's application to join the grouping.

"To progress our ascension to ASEAN, and to build Timor-Leste's relationship with the South East Asian region, this year I will be visiting most ASEAN nations," Gusmao said at a lecture in Singapore organized by the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

"As Timor-Leste is part of Southeast Asia, we also want to be part of ASEAN and, together, contribute to regional growth, social progress and cultural development in a spirit of partnership," he said, referring to East Timor by its commonly used Portuguese name.

"Timor-Leste knows that it has to build its human resources to enable us to contribute fully to ASEAN. That is why we are training our people so that they can join the organization, as a key part of our future role in Asia."

East Timor applied for membership in 2011, but some ASEAN members have been cool to the idea, with Singapore in particular voicing concern over the country's lack of human resource capability to cope with ASEAN's large number of meetings, according to ASEAN sources.

The Bruneian chair of the ASEAN leaders summit said in a statement at the end of that meeting in April that the leaders were "encouraged by the progress" in discussions... on all relevant aspects related to the application by Timor-Leste, as well as its possible implications on ASEAN."

It said that they "agreed to explore the possibility of East Timor's participation in ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building."

Kyodo News

Nepal urged to take measures to address climate change

KATHMANDU, 5 June — Nepal should adopt specific measures to mitigate adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation rather than organizing ornamental programmes to mark the World Environment Day (WED), conservation experts said on Tuesday. Experts also stressed on the need to revise the country's existing environmental law to bring it at par with the contemporary provisions implemented in the international domain at a time when various awareness programmes are going on to mark WED 2013 on 5 June.

Authorities are not able to say clearly either Nepal is witnessing pre-monsoon or the monsoon right now as the country witnessed abnormal rainfall throughout the country even in this summer season, according to Lal Bahadur Thapa, a conservationist.

"If monsoon has moved forward, then certainly food production this year will decrease due to following the traditional farming calendar," Thapa said. And Nepalese farmers, poorest of the poor, will have to bear the brunt of climate change.

However the government of Nepal (GoN) has no specific plan and programs to mitigate such risks stimulated by the climate change including the melting down of snow level in the mountainous region, experts say. Nepal, on 5 June, is marking WED as an annual event for positive environmental action on the theme of "Think. Eat. Save." as set by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), an anti-food waste and food loss campaign targeted to limit the devastating effects on the environment due to the drain on natural resources by food waste.—*Xinhua*

Autistic children attend a training class at Watklang municipal school in Khon Kaen, Thailand's north province, on 3 June, 2013. Khon Kaen initiated a participation of medical staff in Khon Kaen hospital. Autistic children's parents and local schools produced a holistic package for autistic children. According to a report released by Thai autism experts, at least 200,000 children in the country suffer from autism, and the number is still growing. —Xinhua

A train model for subway is displayed on the exhibition "Rail + Metro China 2013" in Shanghai, east China, on 4 June, 2013. The exhibition, showcasing metro and rail-related technologies and products worldwide, kicked off here on Tuesday. Xinhua

Mongolia's first wind farm operational this month

ULAN BATOR, 5 June — Mongolia's first wind farm is expected to start generating electricity later this month, a local official said on Tuesday.

The wind farm, called Salhitai or a windy place in Mongolian, was located in Central Province, about 70 km from Ulan Bator, its executive manager, Enkhamgalan, said.

The facility was built by Mongolian New Communications Group Corporation and General Electric (GE) Company with a joint investment of 100 million USdollars, Enkhamgalan told reporters on site.

In recent years, Mongolia's annual electricity consumption has grown by 8-10 percent and is expected to increase further in the next 15 years.

Salhitai covers an area of 12,000 hectares and will meet 5 percent of Mongolia's electricity consumption each year, replacing the use of millions of tons of coal and water.

Mongolia reportedly plans to establish more wind farms to boost its renewable energy share to 20-25 percent of its total energy supply by 2020.

Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj recently said Mongolia had rich wind, solar and other renewable energy resources, which, after vigorous development, not only could meet domestic demand, but be exported to neighbouring countries.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (338) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2013 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.

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M.V GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(4) 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.

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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
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Locusts fly across Ilaka Centre Village, Soavina County of Ambositra Dirstict, around 225 km south of Madagascar's capital Antananarivo on 28 May, 2013. Locust plague is threatening the livelihoods of people in Madagascar, more than 90 percent of whom earn a living from agriculture. Madagascar's transition presidency said recently it will unlock two billions Ariary (about one million US dollars) to fight against locust plague, while according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the fight against the locust in Madagascar requires 22 million US dollars and an additional fund of 19 million US dollars. If no action is taken, at least 1.5 million hectares covering two-thirds farmland of the country would be infested by locusts by September 2013.—Xinhua

Nine dead in central China highway pileups

ZHENGZHOU, 5 June — Nine people were killed on Tuesday in 16 pileups on a fogbound expressway in central China's Henan Province, local authorities said on Wednesday.

The accidents occurred on Tuesday morning on the Zhumadian section of Jing-Gang-Ao highway that links Beijing with Hong Kong and Macao, and involved 56 vehicles, according to local police. Eight people were killed on the scene while 95 people were trapped. Of all the trapped people that were rescued by 1 pm on Tuesday, one died after emergency treatment failed. A further investigation into the accident is under way.—*Xinhua*

Philippine public urged to reduce food waste

MANILA, 5 June — The Philippine government urged the public on Tuesday to cut down food waste and its corresponding ecological impact by developing habits that reduce the amount of food that goes to waste.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ramon Paje made the call as the country celebrates Environment Month in June, kicking off with the observance of the World Environment Day on Wednesday under the global theme "Think, Eat, Save" which is aimed at reducing food waste.

He stressed the need for every citizen to rethink his/her eating habits and be mindful of the way food is produced and consumed.

"Whenever possible, we should therefore be more selective in our food choices," Paje said, urging the public to be "more environmentally-responsible consumers."

The environment chief noted that "some types of food, like beef, take more resources to produce per kilogram, than others."

Paje said people can reduce their so-called "foodprint" by patronizing food produced in an environmentally sound manner such as those grown organically or packaged using recycled materials to lessen waste dumped into landfills that generate methane, a relatively potent greenhouse gas.

He said organic food and locally-produced products "require less emissions-producing handling and transport to bring to our tables."

"Many of us give very little regard on the entire chain from food production, which requires so many raw materials that are often sourced from the environment, up to food consumption, where waste is often detrimental to environmental health," Paje pointed out.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization has said that 1.3 billion metric tons of food is wasted every year. On a daily basis, a seventh of the world's population "goes to bed hungry," while more than 20,000 children under the age of five die from hunger.

Xinhua

Spanish police arrest 30 suspects in anti-mafia operation

MADRID, 5 June — Spanish police on Tuesday arrested 30 suspects and searched 27 premises in a joint operation with the Italian police against an Italian based organized crime gang.

The arrests are of suspected members of the 'Polverino clan,' which is considered to be the most dangerous clan of the Naples based Camorra crime syndicates and the only group which has a close relation with the Sicilian Mafia.

They are suspected of being involved with drug smuggling and money laundering operations and possibly several murders in Italy. Tuesday's arrests are a continuation of the investigations which led to the arrest of Giuseppe Polverino, the leader of the crime syndicate and one of the 30 most wanted men in Italy, in the town of Jerez de la Frontera close to Cadiz in the south-west of Spain in March 2012.

These arrests took place two years after Polverino's right hand man, Fabio Allegro, who was allegedly behind organizing the transport of hashish into the south of Europe from Morocco, was detained in Malaga.

It is thought Polverino controlled an empire worth over a billion dollars, while his clan is thought to be behind several murders carried out in Naples as well as the organization of drugs smuggled into the south of Italy.—*Xinhua*

Israel to raise tax on alcoholic beverages by 25%

JERUSALEM, 5 June — Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid signed a decree on Tuesday to raise the purchase tax on alcoholic drinks by 25 percent. As of 1 July, the purchase tax on alcoholic beverages would be 28.5 US dollars per liter of alcohol, instead of 23 dollars per liter.

Lapid surprised alcohol consumers in the country by bringing the decree into effect five months earlier than expected. The Israeli government expects to gross in an estimated 200 million shekels (about 54 million dollars) as a result of the hike. According to the Tax Authority, the new measure is in line with the government's policy to tax goods with negative effects, such as beverages with high alcoholic volume and cigarettes.

The alcohol tax hike was first introduced in the 2013-2014 austerity budget which the new Israeli government has drafted to cover its deficit that hit 42 billion shekels (11 billion dollars). The budget stipulates tax hikes and cuts in social services budget. On Sunday, Lapid raised the Value-Added Tax from 17 to 18 percent. On 7 May, the cigarettes' purchase tax was increased by 10 percent. Last month, more than 10,000 people rallied in the streets of Tel Aviv against the new austerity measures, saying it will severely handicap the lower and middle classes in Israel and increase gaps between the rich and the poor.—*Xinhua*

Vehicles move on waterlogged road in Taipei, southeast China's Taipei, on 4 une, 2013. A rainstorm and hail hit the city on Tuesday. —Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Penelope Cruz to be the oldest Bond girl

Los Angeles, 5 June —Actress Penelope Cruz is reportedly in talks to play the Bond girl in the 24th installment of the James Bond franchise.

The actress, who is expecting her second child with actor-husband Javier Bardem, will start shooting for the movie after she turns 40 in April next year, reports thesun.co.uk.

Noteworthy is that Cruz will also become the oldest actress to play the character after actress Honour Blackman, who was 39 when she starred as Pussy Galore in the 1962 release Goldfinger. "Bond girls are always brainy and sexy, and that's totally Penelope," said a source.

Actress Naomie Harris played the Bond girl in the last James Bond outing Skyfall. While actor Daniel Craig played the elusive spy for the third time in the film, Bardem portrayed the main antagonist Raoul Silva.

PTI

Actress Penelope Cruz

***Angelina was advised by her mom-in-law to take the test that helped find her high chance for developing breast cancer.* PTI**

Amitabh Bachchan recalls 'lifetime' with Jaya on 40th anniversary

Mumbai, 5 June — It's been four decades since Amitabh Bachchan married his Zanjeer co-star Jaya. The megastar looks back at the "lifetime" and says God has been kind to give him the family that he has. "40 years! 40 years of marriage on the 3rd of June 2013! Jaya and I in marriage for 40 years! A lifetime almost," the 70-year-old posted on his blog srbachchan.tumblr.com.

Despite both being actors, the couple skipped the pomp and show, and had a small wedding affair back then with only close friends and family in attendance. It "seems like just the other evening", Big B posted on the blog, adding: "I had driven with my parents to a friends place on Malabar Hill, in the southern region of the city, and to a very quick, no fuss, no 'taam jhaam', family and a few friends, and a few close media, wedding."

"A wedding that had the fulfillment of a promise, that if Zanjeer succeeded we would get married! Here we are now, two children and three grand children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, relatives and 'samdhis' in our family fold. God has been very kind," added Mr Bachchan, who has shared screen space with Mrs Bachchan in films such as Abhimaan, Chupke Chupke, Sholay, Silsila, Zanjeer, Mili and Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham to name a few.

Amitabh and Jaya have two children — Shweta and Abhishek. Shweta is the elder one out of the two and is married to businessman Nikhil Nanda since 1997. They have two children — Agastya and Navya Naveli. Abhishek, also an actor, is married to former beauty queen-turned-actress Aishwarya Rai. They have a daughter named Aaradhya. Big B recieved several anniversary wishes online, and he took to Twitter to thank everyone. "To all those that wish us a happy anniversary... our gratitude and love and blessings and joy! Thank you," he blogged. —*PTI*

Brad Pitt's mother "helped save" Angelina Jolie's

Los Angeles, 5 June — Hollywood star Brad Pitt's mother Jane was influential in Angelina Jolie's decision to take the test that led to her preventative double mastectomy. Jane asked the 37-year-old star to take the test, which led to her finding out she carried the BRCA1 cancer gene, that gave her an 87 per cent chance of developing breast cancer and a 50 per cent risk of ovarian cancer, reported *National Enquirer*.

"Basically, Brad's mom helped save Angie's life. When Angie told Jane that she was considering having genetic testing, Jane said to do whatever she thought was best for the children's sake," a source said. "That was all Angie had to hear. She made a decision right then and there to have it done," it added.

Jane had the heartfelt conversation with Angelina, who has six children, Maddox, 11, Pax, nine, Zahara, eight, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne, with husband Brad, while she was holidaying with her husband Bill and their family at Christmas last year. The group were staying at fashion designer Donna Karan's luxury abode on Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and while Jane is remaining tight-lipped about the specific details of the conversation, she is very glad Angelina, whose mother Marcheline died of ovarian cancer at 56, had the test done.

PTI

Freida Pinto bats for girl empowerment in Ethiopia

Freida Pinto

Addis Ababa, 5 June —Slumdog Millionaire actress Freida Pinto, the global ambassador of the Because I am A Girl Campaign (BIAAG), visited Ethiopia for the first time as part of her role to support Plan International's projects. She says educating and empowering girls is the way forward worldwide. Because I Am a Girl (BIAAG) is Plan's global initiative. Launched on 11 Oct, 2012, it is aimed to create sustainable projects in developing countries to give girls access to clean water, food, health care, education and protection from violence and exploitation.

"If we educate and empower girls, they will reach their fullest potential, pulling themselves and their families out of every problem they might possibly face" said Freida. "I am truly inspired by the determination and courage of the girls I have met in the places I have visited in Ethiopia," she added. The actress, known for her role as Latika in Danny Boyle's 2008 Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire, stayed there for three days and visited the projects that have been undertaken in different areas, including Addis Ababa as well as in Shebedino District, Leko City of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Freida was impressed by Plan Ethiopia's efforts in bringing a lasting change to the lives of children in the country. She also visited schools where she interacted with students and teachers as well as discussed the programs and projects that are undertaken by women in the society with the support of Plan Ethiopia, where she met young and adults who are involved in so many projects. The actress envisions starting a kind of gender sensitisation program in Ethiopia to introduce ways of protecting children, girls through knowledge and skills and to have safe and quality learning environments. Because she says, gender sensitisation programmes do not only need to be given at schools, but also at homes which makes it easier to start creating awareness since it is a programme protecting girls as well as children.—*PTI*

SPORTS

Honda's last-gasp penalty qualifies Japan for Brazil

SAITAMA, JAPAN, 5 June — Once again, it was Keisuke Honda who stepped up for Japan when they needed him most.

Honda equalized with a 91st-minute penalty as Japan became the first team in the world to qualify for next year's World Cup in Brazil after a thrilling 1-1 draw to Australia on Tuesday.

Matt McKay handled a ball from Honda in the dying seconds and awarded Japan the spot kick, after Alberto Zaccheroni's side fell behind eight minutes earlier when Tommy Oar's lucky goal pushed the visitors in front.— *Kyodo News*

Japan midfielder Keisuke Honda (L) scores an injury-time penalty past Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer in a World Cup soccer qualifier against Australia at Saitama Stadium in Saitama, north of Tokyo, on 4 June, 2013. **KYODO NEWS**

Gattuso appointed as Palermo head coach

Gennaro Gattuso

ROME, 5 June — Palermo club president Maurizio Zamparini confirmed on Tuesday that Gennaro Gattuso has been appointed as the club's head coach.

"I can confirm officially that Gattuso is our coach for next season," said Zamparini. "A club statement will soon be released on the matter." "We are happy to have on our bench such an important personality as Gattuso who has written important chapters in the history of Italian football," he said.

"I'm sure that with his great experience he will take us immediately back into Serie A," he added. Gattuso left AC Milan last summer and joined Sion of Switzerland where he had ten-game coaching experience.—*Xinhua*

Bolt aims for four more years of dominance

ROME , 5 June — Jamaica's Usain Bolt aims to preserve his sprint dominance and add to his collection of six Olympic gold medals before he ends his glittering athletics career after the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016.

"I have pretty much four more years I think personally, in the sport, so now it is all about dominating for those four years," Bolt, 26, told a news conference in Rome where he was preparing to make his European season debut at Thursday's Golden Gala meeting.

"I am looking forward to the next Olympics to do something that has never been done before so that is one of my biggest things right now," he said. Bolt, Olympic champion and world record holder over 100 and 200 meters, has struggled with a slight hamstring strain this year and last competed in a meeting in the Cayman Islands last month where he ran the 100 at a relatively pedestrian 10.09 seconds. As well as Bolt, Thursday's field includes American Justin Gatlin, bronze medalist at the London Olympics, and 2003 world champion Kim Collins from St Kitts and Nevis.

The Jamaican was confident that he had overcome the injury problems which dogged the start of his year and said he would not relax his hold over a sport he has dominated since his triumph at the Beijing Olympics of 2008. "It is going to take hard work and I really look forward to the competition because it drives me and it helps the sport. I am going to do as much as possible and enjoy it and help to develop the sport over the years," he said.

Reuters

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt poses during a news conference in Rome on 4 June, 2013. Bolt will be competing at the Golden Gala World Challenge Rome meeting on Thursday. **—REUTERS**

Tsonga keeps dream alive

PARIS, 5 June — Roger Federer calls Jo-Wilfried Tsonga a "great friend" but received no mercy from the Frenchman who swept him aside in devastating fashion on Tuesday to boost hopes of a first home men's winner at Roland Garros since 1983. An inspired Tsonga played like a man on a mission and Federer simply could not live with him, slumping to a chastening 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 French Open quarter-final defeat in front of a spellbound crowd on a sun-drenched Philippe Chatrier court.

In Tuesday's other men's quarter-final, Tommy Robredo ran out of escape routes as he was overwhelmed by fourth seed David Ferrer 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in an all-Spanish affair. Tsonga has been part of the pack chasing the elite top-four of men's tennis ever since bursting through to reach the 2008 Australian Open final where he lost to Novak Djokovic. But he had never gone beyond the last eight in Paris.

When Federer wafted a backhand long on match point, the crowd erupted and Tsonga set off on his trademark celebratory leap, the tantalizing prospect of the 28-year-old going on to emulate Yannick Noah became the talk of the town.

Federer has suffered at the hands of Tsonga before, notably at Wimbledon in 2011 when the Frenchman, who has a passing resemblance to boxing great Muhammad Ali, bounced off the ropes to beat the Swiss great from two sets down.That had been a real toe-to-toe contest but this time Federer trudged off well-beaten, waving to the crowd and knowing his last chance of a second French Open title may have gone.

Reuters

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France

For Heat and Spurs it is all about now

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (R), LeBron James (2nd R), Chris Bosh (back C) and his son Jackson look on as Ray Allen holds the Eastern Conference championship trophy after they defeated the Indiana Pacers during Game 7 of their NBA Eastern Conference final basketball playoff in Miami, Florida on 3 June, 2013. **— REUTERS**

MIAMI , 5 June — Two teams that were built to win will meet in the National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals when Miami Heat defend their title against San Antonio Spurs in a classic match-up between some of the league's most experienced talent. The Heat's Big Three of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh and their quality supporting cast, will start as odds-on favorites but the Spurs are the perfect example of the benefits of continuity.

For the Spurs, 37-year-old Tim Duncan is aiming for a fifth championship, having been part of San Antonio's triumphs in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007. Frenchman Tony Parker and Argentine Manu Ginobili were part of those last three championship teams, providing a veteran core for the Spurs. While some of the teams who were defeated in the playoffs, such as the Indiana Pacers and Oklahoma City Thunder, can console themselves with the knowledge their young squads have at least learned lessons for the future, the two finalists will be able to take no consolation from defeat.

The Heat are in their third straight finals, having lost to Dallas in 2011 and beaten the Thunder last year, but such a feat was expected of them -- and indeed promised -- when they acquired James and Bosh in free agency in 2010.

For James, the meeting with the Spurs, which begins with Thursday's game in Miami, will be the second time he has come up against them in an NBA Finals.

He played on the Cleveland Cavaliers team that lost to the Spurs in 2007.

Reuters

Kuznetsova bows out but takes solace in defeat

PARIS, 5 June — Svetlana Kuznetsova needed crutches to move around a few months ago so despite serving "like a grandmother" in her quarter-final defeat to Serena Williams on Tuesday the beaten Russian was pleased with her French Open efforts. "Kuzi", who dropped to 85th in the world after a six-month knee injury layoff after Wimbledon last year, was hindered by an abdominal strain as she lost 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to the American world number one.After the loss of the first set, the Russian took a medical time out to have her stomach taped.

"I taped my stomach stronger than I had before, because it was killing me and I couldn't serve," the 2009 Roland Garros champion told a news conference."I took a lot of pills and stuff. My serve didn't go up to its normal speed. I was serving like a grandmother. But still, at least I had a little bit less pain."Kuznetsova seemed more at ease on return games, allowing Serena to hold serve only once as she claimed the second set.

"Against Serena, it's a bit complicated to play like that. And still it was very even and I had my chances," she said. As painful as the experience was, the Russian still enjoyed her time on Court Suzanne Lenglen, after going through some rough times in the past months."I was looking in the crowd and thinking that I was lying back with my broken knee in my bed and thinking, 'I don't want to play US Open, I'm so tired'," she explained."I could not even walk. I was with crutches all the time."I was extremely pleased with the way I performed here, and I just need to keep going the same way."— *Reuters*

Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia wipes her face during their women's singles quarter-final match against Serena Williams of the US at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 4 June, 2013. Kuznetsova lost the match to Williams. **REUTERS**

GENERAL

Alves: Brazil close to regaining winning ways

Daniel Alves

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 June — Daniel Alves is adamant Brazil are on track to recapture their status as a football power ahead of the FIFA Confederations Cup later this month. Brazil have won just one match — a 4-0 victory over Bolivia in April — since Luiz Felipe Scolari took over from Mano Menezes as coach in November last year.

"We are the first to realize the importance of winning for Brazil," Alvessaid during a Press conference on Tuesday. "We can't stay in this routine of drawing matches and of playing well without winning. Here we live for winning."

"We are improving and happy with our progress. We only need to get a victory for everything to be perfect." Among the principal concerns for Scolari is a defence that has conceded multiple goals in three of the past five matches.

"It's a high number and that is why we are looking for equilibrium," the Barcelona defender said. "We have to score more goals. Football is no longer a game where defenders only get back to mark and only strikers attack.

Everybody needs to help in all areas." Scolari's squad will train in the central city of Goiania until Thursday before travelling to Porto Alegre in Brazil's south for a friendly against France at Arena do Gremio. The Selecao will open the Confederations Cup against Japan in Brasilia on 15 June.

Xinhua

More Chinese university vacancies reserved for rural students

BEIJING, 5 June — As many as 30,000 university vacancies will be reserved for rural high school students in this year's university admissions plan, according to a statement posted on the Ministry of Education's website on Tuesday.

Rural education, which often lags behind that of urban areas, reduces rural students' chances of attending good universities in China.

Raising the amount of rural students at leading universities will promote educational and social equality and is necessary for improving the quality of higher education, the statement added.

The number of poverty-stricken counties covered by the plan will reach 832 this year, up from 680 in 2012, according to the statement.

An estimated 8.6-percent more rural students are expected to enroll in the country's leading universities this year than last year, according to the statement.

Statistics from the ministry show that the national average college admission rate was 8.5 percent in 2011, while the number for the 680 impoverished counties stood at just 5.7 percent.

The ministry will also push forward renovation work in rural schools and high school construction in areas with concentrations of ethnic minorities, according to the statement.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-6-13 09:30 am ~ 7-6-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 "Business Mandate in Myanmar"
* News
* Let's give necessary support to double farmer's income
* Valuable Myanmar Native Orchids
* World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 "Pursuing the ASEAN Century"
* Life In Night ... Art In Life (Ep-1)
* Let's give necessary support to double farmer's income
* Lannakha Waterfall
* World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 "Opening Ceremony"
* World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 "Moving from a Cash to a Banked Economy"
* World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 "Vision for East Asia's Networked Future"
* World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 "Mapping Risks: An East Asia Context"

Myanmar TV

(6-6-2013, Thursday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:35 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:45 am
3. Dance & Song of National Races

7:00 am
4. News/ Weather Report

7:20 am
5. People Talk

7:35 am
6. Documentary

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. My Mind Game My SEA Games

9:35 am
9. World Heritage (Poland Warsaw)

10:00 am
10. News

10:15 am
11. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

10:30 am
12. Teleplay (Agri)

10:50 am
13. Sing & Enjoy

11:25 am
14. Myanmar Video

1:40 pm
15. Live Broadcasting (World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013) Opening Ceremony

3:00 pm
16. News

3:15 pm
17. World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 Sharing Prosperity

3:25 pm
18. Cute Little Dancers

3:40 pm
19. Road to 27th SEA Games

4:15 pm
20. Myanmar Language

4:30 pm
21. Dance & Song of National Races

4:45 pm
22. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second year (Business Management)

5:00 pm
23. News

5:30 pm
24. India Drama Series

6:20 pm
25. Approaching Science Discovery World

6:45 pm
26. TV Drama Series

8:45 pm
27. Hit Songs of Stars

9:00 pm
28. News
29. CLEVER
30. TV Drama Series

Fire erupts at Houston plant without causing injuries

HOUSTON, 5 June — A fire broke out at an asphalt plant in the US city of Houston on Tuesday evening with no injuries reported, local police said. The incident happened at the Martin Asphalt Company in south Houston when a tank caught fire. TV footage showed black smoke columns were billowing from the scene. Some witnesses told local TV KTRK the heavy smoke could be seen miles away.

No injuries were reported, said Herbert Gilbert, chief of the South Houston Police Department, adding that the fire was extinguished eventually with the help of at least three fire departments.

He did not provide any other details of the fire. It remains unclear how the tank caught fire and how much damage it caused to the plant.—*Xinhua*

Photo taken on 30 May, 2013 shows a tourist visiting Isalo National Park in the Ihorombe region, southwestern Madagascar. Isalo National Park was known for a variety of physiognomies and species of birds, frogs and mammals.
XINHUA

Ukraine expects increased foreign investment in agriculture

KIEV, 5 June — Ukraine, which drew more than 800 million US dollars of foreign investment in agriculture projects last year, is seeking to attract even more funds in 2013, First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Arbuzov said on Tuesday.

"Agriculture is one of the most attractive sectors of the economy, both in Ukraine and in the world. So this year we plan to attract about 3 billion of investment in the agricultural sector," Arbuzov was quoted by the government's press service as saying.

Ukraine has advantages and favourable investment climate in such spheres as meat and dairy industry, horticulture and production of biofuels, Arbuzov said.

According to him, companies from the European Union, China and other Asian countries intend to invest in the country's agriculture sector.

Ukraine, one of Europe's leading exporters of food, increased its agricultural output to 27.6 billion dollars in 2012.

The authorities set a target to boost Ukraine's agricultural output by 30 percent in the next decade.

Xinhua

Spanish PM defends gov't policy as unemployment falls in May

MADRID, 5 June — Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Tuesday said a reduction in unemployment in Spain by 98,265 showed his government's policies were correct.

Rajoy made the statement at the Spanish senate where he said the government is determined to continue its policies. "In many occasions we had to take decisions that were not probably supported by others," he said.

The Ministry of Employment confirmed on Tuesday that the number of people out of work in the country fell last month to a total of 4.8 million. May was also the third consecutive month to see a fall in unemployment.

The leader of the opposition Socialist (PSOE) party Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba agreed the data was positive news, but highlighted the fact that unemployment had dropped because of the arrival of the tourist season which is always accompanied by the creation of temporary jobs in the service sector.

Spain's labour unions were not impressed by the data, commenting the data was "not reason for optimism" as unemployment is expected to grow before the end of the year, thereby intensifying social inequalities in the country. The unions said the level of unemployment remained "unsustainable."

Last year, the Spanish government passed labor reforms which reduced costs of dismissals making the Spanish labour market more flexible.

The unions say the regulation makes it easier for employers to sack workers and has served to drive down wages over the past 15 months.

Reuters

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Thursday, 6 June, 2013

World Environment Day (WED) observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June— World Environment Day (WED), jointly organized by the Ministry of Environmental Conserva-tion and Forestry and UNEP, was held at Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, here, this morning, with an opening address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was also attended by Union Ministers U Soe Maung, U Win Tun, Dr Mya Aye, U Aye Myint Kyu and U Zeyar Aung, the deputy ministers, departmental heads and members of environmental conservation work committee, resident representative Ms Bui Thi Lan of FAO in Yangon, UN Habitat resident representative Mr Vijay Kumarcharya, officials from UNDP and EU-IMG, directors-general and managing directors from the universities, rectors, deputy directors-general and pro-rectors, directors, responsible persons from NGOs and winners in World Environment Day commemorative essay and articles competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the World Environmental Day being marked today turns 41st anniversary since the global leaders gathered and held the first meeting on environmental conservation in Stockholm, Sweden on 5 June 1972.

The 5 June being a day of significance is marked as World Environmental Day by the global nations with activities on environmental conservation, and this year's ceremony to mark WED will be held in Mongolia as an alternative nation.

With a view to promoting awareness of the importance of preserving environment, the theme of WED for 2013 is set as "Think, Eat, Save, Reduce Your Foodprint" and the theme has related food production, environmental degradation and the need for environmental conservation.

The unbalance of food production and consumption style has produced a lot of wastage. Globally, 1.3 billion tons that is one third of food production has turned out to be wastage amounting over half of the world crop production which is 2.3 billion tons.

For example, 30 per cent of food production in the United States worth about 48.3 billion has turned out to be byproducts. This means that we ignored the need of food for the needy and wasted resources.

That is why, the theme raises awareness of people to be visionary in production and consumption of food. The loss of food means the loss of labour, capital and natural resources, thereby resulting in global warming and climate changes.

Therefore, the UNEP has urged the global nations to ensure green economy that was adopted by Rio+20 in 2012 in order to effectively implement the three sectors — economic, social and environmental conservation sectors.

In Myanmar, steps are being taken in accordance with the instruction of the President which calls for adopting green economy policy that could strike a balance between economic development and environmental conserva-tion.

As regards the byproducts, the announcement of Rio+20 Conference is "reduce, reuse and recycle". One of the significant points is the increase in population. The global population stands at seven billion and it is expected to touch nine billion in 2050. Although the world food production excesses the current demand, 870 million of global population is still facing the shortage of food.

According to the estimation of FAO, if the food production continues to be lost by one third,one in seven people will face starvation, thus resulting in the dead of 20,000 children under five.

In Myanmar also, the population stood at over 40 million in 1990, and it has increased to 60 million. As food wastage could increase it is necessary to adopt a wastage management framework and work program.

(See page 6)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party look around booths displayed at Forest Department to mark World Environment Day (WED).—MNA

World Economic Forum kicks off in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 5 June— The official inauguration of Myanmar's first global nation-branding campaign took place at the World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013 at the Myanmar Convention Centre here today.

The official inauguration of Myanmar's first global nation-branding campaign at MICC at the World Economic Forum on East Asia 2013.

MNA

Participants of the forum today discussed tourism sector and economy under the titles of Global Agenda Council Series, travel and Tourism Growth and Jobs, Accelerating ASEAN's Integration, Exclusive Dialogue with Myanmar Businesses and Laying the Basic for Travel and Tourism Guiding Principles.

In the interview with **Mr Anu Passiaro (Coordinator, Public Relationship Department, Visa),** he suggested Myanmar government and people to work together to grasp the opening opportunities and stressed the need for making the developing banking businesses more better.

The World Economic Forum of East Asia 2013 is held in Myanmar after the country won achievements in its reforms.

He also suggested the business firms in the country to promote quality standard of the products and to establish public-owned companies and make investments.

Narashimha Rao, Representative of Noregion Fertilizer Industry Co Ltd said he hoped that industries from Norway could create a new market for them, and the forum proved that Myanmar was on the right road to development of economy and other sectors.

Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, said that Myanmar hosted the forum so that the global community could witness the reforms in Myanmar and they (foreign business firms) could contact each other and contribute to the development of the private sector in Myanmar, as part of efforts for opening up Myanmar market.

Thanks to the forum, Myanmar would also get experiences from the forum and ready when it took the chair of ASEAN, she added.

"Around 1000 experts and academic leaders from foreign countries would attend the forum and about 27 titles would be discussed during the three-day forum. So, the forum benefited Myanmar a lot because experts from Myanmar would also participate in the forum and we could learn from ideologies of the heads of international organizations, community leaders, young leaders and academic leaders at the forum," she said.— *MNA*

Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung.