

# The New Light of Myanmar

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## President U Thein Sein visits Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum



President U Thein Sein at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May— President U Thein Sein arrived Incheon International Airport in the Republic of Korea yesterday morning as he left Yangon for the United States of America to pay a

working visit.

The President was welcomed by the Myanmar Ambassador to ROK, military attaché, mission staff, the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar and personnel of

Foreign Affairs Ministry of ROK.

The President then proceeded to the United States of America from there by Korea Airways and arrived in Washington

where he was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to the United States of America U Than Swe, mission staff, and personnel of the US Department of State.

The President then

proceeded to Four Seasons Presidential Library and Hotel. In the evening, he

visited the Abraham Lincoln

Museum.

MNA

### Bayintnaung Bridge No.2 to help curb traffic chaos

Following a fresh surge in car ownership, the populous city of Yangon has begun to face the worse-than-ever traffic problems on its major roads, particularly in rush hours.

From dawn to dusk, traffic congestion is acute on Bayintnaung Bridge and is worsening with the

time. The Construction Ministry and Yangon Region government have sought a solution for this problem and under the agreement of the Union government, the two parties agreed to construct a new bridge across Hline River—Bayintnaung Bridge No.2—200 feet from its brother.

Special Projects Group No.5 under the Construction Ministry is tasked with building the bridge and the construction started on 6 January, 2013.

The current Bayintnaung Bridge was put into service in the rains of July in 1994 but the increasing traffic has now gone far beyond its capacity

**Byline & Photo:**  
*Kayan Soe Myint*

with over 17500 vehicles crossing it every day.

The main bridge upon completion will be 1220.53 feet in length, approach motor road on Mayangon side 1023.13 feet and on Hlinethaya side 1860.87 feet. It will be 4104.53 feet long in total with four-lane motor road flanked by six-foot-wide pedestrian walk. It can withstand 75 tons of loads per vehicle.

The approach roads to the bridge on Mayangon and Hlinethaya sides have been completed 100 per cent now as the Special Projects Group No.5 is working on shifts erecting bored piles.

Myanma Alinn  
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**Paris Saint-Germain's English midfielder David Beckham (2nd L front) celebrates with teammates during the celebration for winning the French League 1 title after the League 1 football match between Paris St Germain and Brest at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on 18 May, 2013.**

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**Development**

**Free parking lots construction meets 75 per cent completion in Yangon**

YANGON, 19 May— So far construction of car parks where people can park their vehicles free of charge at spaces between the new and old Strand Roads in Yangon has been completed by 75 per cent. Packing lots on other places are also under construction.

Upon completion of free parking lots being built by Yangon City Development Committee on the vacant lands between Thitdaw bus-stop in Ahlon Township and Zay street in Botahtaung Township, flow of commodities and traffic on Strand Road will be speedier than ever before. Moreover,

vehicles in the two townships will be parked at these free car parks easily.

Arrangements are being made to build more parking lots on the spaces near Htawligwae bus-stop in Ahlon Township and spaces on Sule Pagoda Road, Pansodan Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street.— *Kyemon*

**MFF to form eight work committees for development of fisheries sector**

YANGON, 19 May— “Eight work committees will be formed as a preliminary to ensuring development of fishery sector”, says General Secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Win Kyaing.

Before forming the eight work committees— financial work committee,

livestock breeding work committee, research and development work committee, market work committee, safety of marine products work committee, fisheries work committee, fish and prawn feedstuff production work committee and fish and prawn processing work committee, a draft that

includes guidelines for functions of each work committee will be drawn. Tasks agreed by MFF and its affiliated association will be reported to the President Office through the Union Ministry. It is learnt that more sub-committees, if necessary, will be formed.— *Kyemon*

**Zeyar Shwe Myay FC, Singtech ink sponsorship deal**



YANGON, 19 May— A Sponsorship Signing Ceremony between Zeyar Shwe Myay FC and Singtech IT & Communications Pte., Ltd was held at Park Royal Hotel on 17 May.

It was attended by Zeyar Shwe Myay FC owner U

Thurein, Chairman of Kaung Htet Myanmar Group of Companies U Kyi Soe, CEO U Min Banyar Sann, officials of Singtech Singapore, Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and officials, media men and guests.

First, the secretary of

**National Sports**

MFF spoke words of thanks. Next, U Thurein spoke on the occasion. Then the General Manager of Singtech Singapore gave an account of the purpose of sponsorship.

Afterwards, Zeyar Shwe Myay FC GM U Than Zaw and the Singtech GM signed the agreement and exchanged the notes.

Next, the Zeyar Shwe Myay FC owner presented a commemorative jersey to the Singtech GM.

Singtech is a Singaporean company manufacturing laptops, smart phones and GSM and CDMA handsets and having a substantial market share in ASEAN countries. Its sole distributor in Myanmar is Cyber City Company, a member of Kaung Htet Myanmar Group of Companies.

*Kyemon*

**Transport**

**Hlinethaya-Sint O-dan water transport service to change its schedule**

YANGON, 19 May— It is learnt that Tan Hlyat, a two-deck passenger vessel, plying the route between Shan creek jetty in Hlinethaya Township to Sint O-dan jetty near Nyaungbinlay Market will change its schedule for the better convenience of passengers.

The transport service of the ship is a joint venture between Inland Water Transport and FMI Flotilla Company and Myanmar

and the lunching ceremony will be held tomorrow.

The ship is scheduled to depart from Shan creek jetty at 6.30 am and arrived at Sint O-dan jetty at 7.15 or 7.45 am according to its downstream or upstream journey.

The ship will depart from Sint O-dan at 6 pm and arrived at Shan creek jetty in Hlinethaya at 6.45 or 7.15 pm. The ship has a seating capacity of 70 — 60 in ordinary class and

10 in upper class. Each passenger will be provided with life vest. Moreover, life boat and lifebuoy will be available on board.

At the beginning of the service, the ship will ply twice a day. Based on a number of passengers, the ship schedule will be extended. Passengers will be able to enjoy a spectacular from the ship along Yangon river by taking the water route.

*Kyemon*



**Accident**

**Vehicle stalled on tracks of approaching train**

TOUNGGOO, 19 May— A vehicle, Mitsubishi Town Ace, was stalled on the railroad tracks due to its mechanical failure at a railway crossing near Leikkan sub-power station of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board in Pazundaung Township at about 11 pm on 16 May.

The vehicle driven from east to west suddenly stopped on the railway tracks as its tie rod was broken while crashing into a concrete block after its brakes failed. Passers-by lent a helping hand to move the car from the tracks as a train was approaching coincidentally when the car

had got stuck at the railway crossing.

The driver was fortunate to escape from the accident unhurt, but he was charged over violating the traffic rules.

*Kyemon*

**Crime**

**Seizure of marijuana in Kyaikto Township**

KYAIKTO, 19 May— A drug dealer was arrested following a tip-off to the police in Kinmonchaung Village of Kyaikto Township on 14 May.

While Police raided the residence of Ye Thurein Tun (a) Ko Shine, 21, on Yaungchi U 5<sup>th</sup> street in the

village, they discovered 8.16 grams of dried leaves which are believed to be marijuana packed with a plastic bag among the flowery plant pots under a shrine in front of the house. The suspect was taken into custody at the local police station. — *Kyemon*

**Yangon-Mawgyun passenger vessels in regular operation**

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 19 May— For the convenience of local people who are relying on water transport service in Mawlamyinegyun Township of Ayeyawady Region, passenger vessels plying between Mawgyun and Yangon of Inland Water Transport and private sector has resumed their service as of 17 May.

Yangon-Mawgyun Bala Ye Kyaw vessel of IWT departed from Lanthit pontoon

bridge in Yangon to Mawgyun at 6 pm on 17 May. The vessel returned from Mawgyun to Yangon at 3.30 pm on 18 May. Private-owned vessels departed from Mawgyun at 3 pm on 17 May and Pathein Thu express vessel at 6 pm. On 18 May, Shwe Pyi Tan express vessel departed from Mawgyun at 6 am.

All vessels from private sector are plying the route between Yangon and Mawgyun without days

off, thereby contributing towards smooth and speedy flow of commodities and

traveling of local people from Mawgyun to Yangon.

*Kyemon*



## WORLD

## Abe to make 3-day visit to Myanmar from next Friday

TOKYO, 19 May—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to make a three-day visit to Myanmar from next Friday in a bid to strengthen bilateral ties, a Japanese government source said on Saturday. Abe, who will be accompanied by top executives from more than 30 Japanese companies, is expected to hold talks with Myanmar President U Thein Sein on improving the investment environment in the southeast Asian nation for expansion of Japanese investments there.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

At the summit with U Thein Sein, Abe is also likely to unveil measures to help Myanmar's development. In March, Tokyo announced it will provide Myanmar with yen-denominated loans for the first time in 26 years. Abe is keen for Japanese companies to benefit from the growth of Asian economies and to make a pitch for Japan's infrastructure exports, a vital part of Ja-

pan's growth strategy, the source said.

In particular, Myanmar has increasingly lured foreign investments since its transition to a democratic government in March 2011, as it is widely seen as Asia's last frontier with relatively cheap and abundant labour and plentiful natural resources.—Kyodo News



Russian sailors are seen aboard the Admiral Panteleyev Russian war ship moored at the Cypriot port of Limassol on 17 May, 2013. Russian naval vessels including the destroyer Admiral Panteleyev, the tanker Pechenga and the rescue tugboat Fotiy Krylov docked at Limassol as part of a four-day visit to the Mediterranean island, Russia's defence ministry said in a statement. The vessels, which are attached to Russia's Pacific fleet, arrived in the Mediterranean sea in recent days as Russia maintains a strong presence in the eastern Mediterranean, especially in light of the civil war now engulfing Syria where Moscow has a key naval base.—XINHUA

## Gunmen kill senior woman member of Pakistani party led by Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD, 19 May—Gunmen killed a senior female politician from a reformist party in Pakistan on Saturday night, the latest violent incident in a bloody election campaign and one that set off a war of words between two major opposition parties. Around 150 people were killed in the run-up to national elections held last week, which handed a landslide victory to opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and his PML-N party. It marked

the first time an elected government replaced another one in a nation that has been run by military leaders for more than half its history. Results from a handful of constituencies are still awaited amid accusations of vote-rigging. The shooting came hours ahead of repolling in a key area beset by allegations of voting fraud.

It was not immediately clear who killed Zara Shahid Hussain, a senior member of the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf party. The PTI has promised to reduce endemic corruption in the nuclear-armed nation of 180 million people. The PTI's leader, former international cricket star Imran Khan, immediately blamed the killing on the Muttahida Quami Movement. The MQM has a stranglehold on politics in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi. "Her death has sent shockwaves across the rank and file of the party," Khan said in a statement.—Reuters

## EU to dial back measures against global warming

BRUSSELS, 19 May—The European Union, which has spearheaded efforts to curb global warming, is set to adopt a change of focus in response to concerns over costs and the impact on companies in economically depressed Europe. Under the change, the European Union will prioritize the supply of energy at affordable prices over cutting greenhouse gas emissions which impose burdens on industries, in a turnaround of the region's energy policy, an EU official said on Saturday.

EU leaders will decide on the shift in energy policy at a meeting on Wednesday. The change reflects re-

quests from businesses in the 27-member zone amid the prolonged economic slump triggered by the eurozone sovereign debt crisis, the official said.

A draft conclusion of the EU leaders' meeting obtained by Kyodo News said, "Against the backdrop of high pressure on Europe's competitiveness and increasing energy demand from major economies, the EU's energy policy must ensure the uninterrupted supply of households and companies at affordable and competitive prices."

The draft said investments in new and intelligent

energy infrastructure are "vital for jobs and growth and will help enhance competitiveness." The regional body calls for "a predictable climate and energy framework post-2020," according to the paper.

The European Union remains committed to emissions reduction targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, under which it pledged to trim its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. "The European Commission is already in 'do nothing' mode on climate change, and it will obviously put off a decision on ambitious targets," the of-

ficial said on the European Union's post-2020 goals.

The change in policy comes as some European companies are moving to shift operations out of the region to avoid increasing costs to meet the emissions-cut goals, and amid a decline in emission trading launched in the region in 2005. Discussions on countermeasures against global warming have also lost momentum as the European Union focuses on steps to boost the economy ahead of the European Parliament election scheduled for May next year.

Kyodo News

## Germany's Merkel visits Pope, urges tougher market controls

VATICAN CITY, 19 May—German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Pope Francis on Saturday and, apparently responding to his criticism of a heartless "dictatorship of the economy", called for stronger regulation of financial markets. On Thursday, Francis appealed in a speech for world financial reform, saying the global economic crisis had made life worse for millions in rich and poor countries. Merkel visited Rome for a few hours specifically to meet the pontiff and spoke with him privately in his library for 45 minutes, unusually long for a private papal audience.

She told reporters afterwards that the scandals and excesses criticized by Francis earlier in the week showed that vital checks and balances had not been functioning properly. "Crises have blown up because the rules of the social market have not been observed," she said, adding that tightening financial market regulation would be a main objective of the meeting of leaders of Group



Pope Francis (R) exchanges gifts with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a private audience at the Vatican, on 18 May, 2013.—REUTERS

of 20 economic powers in September. "We have made progress but we are nowhere near a point where we could say that the kind of derailment that leads to market crises could not happen again and so the issue will again play a central role at the G20 meeting this year," she said. "It is true that economies are there to serve people and that has by no means always been the case in recent years."

Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran minister, said she and Francis had spoken

mainly about globalization, the European Union and the role of Europe in the world. "Pope Francis made it clear that we need a strong, fair Europe and I found the message very encouraging," said Merkel, head of the Christian Democratic Union, which has a strong Catholic component. In his first major speech about finance since his election in March, Francis had also urged states to take greater control of their economies and protect the weakest.

Reuters

## Sharif calls for party meet on 20 May to talk policies

LAHORE, 19 May—PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, set to become Pakistan's next Prime Minister, has convened a meeting of parliamentarians and legislators of his party here on 20 May to brainstorm a plan of action to deal with Pakistan's pressing problems including terrorism.

Besides at the centre, the PML-N is set to form



Nawaz Sharif

government in Punjab and Balochistan Provinces.

PTI

## 18 countries agree to work on enhancing environmental technologies

TOKYO, 19 May—Representatives of 18 countries agreed on Saturday to enhance cooperation between public and private sectors to expand useful environmental technologies to simultaneously achieve economic growth and greenhouse gas reduction. The agreement came at the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue in Tokyo.

At the meeting, Japan announced its plan to comprehensively support the construction of urban infrastructure in developing countries employing advanced technologies, such as energy-efficient public transportation systems and dispersed power systems utilizing renewable energy.

"The conference was meaningful in promoting tangible countermeasures against global warming by enhancing regional cooperation in East Asia, the largest greenhouse gas emission district in the world," Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said after concluding the meeting.

Tokyo took the initiative in holding the meeting attended by China, India and ASEAN member countries as well as Russia and the United States. It was the second such conference following one in April last year. The amount of greenhouse gas emitted by the 18 attending countries accounts for about 60 percent of global discharge.

Kyodo News

## Meteoroid impact triggers bright flash on the moon

CAPE CANAVERAL, 19 May—An automated telescope monitoring the moon has captured images of an 88-pound (40 kg) rock slamming into the lunar surface, creating a bright flash of light, NASA scientists said on Friday.

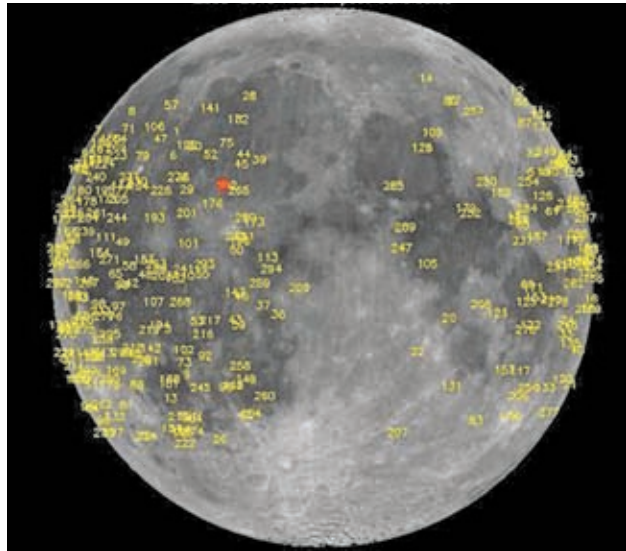
The explosion on 17 March was the biggest seen since NASA began watching the moon for meteoroid impacts about eight years ago. So far, more than 300 strikes have been recorded.

“It exploded in a flash nearly 10 times as bright as anything we’ve ever seen before,” Bill Cooke, with NASA’s Meteoroid Environment Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, said in a statement.

A NASA satellite orbiting the moon is now on a hunt for the newly formed crater, which scientists estimate could be as wide as 66 feet. The flash was so bright that anyone looking

at the moon at the moment of impact could have seen it without a telescope, NASA said.

about 56,000 mph when it slammed into the moon and exploded with the force of five tons of TNT.



**Hundreds of meteoroid impacts on the moon, detected by NASA’s lunar monitoring programme, are pictured in this undated NASA handout photo.—REUTERS**

After reviewing digital recordings made by one of the programme’s telescopes, scientists determined the space rock was about 1 foot in diameter, and traveling

That same night, cameras detected an unusually high number of meteors blasting through Earth’s atmosphere as well. Most meteors burn up well before reaching the

ground.

But not always. In February, an asteroid estimated to be about 66 feet in diameter exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, damaging buildings and shattering glass, leaving more than 1,500 injured. It was the largest object to strike Earth since 1908.

“The Russian fireball was many orders of magnitude larger and possessed 100,000 times more energy,” than the lunar impact, Cooke wrote in an email to Reuters.

He believes the lunar impact and the 17 March meteor shower on Earth are related, the result of both bodies traveling together through a region of space sprinkled with small rocks and dust.

“We’ll be keeping an eye out for signs of a repeat performance next year when the Earth-moon system passes through the same region of space,” Cooke said.

Reuters

## China to invest big to support Beidou system

BEIJING, 19 May—China is expected to invest 7 billion yuan (\$1.13 billion) to support the development of industries related to the country’s Beidou satellite navigation system before 2015, an industry insider said.

“Industries related to the Beidou system are entering a booming development stage,” Yang Qiangwen, a senior engineer at the China Satellite Navigation Office, said at the Fourth China Satellite Navigation Conference on Thursday in Wuhan.

According to the office’s figures, the central government has already invested around 3.5 billion yuan to boost industries related to the Beidou system.

And as the support from the central government continues, Yang said that the Beidou system will bring

new economic growth to the country.

Industry experts estimated that the Beidou system may unleash a potential market worth 225 billion yuan, which may be the reason for the country’s surging investments in the project.

The navigation system is already being used in many areas across China.

The Ministry of Transport required all tour coaches, long-distance buses and vehicles carrying dangerous goods in nine provinces, or around 80,000 vehicles, to install the Beidou system before June, or the vehicles’ permits may not be approved.

Li Jing, a researcher with the China Satellite Navigation Office, said the ministry will launch an offshore rescue program using the Beidou service in 2014.

Xinhua

## Yahoo to vote on \$1.1 billion Tumblr buy: AllThingsD

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 May—Yahoo Inc’s board will meet on Sunday to vote on whether to offer \$1.1 billion in cash for New York-based blogging service Tumblr, tech blog AllThingsD cited sources close to the situation as

saying on Friday.

Such an acquisition would be CEO Marissa Mayer’s largest deal since taking the helm of the once-iconic Internet company in July 2012. Yahoo is keen on Tumblr because its younger user base would enhance the

older website’s “cool factor,” the technology blog cited the sources as saying. The news could be announced as soon as Monday, it said. Yahoo has invited press to an event in Manhattan at which it promised to “share something special,” without elaborating.

Mayer, who spent 13 years at Google Inc, is trying to revitalize a former Internet powerhouse that in recent years has struggled with declining business. On its home page, Tumblr says it hosts 108 million blogs, with 50.7 billion posts between them. Yahoo declined to comment, while Tumblr did not respond to requests for comment.—Reuters



**A Yahoo logo is pictured in Rolle, 30 km (19 miles) east of Geneva, on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS**

## Plaintiffs in Mexico Yahoo case say will appeal court ruling

MEXICO CITY, 19 May—Two Mexican firms embroiled in a contractual dispute with Yahoo Inc will appeal a court ruling that overturned an earlier \$2.75 billion judgment in their favour, a director of the companies said on Friday.

Yahoo announced the decision by the Mexican appellate court on Thursday. Both Worldwide Directories SA de CV and Ideas Interactivas SA de CV will contest the ruling, said Carlos Bazan-Canabal, a director at the companies. “We’re going to appeal it on the grounds of unconstitutionality,” said Bazan-Canabal, adding that the plaintiffs would provide more details next week. Last year, a civil court in Mexico City awarded the



**The Yahoo logo is shown at the company’s headquarters in Sunnyvale, California.—REUTERS**

companies some \$2.75 billion in a preliminary judgment that took the tech world by surprise. Yahoo fought that decision, prompting the higher appeals court to rule in its favour. The dispute centres on alleged breach of

contract by Yahoo relating to agreements signed between Yahoo de Mexico and Ideas Interactivas between 2002 and 2004 over a venture for an online business search function as well as printed volumes.—Reuters

## All eyes on Vodafone’s Colao for signs on Verizon

LONDON, 19 May—After months of speculation, Vodafone’s (VOD.L) Vittorio Colao will be under pressure next week to set out whether he may sell its prized stake in Verizon Wireless in what would be one of the biggest deals ever.

Chief executive for five years, Colao has said only that he has an “open mind” on Vodafone’s 45-percent stake in the US operator, whose majority owner, Verizon Communications (VZ.N), is interested in buying out the British company’s share.

With a possible asking price around \$120 billion, the topic may well dominate Vodafone’s annual results presentation on Tuesday, highlighting the pressures on profits elsewhere in the company and the dilemma faced by its Italian CEO.

A source familiar with the situation surrounding a possible bid for the stake by Verizon Communications said: “All their eyes are on 21 May Vodafone earnings, and what Vodafone will say about Verizon Wireless.”

Analysts are expecting



**Vodafone’s new Chief Executive Vittorio Colao poses for photos after their company’s annual general meeting in a conference centre in Westminster, London on 29 July, 2008. REUTERS**

Vodafone to post organic service revenue in the fourth quarter down 4.3 percent, the worst fall in its main sales measurement since the company started using that metric in 2003.

Analysts are also expecting the group to

forecast a fall in free cash flow for the next financial year, to March 2014, due to increasing investment needs and the continuing torrid conditions in some of Vodafone’s biggest European markets.

Reuters

## FCC nominee Wheeler will divest holdings if confirmed

WASHINGTON, 19 May—Tom Wheeler, nominated to become the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, pledged to divest stakes in AT&T Inc, Dish Network Corp, Google Inc and dozens of other tech and telecoms companies if he is confirmed. Divestments are common for nominees to avoid conflicts of interest. Wheeler’s plan was disclosed in an agreement posted online by the Office of Government Ethics.

Wheeler is now a venture capital investor at Core Capital Partners and chairs the

FCC’s Technology Advisory Council. In the past, he ran the National Cable Television Association and then the wireless industry group CTIA.

Within 90 days of being confirmed by the Senate as FCC chairman, Wheeler plans to leave his investment company and divest holdings in 78 companies. The investments include Apple Inc, Microsoft Corp, China Mobile Ltd, tactical radio maker Harris Corp, Windstream Corp and media companies Liberty Media Corp, News Corp, Time Warner Inc and Time Warner Cable Inc.—Reuters

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Retirement can damage your health

LONDON, 19 May— Retirement has a detrimental impact on both mental and physical health over time, according to a new study published here on Thursday.

Although initially there may be a small bounce in health, over the medium-longer term retirement causes a drastic decline in health, said the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Age Endeavour Fellowship, who recommended that the government should help people work longer and raise the state pension ages.

The study, named Work Longer, Live Healthier: The Relationship Between Economic Activity, Health And Government Policy,

showed that, retirement decreases the likelihood of being in “very good” or “excellent” self-assessed health by about 40 percent, while it increases the probability of suffering from clinical depression by 40 percent and the probability of having at least one diagnosed physical condition by about 60 percent.

Philip Booth, Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs, commented that: “There is now general agreement that state pension ages should be raised. The government should take firmer action here and also deregulate labour markets.”

Xinhua

## Oil price probe widens, senator wants Justice Department help



Fuel pumps are seen at a Shell petrol station in London on 15 May, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 19 May—A European probe into possible oil price manipulation expanded with the investigation of a small niche trading house in the Netherlands, while a key US senator on Friday called for the Justice Department to join the investigation.

Dutch trading house Argos Energies, a mid-sized trading company that deals in physical oil products and owns storage facilities, was visited by inspectors from the European Commission on Tuesday, a source familiar with the investigation said on Friday. The visit occurred on the same day that authorities raided the London bureau of pricing agency Platts, and the offices of Statoil, Royal Dutch Shell and BP in the biggest cross-border action since the probe into rigging of Libor benchmark interest rates.

In Washington, the chairman of the Senate’s energy committee asked the Justice Department to investigate whether alleged

price manipulation has boosted fuel prices for US consumers. “Efforts to manipulate the European oil indices, if proven, may have already impacted US consumers and businesses, because of the interrelationships among world oil markets and hedging practices,” Senator Ron Wyden, the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, wrote in a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder.

The US Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Federal Trade Commission have both declined to comment on any role or coordination with EU authorities in the probe. US politicians including Wyden often call for enquiries into issues that affect gasoline prices, although regulators are not obligated to take action. A spokesman for the Justice Department would not comment on whether the agency would undertake a probe, but said it was reviewing Wyden’s letter.

Reuters



A general view shows the annual general meeting of Bayer AG in Cologne.—REUTERS

## EU watchdog backs Bayer acne drug for certain patients

LONDON, 19 May— Bayer’s acne pill Diane 35 and its generic versions are safe to use in certain women when other options have failed, the European Medicines Agency said on Friday.

Following a formal safety review, conducted at the request of French authorities, the agency concluded that the benefits outweighed the

risks — provided measures were taken to minimize the chance of blood clots forming in veins and arteries.

The medicines should be used solely in the treatment of moderate to severe acne in women of reproductive age and only when alternative treatments, such as topical therapy and oral antibiotic treatment, have failed.

French authorities

suspended sales of drugs in January after four deaths over the past 25 years were linked to their use. Bayer said at the time it was “surprised” by the suspension. Diane 35 reduces acne by regulating hormones and blocking ovulation, and is often prescribed as a contraceptive even though it is not approved for this use.

Reuters

## SAC Capital won’t fully cooperate with government

NEW YORK, 19 May— Steven A Cohen’s hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors told investors on Friday it would no longer cooperate “unconditionally” with the US government’s insider trading investigation. In a brief letter to investors, the \$15 billion hedge fund did not elaborate but said it believes the next few months will be critical in the investigation. The firm said that “over the coming months there will be more clarity about the outcome of these matters.”

The letter, which an investor in the fund who did not want to be identified read to Reuters over the telephone, also said while SAC believes

in transparency, it may not be able to give frequent updates to investors. “In the past we have tried to be as transparent as possible,” the fund said. But SAC Capital added that going forward it may “need to keep details confidential.”

SAC’s letter to investors comes a few weeks before outside investors have to notify Cohen and his fund whether they intend to redeem some of their money before the end of the second quarter on 30 June. The hedge fund extended the deadline for submitting redemption requests to 3 June from 16 May. In the first quarter of this year, outside

investors submitted notices to redeem up to \$1.7 billion. The investor in the fund said he was not concerned

by SAC’s announcement. He added that the fund is up 5.96 percent so far this year.—Reuters



An exterior view of the headquarters of SAC Capital Advisors, LP in Stamford, Connecticut, in this picture taken on 13 Dec, 2010.—REUTERS

## More provinces end H7N9 emergency response

NANJING, 19 May—Two Chinese provinces ended their emergency response to the H7N9 bird flu on Friday after no new human infections were reported in the past 21 consecutive days,

authorities said.

The provincial governments of Jiangsu and Shandong, both in eastern China, have announced an end to the level-IV emergency response to the H7N9 avian

influenza outbreak.

Medical observations for those who had close contact with H7N9-infected patients have also ended in these provinces. Since Jiangsu diagnosed the first case of

H7N9 on 21 March, a total of 27 human cases of the new strain of avian influenza were reported in the province. Eight of these patients died, 13 recovered and six remain hospitalized, according to a statement issued by the provincial government.

In Shandong Province, only two cases of H7N9 were reported. Both patients recovered and no new cases have been reported in 21 consecutive days. Health authorities in both provinces said they will continue to enhance control over the H7N9 virus and exert efforts to raise people’s awareness on H7N9 prevention.

Xinhua



## Japan pledges \$2 billion in support of African resource development



*Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (front C) holds a Press conference with ministers and representatives from 15 African countries in charge of resource issues after a Japan-Africa ministerial meeting regarding natural resources development closed in Tokyo on 18 May, 2013.—KYODO NEWS*

TOKYO, 19 May —The Japanese government on Saturday vowed to provide \$2 billion in financial support for resource development projects by Japanese companies in Africa over the next five years, and to enhance training of personnel in the continent's resource industry. The initiatives were unveiled during a meeting that brought

together ministers and representatives from Japan and 15 African countries in charge of resource issues. The event was held ahead of a summit-level international conference on African development next month in Yokohama.

"We hosted this kind of ministerial meeting for the first time...and it has become a good starting point

to draw active investment from Japanese companies and to back the sustainable development of resources in Africa," Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told a Press conference after chairing the meeting with South African Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu.

Based on the initiatives, government-affiliated Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp plans to provide to Japanese companies capital and other forms of financial support worth \$2 billion for exploration and development projects of oil, gas, mineral and other resources.

The government also plans to promote the development of human resources in Africa, with the goal of training 1,000 people over the next five years, and will offer cooperation in the areas of environmental protection at mine sites and worker safety.

*Kyodo News*

## UK inquest into ex-Russian spy's death may be scrapped

LONDON, 19 May — Britain's long-delayed inquest into the death by radioactive poisoning of Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko could be abandoned after the coroner partly upheld a British government request to withhold crucial evidence. Robert Owen, a senior judge acting as coroner, said on Friday keeping some of the evidence secret would make it impossible to hold a "full, fair and fearless inquiry" into the death of the vocal critic of Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Litvinenko, 43, died after drinking polonium-210, a radioactive isotope, that had been slipped into his tea at a London hotel in 2006. In a deathbed statement, he accused Putin of ordering his murder, a claim Russia has denied.

His death plunged relations between London and Moscow to a post-Cold War low, although British Prime Minister David Cameron visited Russia this month as part of efforts to improve ties. In a written ruling, the coroner partially upheld a request by British Foreign

Secretary William Hague to withhold evidence relating to the possible involvement of the Russian state in Litvinenko's death and whether it could have been prevented.

The coroner also agreed to keep secret information that could un-



*Marina Litvinenko leaves a hearing into the death of her husband, Alexander Litvinenko, in London on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS*

dermine trust in the British government or "cause real harm to the UK's international relations". Without being able to assess all the evidence in open hearings, Owen said he would be unable to "discharge my duty to undertake a full, fair and fearless inquiry into the circumstances". "The inquiry would be incomplete and a verdict potentially misleading and/or unfair," he wrote in the ruling, which was partly censored for security reasons. Those involved have two weeks to respond and a further hearing is due on 11 June when the coroner will announce what happens next. A British government spokesman said: "The government will carefully consider this judgment."

*Reuters*

## Enraged by kidnapping, Egyptian police block Gaza border

CAIRO, 19 May — Egyptian police angered by the kidnapping of seven colleagues by gunmen kept a crossing into the Gaza Strip closed again on Saturday, stranding hundreds of Palestinian travellers, witnesses said.

The protest began on Friday when police strung barbed wire across the Rafah border post and chained up the gates, local residents

said, a day after the abductions.

Gunmen demanding the release of jailed militants had seized seven policemen and soldiers on a road between the Sinai towns of el-Arish and Rafah. Three of those abducted had worked at the Rafah border crossing, locals said. "We will not open the crossing until the kidnapped soldiers

are freed and the interior minister arrives to listen to our demands so that these attacks on us are not repeated," one of the protesting policemen said on Saturday.

Hardline groups in North Sinai have exploited the collapse of state authority after the overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 to launch attacks across the border

into Israel and on Egyptian targets. The protesting policemen called on Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi, who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood, to help free their colleagues. Security sources said on Saturday all seven hostages remained missing, retracting their report the previous day that one policeman had been released.

*Reuters*

## Thirteen killed, 10 police kidnapped in Iraq violence

RAMADI, 19 May — Suspected Sunni militants killed four state-backed Sunni fighters in Iraq on Saturday, security sources said, apparently viewing them as collaborators with the Shi'ite-led government of a nation plagued by sectarian hatred. Sunni-Shi'ite tensions in Iraq have been amplified by the conflict between mostly Sunni rebels and President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite-dominated forces in neighbour-

ing Syria.

The four "Sahwa" militia fighters were killed in an attack on their headquarters on the outskirts of Garma, 9 km (six miles) east of Falluja, a city in the western Province of Anbar.

Gunmen also ambushed and kidnapped 10 Sunni policemen near Ramadi, the capital of Anbar, a Sunni heartland bordering Syria.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility

for the attacks, but Sunni militant groups have been behind previous violence targeting security forces in a campaign to destabilize the Baghdad government, which they reject as illegitimate. When Sunni-Shi'ite bloodshed was at its height in 2006-07, Anbar was in the grip of al-Qaeda's local affiliate, the Islamic State of Iraq, which has regained strength in recent months.

Sahwa or "Awakening" fighters are Sunni tribesmen who helped US troops subdue al-Qaeda in 2006. They are now on the government payroll and are often targeted by Sunni militants. In other violence, tribesmen clashed with security forces and set four of their vehicles ablaze after a woman and three of her young children were killed in an army raid north of Ramadi. A car bomb parked near an entrance to the town of Latifiya, south of Baghdad, killed five people, police said.

*Reuters*



*Tribal men pose with their weapons as they patrol a road north of Ramadi, 100 km (62 miles) west of Baghdad, on 18 May, 2013.—REUTERS*

## Brussels, Berlin lukewarm on Hollande's euro zone vision

BRUSSELS, 19 May — European officials gave a lukewarm response to French President Francois Hollande's sweeping proposals for deeper euro zone integration on Friday, noting that many of his ideas were already in circulation. In a 2-1/2-hour news conference at the Elysee Palace on Thursday, Hollande set out plans for an "economic government" for the 17 euro zone countries, including its own budget and a full-time president. The sweeping vision also encompassed a harmonized tax system and the ability for the euro zone to borrow money by issuing its own bonds, a proposal that has been raised repeatedly over the past three years

and been roundly rejected by Germany.

"It is my responsibility as the leader of a founder member of the European Union ... to pull Europe out of this torpor that has gripped it, and to reduce people's disenchantment with it," Hollande said, casting himself as something of a savior. "If Europe stays in the state it is now, it could be the end of the project." The European Commission, the EU executive which presented detailed plans for closer integration in a "blueprint" published last November, said it was pleased Hollande was engaged on the same issues, calling it "food for thought".

*Reuters*



*French President Francois Hollande reacts as he speaks to journalists in the courtyard after a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris on 17 May, 2013.—REUTERS*

LOCAL NEWS

**Ministry of Education  
School Enrolment Week  
From (27) to (31) May**



**People to participate in  
enrolment of all school-going  
age children**

**Fishery inputs prices soaring**

YANGON, 19 May— Prices of inputs for livestock breeding such as feeds are soaring, prompting Myanmar breeders to scale down or shut down their farming businesses, according to a Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

The export of feeds to neighbouring China from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Regions could damage the market, according to the general secretary of the federation.

Standardization of feeds such as protein ingredient could be

employed to stabilize the price of feeds, Dr Thet Hmu of Myanmar Aquafeed Producers Association said.

Myanmar needs to produce 0.3 million tons of fish to satisfy local demand and further 0.1 million tons for foreign exports.

Offshore fish production is currently shrinking and the country has to rely on fish breeding on shore. Participants of the meeting at MFF on 14 May said the high price of feeds could lay barrier to the fish production.

Myanma Alinn

**Odd News**

**Old bomb unearthed in  
Phaungpyin**



**An old bomb unearthed in Phaungpyin Township  
in Mawlaik District in Sagaing Region.**

PHAUNGPYIN, 19 May—A old bomb was excavated from the compound of the house of U Daung Nyo and Daw Ra May in Phaungpyin Township in Mawlaik District in Sagaing Region while undertaking earthworks with a machinery on 16 May morning.

Commander of Phaungpyin station Lt-Col Myo Thant, the township administrator, the township police force commander and officials inspected the rusty bomb.

It is three feet and nine inches long and five feet round and has the weight of 500 lbs.—Myanma Alinn

**Inlay Lake waterlevel rising**



NYAUNGSHWE, 19 May—The water level of landmark Inlay Lake in Shan State shows signs of possible increase as it has been lowering the bar for three months since later March, with even more significant drop since 15 April.

The watercourses linking villages suffer from shallow water.

The water level which had already been lower by 0.7 inch at the end of March than the ordinary level was reduced to 1.6 inches low-

ered than ordinary at the end of April.

The reduction contin-

ued and the number reached 1.7 inches on 5 May.

Myanma Alinn

**Heavy rains inundate roads in Mandalay**

MANDALAY, 19 May— Heavy rain in Mandalay and its environs that started pouring at noon till the evening caused flood in low-lying downtown areas on 15 May.

Mandalay City Development Committee's sanitation division managed to ensure proper drainage by clearing dump and laying sand bags as barrier.

The rain inundated 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 73<sup>rd</sup>, 78<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> streets for a while.

The traffic blockage was caused by the heavy rain.

Thanks to combined

sanitation efforts of MCDC and residents, the inundation waned and

debris were cleared in the evening.

Myanma Alinn



**Heavy rains on 15 May inundated roads in Mandalay.**

**National Power Grid starts supplying Mongyai**

LASHIO, 19 May— Myanma Electrical Supply Enterprise has started supplying electricity from National Power Grid to Mongyai in Lashio District in northern Shan State.

The enterprise previously distributed electricity to the town from diesel engines.

A power plant has been built in Mongyai 48.18 miles from 66/33 KV (20) MVA

Lashio power plant which supplied electricity to the former one through 66 KV power grid.

The National Power Grid has sent 66/11 KV (5) MVA of electricity to the

power plant since 12 May.

Three 11/0.4 KV (315) MVA transformers distributed electricity to the town, receiving 11 KV electricity from the power plant.

Myanma Alinn

**Mandalay regional plan  
duties assigned**

MANDALAY, 19 May— Goals of Mandalay regional plan are ambitious ones, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint said at a ceremony to assign duties of the regional plan for 2013-2014 fiscal year at the meeting hall of Region General Administration Department Office on 15 May morning.

The drafted five-year plan which set specific goals for projects in the region was revised and approved by the Mandalay Region Hluttaw.

Also present at the ceremony were members of Region government, Region

Hluttaw representatives, Region/district and township level departmental officials.

The chief minister stressed the need to consult with district and township supportive groups and Hluttaw representatives.

He also called for concerted efforts in translating the regional plan into reality.

Director of Region Planning Office elaborated on regional plan goals for 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The chief minister has already assigned specific duties to respective departments in the region.

Myanma Alinn

**Accident**

**High-speed car goes for tea in  
Toungoo**

TOUNGOO, 19 May—A Nissan Hilux on Yangon-Mandalay Highway went out control while passing over a motorcycle, hit Thawthikho clinic and thense a teashop at the corner of Yangon-Mandalay road

and Mingyi Nyo road in Toungoo yesterday.

A waiter of 7-Top teashop sustained injuries and was admitted to Toungoo Hospital.

Myanma Alinn



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 20 May, 2013

**Coordinated and synergetic efforts**

Now the country is focusing on microfinance works and promotion of cooperative societies for provision of financial capital for rural folks and urban grassroots, which is a part of the incumbent government's people-centred policy.

Eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation project has also been in operation to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas, where majority of our people live, in smoothly and effectively undertaking national development endeavours.

Moreover, Farmland Act has been promulgated in an effort for development of agriculture, the core of the economy and farmland registration has been carried out to ensure farmland ownership in the interest of peasants, one of the country's main working forces.

The microfinance works being carried out by the Ministry of Cooperatives at present are not only intended for welfare of people in the immediate future but also for systematically helping them to stand on their own without needing to take out loans in certain period of time.

People on their part must make effective use of the loans they take out for their businesses and they are also to repay the loans in full when the time is due.

Here the country needs to promote cooperative societies as the effective contributor to national economic growth. Some nations achieve success whereas some meet with failure in introducing microcredit works and it needs to take lessons from their stories of success and failure toward the end of bringing real benefits to the poor.

As cooperative works are making progress in many global countries including developed nations, we need immediate endeavors with new mindset and under new system for development of cooperative societies to be able to catch up with the successful cooperative associations across the globe. We believe that coordinated and synergetic efforts with local and international partners will do the job well.

## NATIONAL

### Myanmar would be able to restore former status before 1960s: President U Thein Sein



NAYPYITAW, 19 May— President U Thein Sein called on Myanmar families in Virginia and Maryland states and Washington to give a willing and strong hand in nation-building process of the motherland.

The President met them at Myanmar Embassy in Washington on 18 May evening, sharing his passionate belief that Myanmar through collaborative efforts would be able to restore its former status before 1960s in South East Asian Region, being blessed with sound foundations like temperate climate, mineral riches, and fertile soil and geographical advantages of neighbouring with developing huge markets like China and India.

The President called the lack of stability and

weak management major hindrance to development of the nation, calling for participation of the Myanmar nationals in US in nation-building process of Myanmar together with his government which since taking office has focused on tranquility and the rule of law and socio-economic development of citizens, the two major aspirations of people and is also taking

steps to enable them take part in nation-building endeavours.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane and U Than Htay, deputy ministers, and departmental heads.

The President met Ambassador U Than Swe, Myanmar Permanent

Representative to UN in New York Ambassador U Kyaw Tin, Military Attaché Col Myint Thein and staff and families at Myanmar Ambassador's Residence and briefed them on promotion of international relations and political, administrative, economic and private sector reforms the government is undertaking.

MNA

### Myanmar, ROK keen on strengthening diplomatic ties



**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with Prime Minister of ROK Mr Chung Hong-won at Imperial Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand.—MNA**

NAYPYITAW, 19 May— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea Mr Chung Hong-won at Imperial Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand, this evening.

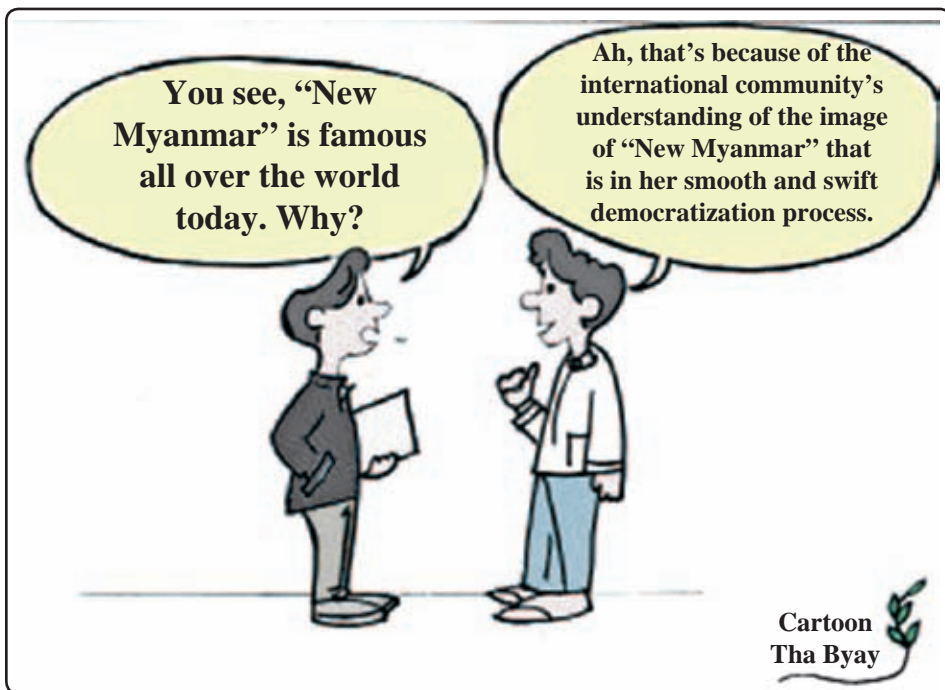
The two had a cordial discussions on strengthening of 38-year-old diplomatic relations

between the two countries, increasing Korean investors' interests in Myanmar, in particular in areas of mining, Hanthawady Airport project, railroad construction, and gas sectors, Korea's offer to share its experience for Myanmar's reform process, government assistance to foreign investors in

Myanmar under foreign investment law.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Khin Zaw and Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, and personnel and the Korean PM was accompanied by the deputy ministers and high-ranking officials.

MNA



Cartoon  
Tha Byay



LOCAL NEWS

Dawei District IPRD holds talks on reading habit

DAWEI, 19 May—Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department donated publications and held talks on raising reading habit of rural people at the library of No.25 Infantry Regiment, here, yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Commanding Officer Lt-Col Zaw Latt Min and officials of the regiment, and their families.

Staff Officer of District IPRD U San Lwin Oo held

talks with a title of “We help you studying knowledge” and donated 100 publications to the library and Deputy Head of District IPRD Daw Mu Mu Aye and staff shared knowledge about borrowing the publications under library disciplines.

Dawei District IPRD will send 200 books to regiment’s library two times a month for raising reading habit of Tatmadawmen and their families.

Kyemon

Toungoo Auxiliary Fire Brigade honoured



TOUNGOO, 19 May—A ceremony to honour auxiliary firemen from Ward-11 of Toungoo District

who secured the first prize in fire fighting drill and exercise with fire engine to mark 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fire Brigade Day was held at the hall of Basic Education Primary School, Kandaw, here on 16 May and Patron of Fire Brigade Supporting Committee U Kyaw Hla (Thamadi) gave an opening remark.

Members of Toungoo District Fire Prevention Committee U Ye Myint and U Myint Thu, and the Head of District Fire Services Department made speeches. Then, Ward Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw Myo and guests presented prizes and certificates of honour to the winner brigade members.

Later, Patron U Kyaw Hla (Thamadi) and Committee Member U Ye Myint presented K 50000 each to the first prize winners.—Kyemon

Certificates presented to student monks, laypersons in Mongnai

MONGNAI, 19 May—Çula convocation ceremony organized by Mongnai Township Religious Affairs Department of Langkho District in Southern Shan State was held at the Dhammayon in Garden Ward, here, on 14 May.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naghinta and monks, Township Administrator U Myat Kyaw

and departmental officials, and laypersons who had passed Abhidhamma exam.

At first, they took Five Precepts from the Sayadaw and the Township Administrator supplicated on religious affairs. Then, the officials conferred certificates on 37 monks who passed government Parli Pahtamapyan exam in 2012 and nine persons who passed Abhidhamma exam in 2011 each.—Kyemon

Nation-building endeavours

Mining companies in Shan State (East) meets



TACHILEK, 19 May—Mining companies operating in Shan State (East) met at Tachilek Township General Administration Department in Tachilek this morning, focusing on operational difficulties, joining of Myanmar Mines

Entrepreneurs Association and level of cooperation with the Mines Ministry.

Personnel from Myit Oo Aung Co, Sai Law Hein Co, San Parami Co, Wunna Theinthan Co, Nway Oo Yanan Co, Kyauksaungni Co, Heinlinsan Co and Lwekenlong Co from Shan

State Mines Entrepreneurs Association attended the meeting.

Shan State (East) Mines Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Ayeya Mon Group of Companies signed a deal on upgrading of Silingo-Mawkwí road.—Kyemon

Plan underway to construct detour in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 19 May—With a view to reducing traffic congestion in downtown Meiktila, plans are underway to construct detour.

Local people are facing traffic jam difficulties daily due to passenger buses and trucks which pass downtown Meiktila to continue their journeys

to Yangon, Mandalay, Myingyan, Taunggyi and Kyaukpadaung. The traffic accident will reduce with a decrease in the traffic jams. Only then will road transportation be more convenient, said Townselder U Zeyar Maung.

Although it has been arranged to construct a detour in Meiktila in the

past, construction works have been stopped due to various reasons.

The region level officials are holding discussion with respective road/bridge construction companies to construct the detour with the aim of fulfilling the wishes of local people.

Kyemon



Accident

Traffic accident occurs in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 19 May—A vehicle, Hilux truck, driven by Khaing Zin Lat (or) Ah Kyi, 25, of Thingaton Village in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region, from Mandalay to Yangon, crashed into a stationary twelve-wheeled truck near Paukbingwe Village in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region at about 3.30 pm on 16 May.

The Hilux driver died

on the spot with serious injuries.

Three others including Aung Kyaw Min, 36, on board the Hilux were wounded and the injured were sent to Mandalay General Hospital via Kyaukse Hospital.

Thanywa Police Station filed a lawsuit against reckless driver Khaing Zin Lat.

Kyemon

Disaster

Historic pagoda collapses in TadaU

TADAU, 19 May—A historic Gutawthit Pagoda in Achoktan Area of Uti Village in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region collapsed at 3:15 pm on 15 May due to heavy rain.

The TadaU Township

administrator and officials, members of Township police force inspected the ruined pagoda.

The five pieces of umbrella are kept at Gutawthit Monastery.

Kyemon

SWD opens drug addict treatment and rehabilitation course



LASHIO, 19 May—The drug addict treatment and rehabilitation course No. 42/2013 was opened at Social Welfare Department in Lashio of Shan State (North) on 16 May morning.

Township Administrator U Maung Maung Lwin made a speech. Dr Daw Myint Myint Sein, Psychiatrist of Lashio General Hospital,

shared knowledge about danger of narcotic drugs. In-charge of the training school U Zaw Min explained the purpose of the course. Namkyan Sayadaw thanked departmental officials for opening the course. Also present on the occasion were responsible persons of 42 NGOs and local people.

Kyemon

Health

Free eye surgery performed in Khamti Township

KHAMTI, 19 May—Under the arrangement of Ministry of Health, eye specialists led by assistant director Dr Tin Maung Swe of Nay Pyi Taw Trachoma Eradication Department and Khamti District Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Zeya and health staff carried out free eye surgery at Khamti District People’s Hospital on 11-15 May.

The medical team gave eye care to 1430 patients. On 14 May, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Chit Lwin, Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative U Mya Maung and officials provided the patients with pairs sunglasses.

Kyemon

## WORLD

## Brazil Indians occupy cattle ranch in widening land dispute

SAO PAULO, 19 May—Federal police ordered some 200 Terena Indians to leave a former congressman's ranch in south-central Brazil on Thursday in the latest flashpoint of a widening conflict over land ownership in South America's farm belt. The ranch's owner, Ricardo Ba-

cha, skipped a meeting in Brasilia with the country's vice president over the land conflicts to return to the disputed area, claiming his wife and son were being held hostage by the Indians.

Brazil's indigenous policy, which includes returning land to natives based on anthropological studies, is con-

sidered one of the world's most progressive. But it has sparked violence since the country became an agricultural superpower and Indian policy clashed with farming interests. Federal police planned to give the Terena Indians a day to respond to the evacuation order, said Francisco das Chagas, a police spokesman in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, 70 kilometres (43 miles) from the ranch. "The Indians may or may not leave; if they don't obey, the police will draw up a plan for their removal," he told *Reuters*.

Funai, the federal government's Indian affairs agency in Brasilia, said in a written statement that the Terena had not taken anyone hostage and had not used violence, although they had ignited fireworks outside the ranch.

*Reuters*



Indigenous Indians occupy the entrance of the Planalto Palace during a protest against demarcation of indigenous lands and reserves in Brazil, in Brasilia in this 18 April, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

## EU finds time to tell restaurants how to serve olive oil

BRUSSELS, 19 May—Critics ridiculed European Union bureaucrats on Saturday for taking time off fighting the euro zone's debt crisis to impose strict new rules on how restaurants serve olive oil. From 1 Jan, 2014, eateries will be banned from serving oil to diners in small glass jugs or dipping bowls, and forced instead to use pre-sealed, non-refillable bottles that must be disposed of when empty. The European Commission said the move is designed to improve hygiene and reassure consumers the olive oil in restaurants has not been diluted with an inferior product. But critics say the rules are a sop to Europe's olive oil producers, and will only add to the frustration felt by many towards a bloated EU bureaucracy

regarded as out of touch with the concerns of ordinary Europeans.

"If the European Union was logical and properly run, people wouldn't be so anti-Europe. But when it comes up with crazy things like this, it quite rightly calls into question their legitimacy and judgment," said Marina Yannakoudakis, a British Conservative member of the European Parliament. The Commission said its proposal was supported by 15 out of 27 EU member governments, including the continent's main olive oil producers — Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal — which are among the countries worst affected by the euro crisis.

"The fact that the EU is the world's major producer of olive oil — for up to 70



Bottles of olive oil are lined in a factory in Dos Hermanas, near the Andalusian capital of Seville on 21 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

percent of the olive oil globally — perhaps this is even more than just a good consumer story for European citizens," commission spokesman Oliver Drewes told reporters. Yannakoudakis said the Commission's defence of the plans highlight-

## UN Security Council mulls Syria cross-border aid push

UNITED NATIONS, 19 May—The UN Security Council is considering a plea from senior UN aid officials to demand aid access in war-torn Syria, a move that could lead to a showdown between Russia and Western states over humanitarian cross-border deliveries, UN diplomats say.

As neighbouring Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq struggle to cope with the influx of Syrian refugees that the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said on Friday has surpassed 1.5 million, UN officials have told the Security Council there are millions more people in need of aid inside Syria.

But such a battle over a new resolution in the 15-member council, which has long been deadlocked over how to act on Syria's

two-year civil war, will likely be left until after a planned Syria peace conference in Geneva next month, UN diplomats said. Russia, a close ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and China have used their veto power three times to prevent Security Council action against Assad that was backed by the remaining three veto powers—the United States, Britain and France.

"The key element (of a humanitarian resolution) would be insisting on cross-border access," said a senior Security Council diplomat, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "We don't want to open up divisions (between the permanent five council members) ... just before Geneva," he said. "If (the Western council members) are going to have that bat-

tle with the Russians then it may be better to have it after Geneva." Western leaders have been cautious about the prospects of the Syria conference in Geneva achieving any breakthrough, and Russia's desire that Iran should attend has complicated matters.

The Syrian conflict started with mainly peaceful protests against Assad, but turned into a civil war in which the United Nations says at least 70,000 people have been killed. Islamist militants have emerged as the most potent anti-Assad rebels. Jordan recently invited the Security Council to visit and see first-hand the Syrian refugee crisis it was struggling to deal with, but diplomats said Russia had blocked the trip.

*Reuters*

## Giant pandas settle into new home at Toronto Zoo

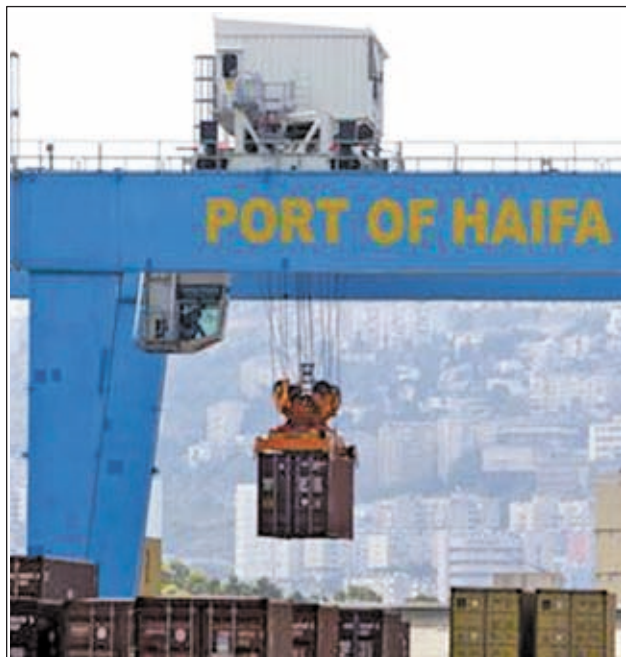
TORONTO, 19 May—The two giant pandas on a 10-year loan from China are living up to their rock-star status as they make their first public appearance in their new home at the Toronto Zoo on Saturday. Thousands of panda lovers woke up bright and early in the morning to beat the crowds and get a glimpse of Er Shun and Da Mao. By Saturday noon, there were already long queues snaking around the exhibit.

"We left about 8:30 am this morning, we knew that the panda exhibit would be crazy on opening day and everything," said visitor Rachelle Roy. Kathy Chau, who was visiting Toronto with her family from Germany, said they didn't want to miss out on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "They're really cute, and it's good for a little boy to see 'cause I don't know when or if we'll ever get to China to see them there," she said. While most

were there to enjoy the exhibit with their family on the opening day, elementary school teacher Kerri-Ann Sagert was already planning field trips for her students.

"I'm a teacher, so will definitely be bringing the kids to see the pandas," said Sagert, who explained that they've been following the pandas' journey very closely at school. "What a great experience, what a great connection between China and Canada, bringing relations, the world even closer." Touted as a symbol of the growing friendship between China and Canada, the pair have received extraordinary fanfare the moment they arrived in the Canadian city of Toronto. When they first touched down in March, they received a warm welcome on the tarmac by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and hundreds of dignitaries.

*Reuters*



A crane unloads a container at the port of the northern city of Haifa on 23 April, 2013.—REUTERS

## Rebels kidnap Syrian deputy FM's father

DAMASCUS, 19 May—Armed groups kidnapped the father of Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad in the southern Province of Daraa on Saturday, the pro-government Sham FM radio reported. The armed men stormed the house of the 80-year-old man in Daraa city and snatched him, the report said, giving no further details.

Targeting government officials and their relatives have become increasingly common in Syria as the deadly conflict entered its third year with no foreseeable solution in sight. Khaled

About, a Syrian parliamentarian who also hails from Daraa, has lost many of his relatives over the past year by the fire of the rebels.

Kidnappings in Syria have become an alarming issue feared by everyone, without exception. Some kidnapers seek revenge from army personnel and members of the minority Alawite, an offshoot of Shiite to whom President Bashar al-Assad and the ruling elite belong. The sectarian kidnapping is seen as the most dangerous case as the destiny of the abducted would mostly be death.

*Xinhua*



Steven Turner of Canada competes in Bull Riding category at the annual Cloverdale Professional Rodeo 2013 in Cloverdale, BC, Canada, on 17 May, 2013.—REUTERS

## REGIONAL



Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa (C) inspects a Victory Day parade in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 18 May, 2013. Sri Lanka on Saturday celebrated the fourth anniversary of the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels after 30 years of war.—XINHUA

## LDP wants citizens to open own websites to get more info from gov't

TOKYO, 19 May —The ruling Liberal Democratic Party proposes to have each citizen open his or her own website so the government can provide administrative information customized to one's needs, according to a draft obtained by *Kyodo News* on Saturday.

Among the proposals of an LDP strategy to boost information technology, on-line information from the national and municipal level will be provided for every individual based on factors such as age and family composition, the draft showed.

The LDP eyes achieving this scheme within a year after a numbering system is introduced, probably in 2016, giving every Japanese citizen integrated access to their own tax, pension and medical benefit data.

The proposal notes a need to create legislation to strictly manage and protect confidential information, in light of worries the system could become a conduit for leaks and infringing privacy. In the draft, the LDP also wants to utilize IT to ensure the security of roads and tunnels in the wake of a fatal accident in an expressway tunnel in which a ceiling collapse killed nine people last December. According to

the draft, the LDP also aims to create a new government entity, tentatively called the "Cyber Security Agency," staffed with several thousand officials and designed after the US Department of Homeland Security.

And in a bid to help women and elderly people secure employment, the LDP will also promote "telework" enabling people to work from home or elsewhere using IT, the draft said. The LDP is set to formalize the IT strategy plan and submit it to the government as soon as Tuesday, in the hope of having it reflected in a growth strategy to be drawn up in June, the party sources said.—*Kyodo News*

## Afghan President to visit India next week

NEW DELHI, 19 May —Afghan President Hamid Karzai is to arrive in India next week for a three-day visit, sources said. During his visit from 20 to 23 May, President Karzai will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the national capital and issues like security and arms supplies to maintain peace in troubled-torn Afghanistan would be on their agenda, they said.

The Afghan President will also travel to the northern state of Punjab to receive an honorary doctorate from Lovely Professional University, a private varsity in the town of Jalandhar, which is to be conferred on him by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, the sources added.

India has presence in Afghanistan. It provides humanitarian assistance in terms of sending biscuits and wheat, as well as facilitating infrastructure construction like the Salma Dam and the Afghan Parliament Building.—*Xinhua*



Portable shrines pass through Kaminari gate of Sensoji temple in Tokyo's Asakusa District on 18 May, 2013, during the annual Sanja Matsuri, one of Japan's biggest festivals.—KYODO NEWS

## Hopes fade for those still trapped in Freeport Indonesia mine

JAKARTA, 19 May —Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc said on Saturday that rockfalls were hampering rescue efforts after a tunnel collapse four days ago at its giant Indonesian copper mine, with hopes fading of finding alive any of the 23 still missing. Freeport closed the world's second largest copper mine on Wednesday, a day after a tunnel fell in on 38 workers undergoing training. Five are known to have died. Several of the 10 rescued are still in hospital. The Grasberg mine in West Papua is in one of the most remote regions of the Indonesian archipelago.

"We continue to carry out these (rescue) efforts non-stop, 24 hours a day as quickly as can be done safely to do everything possible to save lives, but as more time passes the possibility of there being any survivors becomes less likely," Freeport Indonesia's Mine General Manager, Nurhadi Sabirin, who heads the emergency response team, said in a statement. Rockfalls were slowing rescue efforts, he said. The company is using a device to detect vibrations to help find out if any of those trapped are still alive. "This device has detected vibrations that could be consistent with a human heartbeat, but this is not conclusive and could be caused by a number of other vibrations," he said. "We

## Indonesia mine

have not detected any other potential signs of life in the past 72 hours."

The training tunnel is outside the mining area and around 500 metres (yards) from the entrance of the Big Gossan mine. A trade union



Rescuers use a ground support split set and welded mesh to prevent rockfall during a process rescuing workers still trapped in an underground training class at the Grasberg complex in remote West Papua Province in this 15 May, 2013 picture provided by PT Freeport Indonesia.—REUTERS

leader on Friday demanded that Arizona-based Freeport keep the mine closed while it investigated the accident, which he blamed on the company.

"All operational activities, including production activities, have to be stopped during the investigation process," union leader Virgo Solossa told *Reuters*. "We think that the accident has been caused by the company's carelessness. This has to be investigated." Freeport Indone-

sia's President Director, Rozik Soetjipto, said in the statement that once the rescue efforts are finished, the company would launch an investigation with help from international experts and Indonesian energy and

mines ministry officials.

The statement made no reference to how long operations might be suspended at the mine, which also holds the world's largest gold reserves. The initial impact on supplies is likely to be minimal, as the company keeps large stockpiles at the mine site. That would change if the closure drags on. The accident could also fray already fragile relations with the union, which went on a three-month strike in 2011.—*Reuters*

## Chinese arrested for attempting to smuggle rosewood

CHENNAI, 19 May —A 44-year old Chinese national bound for Hong Kong was on Saturday detained by Custom officials at the airport here when he at-

tempted to smuggle 27 kg of rosewood in a suitcase, airport sources said.

Zheng Zinfang, holding a Chinese passport, was proceeding to board a

flight bound for Hong Kong early today when Custom officials found the wooden pieces in his suitcase, sources said.

PTI

## India anticipates fruitful visit by Chinese premier

NEW DELHI, 19 May —As Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is about to pay his first official visit to India, politicians and observers here are expecting that the visit could boost bilateral ties. "This visit is special because it is the first visit abroad by the Chinese premier since he assumed office in March. The relationship between our two countries are now sound and good," Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid told *Xinhua* in an interview. Khurshid believed the two neighbouring countries, despite their differences, have a lot in common and should "align their positions in many areas."

"India is ready to write a new chapter of our relationship with China," he added. The upbeat tone is shared by Sitaram Yechury, a senior leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and a member of the upper house of the Indian parliament. "This will be a very

important visit for India. It will not only strengthen but also multiply the ties between the two countries," said Yechury, noting that the two countries are registering enviable growth rates while many other economies are struggling in recession or slowdown.

"We have ancient bonds as two great civilizations and now we are molding a modern bond marked by economic development and cooperation," he told *Xinhua*.

Tarun Vijay, a lawmaker and national spokesman for the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, said that the India-China relationship has over 2,000 years of history and that to improve trust between New Delhi and Beijing is essential for peace and prosperity in both countries. "We hope the Chinese premier's visit will be successful, as this is his first destination abroad since he became premier," Vijay told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*.



A visitor poses with an art work during a multidimensional artwork exhibition in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 18 May, 2013. Some 80 pieces of 3D visual work as well as movies with thrill ride were displayed in the exhibition which kicked off here on Saturday.—XINHUA

### MYANMAR YANG TSE COPPER LIMITED (OVERSEAS TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER NO. (Ref No. CCS-05-13)

Sale of an estimated (1500 metric tons) of Copper Cathode from MYTCL S&K Mine site in Monywa, Myanmar.

CLOSING DATE & TIME: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 12:00 noon

Tender document is available at the following address or can be accessed at [www.myanmaryangtse.com.mm](http://www.myanmaryangtse.com.mm). Any queries can be done between 10 am to 4pm at MYTCL Yangon Office before the Tender Closing Date.

Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Limited

70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township

Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1-514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: [yangtse@yangtse.com.mm](mailto:yangtse@yangtse.com.mm))

## Japan Post to replace all outside directors in June

TOKYO, 19 May—All of Japan Post Holdings Co's 13 outside directors will resign next month when the postal service group's new president is to be appointed as part of its government-led management reshuffle, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

The current outside directors include Takashi Nishioka, former chair-

man of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, and Hiroshi Okuda, former chairman of Toyota Motor Corp.

Candidates under consideration to replace them include Canon Inc Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Fujio Mitarai and Akio Mimura, former chairman of Nippon Steel Corp, which merged with another steel firm last year

to create Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp, the sources said.

The number of posts for outside directors may be reduced from the current 13, they said. The government has already sounded out Taizo Nishimuro, 77, a former head of Toshiba Corp to succeed Japan Post Holdings President Atsuo Saka.— *Kyodo News*

## Greying China taps rural elderly to care for those even older

QLANTUN, (China), 19 May— Two years short of 70, Zhang Guosheng spends his days caring for an 81-year-old fellow villager — washing his clothes, bringing meals to his bed, and keeping him company — a routine he'll keep up until he himself needs the type of care he is now giving. "Living here is better than staying at home alone. We help each other and have a common language," said the spritely Zhang, an enthusiastic dancer. "We are very happy here."

With younger villagers who would traditionally have looked after their parents and grandparents flocking to the booming cities to seek work as part of Beijing's urbanization

drive, Qiantun village in northern China's Hebei Province has had to pioneer a new model — the old looking after the even older.

Surrounded by green wheat fields that stretch across a flat plain, Qiantun is unremarkable among countless rural Chinese communities, but its old-age care model is now a prototype cited by central government as a solution to the daunting challenge of caring for a vast and rapidly greying rural population.

One of every four Chinese will be older than 60 by 2030, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Massive rural-to-urban migration will further strain the rural areas' abil-

ity to provide care for the elderly, as personal savings and family support remain the primary pillars of old-age care. "Migrants to urban areas are mainly young adults, leaving mostly the elderly in villages with children," said Wang Dwen, an expert with the World Bank's Beijing office.

"The formal elder-care system in rural areas is very weak, and basically a blank spot in many places." As a result, the gap between the number of elderly in rural and urban areas is expected to balloon over the next 15 years, to 11 percentage points from today's 1.24 percentage points, the ministry projects.

The costs of caring for

China's rapidly expanding elderly population are likely to be too heavy a burden for the government, forcing Beijing to find cost-effective and creative ways to provide care in myriad localities.

The self-help model practiced among the 1,500 residents of Qiantun offers a cheaper and streamlined alternative to a state-run system. More than 95 percent of China's rural elderly still adhere to the traditional practice of seeking old-age care within their families, Wang said. But families are no longer able to cope, with youth and even middle-aged people heading to cities to find work, leaving the elderly behind to fend for themselves. — *Reuters*

## Unpublished manuscripts by cartoonist Tezuka unveiled

TOKYO, 19 May—Nine unpublished manuscript sheets by the late Japanese cartoon artist Osamu Tezuka, known for works such as "Astro Boy" and "Black Jack," have been found, cartoonist Leiji Matsumoto said.

The sheets are for four works, including "Metropolis" and "Yubijin" (man of a tail), which were both published in 1949, said Matsumoto, 75, who had obtained and kept them at his home. Tezuka (1928-

1989) apparently did not need the sheets after reworking the cartoons. "These are interesting as they show trial and error of the young Tezuka," said Matsumoto, widely known for his "Galaxy Express 999" series.

According to Tezuka Productions Co, the two other works are "Issen-nengo no sekai" (the world 1,000 years later) published in 1948, and for "Fuhyojima" (buoy island), which was never published. All of

the nine sheets are B6 size and some include two-colour printing, the company said.

The science fiction "Metropolis" depicts a futuristic world and includes a character named Micchi. The manuscript has a drawing titled "Feature-length adventure cartoon superman Micchi," indicating Tezuka had considered the title before changing it to "Metropolis".

The latest discovery

also confirmed the existence of "Fuhyojima" for the first time. So far, only its synopsis and title have been found in a notebook discovered at Tezuka's home in 1993.

The nine manuscripts will be included in a book on Tezuka's early works to be published next month, and will be shown at a special exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo from 29 June.

*Kyodo News*

## US 'Idol' winner shines light on South's Gullah culture

CHARLESTON, (South Carolina), 19 May— "American Idol" winner Candice Glover, whose powerful voice clinched the title of the popular TV singing show, comes from a sea island culture made up of descendants of West African slaves. "I speak another language," she said during the Fox TV show. "It's called Geechee." Some

14.2 million TV viewers tuned in to watch Glover beat Kree Harrison to win the season 12 "American Idol" crown on Thursday.

Glover, 23, is a native of rural St Helena Island in the coastal South Carolina Lowcountry. The island is part of a new national heritage corridor to preserve and promote the unique African culture and language

called Gullah Geechee that survived on the isolated sea islands of South Carolina and Georgia for centuries. "When she said that, I stood up in my living room and applauded," said Ron Daise, commission chairman of the corridor that also includes parts of North Carolina and Florida. "There's a rootedness about her spirit."

The Gullah Geechee language is a mix of West African dialects and English. The Glover family does not speak the language as well as older generations, Glover's mother, Carole, said in an interview this week. But she added that her daughter's revelation made residents of St Helena "proud and happy."

In April, Daise wrote Glover a congratulatory letter that ended in Gullah: "We stan op an clap clap clap cuz oona da one a we! A kno de Lawd done lay E han pon oona."

*Reuters*



Finalist Candice Glover reacts following her performance after being announced the winner during the Season 12 finale of "American Idol" in Los Angeles on 16 May, 2013.— *Reuters*

## Powerball jackpot grows to a record \$600 million

NEW YORK, 19 May—The jackpot for the Powerball lottery has soared to a record \$600 million and the top prize may swell to nearly \$1 billion if no one draws the winning numbers this weekend, a lottery official said on Friday. The potential payout of Saturday's jackpot could mean a one-time lump sum payment of \$376.9 million. Officials reported brisk ticket sales across the country.

The top prize grew after no one won a drawing on Wednesday, said Mary Neubauer, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Lottery, where the Powerball is based. The popular lottery, which is played in 42 states, Washington DC and the US Virgin Islands, has not had a winner in two months. "If

this hasn't caught your attention, I'm not sure what would," Neubauer said.

The previous largest Powerball jackpot record was \$587.5 million in November 2012.

According to Powerball, the odds of winning the big prize on Saturday are one in 175 million. If no match is made for all winning five numbers and the Powerball, the jackpot could grow to nearly \$1 billion, Neubauer said. She said that size of a pot could pose some challenges for lottery organizers. "Our billboards aren't designed to display a billion," she said. "We're not sure how we will display that amount, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."—*Reuters*



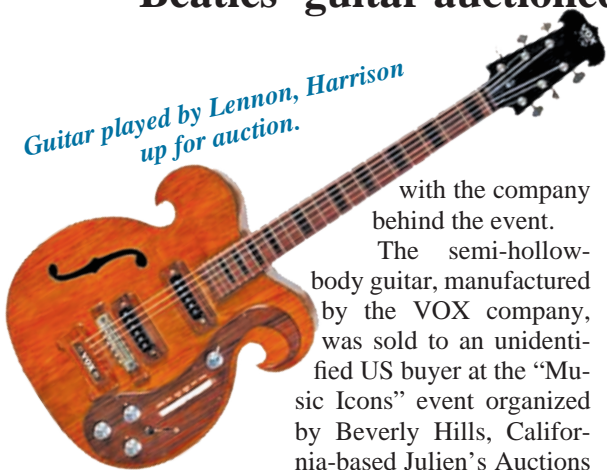
An electronic street sign displays the current value of the Powerball lottery in New York, on 17 May, 2013.

*Reuters*

ENTERTAINMENT

Beatles' guitar auctioned to the tune of \$408,000

Guitar played by Lennon, Harrison up for auction.



LOS ANGELES, 19 May—A custom-made electric guitar played by the late John Lennon and George Harrison of the Beatles sold at a New York auction on Saturday for \$408,000, said officials

with the company behind the event.

The semi-hollow-body guitar, manufactured by the VOX company, was sold to an unidentified US buyer at the "Music Icons" event organized by Beverly Hills, California-based Julien's Auctions and held at the Hard Rock Cafe in Manhattan.

Julien's said previously it expected the guitar, which was the centerpiece of Saturday's sale, to fetch between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Harrison played the instrument, distinguished by two symmetrical flared shoulders on the upper body, while practicing "I Am The Walrus," and Lennon used it in a video session for the song "Hello, Goodbye," according to a statement from Julien's Auctions.

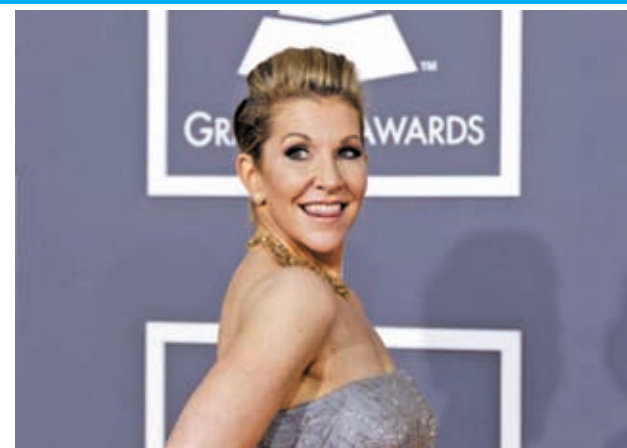
Both songs were on the Beatles' 1967 album "Magical Mystery Tour."

The VOX guitar was a prototype instrument custom-built for Lennon in 1966, said Martin Nolan, executive director of Julien's. Lennon gave the VOX guitar as a gift in 1967 to Gianni "Magic Alex" Mardas, who was the

electronics engineer for the band's Apple Records label, the auction house said.

The instrument, displayed in recent weeks at a museum in Ireland before the sale, was sold a few years ago by Christie's Auction House for a little over \$100,000. Nolan said the latest buyer, who sent a representative to Saturday's auction to bid on his behalf, wished to remain anonymous.

Lennon was shot to death in New York in 1980 by a deranged fan, and Harrison died of lung cancer in Los Angeles in 2001. The surviving members of the Beatles are Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.—Reuters



Joyce Di Donato

Vocal acrobatics of "La Donna del Lago" an "Olympic" challenge

LONDON, 19 May—Even with one of the world's most athletic opera singers at her side and plenty of practice, American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato reckons the latest London production of Gioachino Rossini's "La Donna Del Lago" is the challenge of a lifetime.

DiDonato and Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Florez told Reuters at the Royal Opera House production's opening on Friday night that performing their technically demanding roles in the John Fulljames interpretation is almost like an elite sport.

"When you're on stage and you know you have to hit this incredibly difficult note, and there's an exhilarating silence in the audience and everybody is zeroed in on you, it's like you're running for gold in

the Olympics," DiDonato said.

"La Donna del Lago" or Lady of the Lake is based on an 1810 Walter Scott poem in which DiDonato plays the ginger-haired Elena: the enchanting Lady of the Lake who finds herself at the centre of - not one - but two love triangles.

Florez, who sings the role of her love-struck suitor King James V and is well known for his incredible vocal range, said the piece never gets easier.

"Everything about it is difficult," Florez said. "I have performed the part many times before but it is still a huge challenge."

Elena's father is fighting with the clans against the king's rule and has promised his daughter's hand in marriage to the brutish clan leader, Rodrigo.—Reuters

Native American actress proud to walk Cannes red carpet

CANNES, 19 May—Native American actress Misty Upham never dreamt she would be walking the red carpet at Cannes to showcase a film shot on her reservation.

Upham features in "Jimmy P Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian", focused on the relationship between World War Two veteran Jimmy Picard, a Native American Blackfoot, and Georges Devereux, his psychoanalyst.

Upham said like Picard, played by Puerto Rican actor Benicio Del Toro, she is Blackfeet, the largest tribe in Montana state. She said she was a direct de-

scendant of the last chief and grew up on the reservation where much of the movie was filmed.

"I had no dreams and no way to make a dream. I had to leave the reservation," Upham, 30, told a news conference on Saturday ahead of the premiere of the film's premiere by French director Arnaud Desplechin.

"So 18 years later ... (I am) coming a full circle to the reservation I left to fulfil my dream." Upham says and another "Jimmy P" actress, Michelle Thrush, a Cree from Canada, are the first Native American women in the official selection

at Cannes, although organizers of the festival, now in its 66th year, were unable to confirm it.

One of 20 films competing for the main prize at the 12-day event on the French Riviera, the movie was inspired by a true story in Devereux's 1951 book "Reality And Dream".

Set in 1948, the film follows Jimmy as he checks into a military hospital in Topeka, Kansas, that specializes in mental illness for war veterans to be treated for numerous symptoms, including temporary blindness, hearing loss and dizzy spells.

The doctors are baffled



Misty Upham

by his psychological problems and decide to call in anthropologist and psychoanalyst Devereux (Mathieu Amalric) a specialist in Native American culture who spent two years living with the Mojave Native Americans.—Reuters

Agonizing family choice in Japanese film at Cannes festival



(L-R) Cast member Shogen Hwang, Director Hirokazu Kore-eda, cast members Masaharu Fukuyama, Keita Ninomiya, Machiko Ono, Yoko Maki and Lily Franky pose as they arrive to attend a news conference for the film 'Soshite Chichi Ni Naru' (Like Father, Like Son) at the 66th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 18 May, 2013.

REUTERS

CANNES, 19 May—A film about baby-switching by Japan's Kore-eda Hirokazu that ponders nature versus nurture premiered at

the Cannes film festival on Saturday, joining an Iranian challenger as contenders for the top prize. "Soshite Chichi Ni Naru" ("Like Father, Like

Son") is one of two Japanese films out of the international roster of 20 vying to take home the Palme d'Or prize on 26 May from the world's

largest film festival being held on the French Riviera.

Japan has won four times before, most recently in 1997 with Shohei Imamura's "Unagi" ("The Eel"). Its other offering this year is the stunt-filled police thriller "Wara No Tate" ("Shield of Straw") by Takashi Miike.

"Soshite Chichi Ni Naru" stars singer and actor Masaharu Fukuyama as workaholic Ryota who, along with his docile wife Midori, played by Machiko Ono, is grooming his 6-year-old son Keita for success.

Their outwardly picture-perfect family life is shattered one day after the hospital where Keita was born informs them they made a mistake and Keita is not their biological son.

"Why didn't I see it? I'm a mother!" laments Midori after the revelation, which forces the couple into an agonizing decision - whether to keep Keita as their own, or make a swap.—Reuters

Young heroes become Hollywood box office hits

LOS ANGELES, 19 May—The "Harry Potter" films generated 7.7 billion dollars in box office worldwide. "The Lord of the Rings" series made some 2.9 billion, and this year's Oscar Best Picture "Life of Pi" has taken in 608 million since last September.

It looks like young heroes are not only saviors of the world, but also box office hits.

Indeed, one of the hottest film genres in Hollywood is always hero-themed movies. People could always learn more from these young heroes — a journey from being an ordinary child to a brave hero tells us to never look down on anyone, including yourself. From "The Spiderman" to "Harry Potter," from "Eragon" to "The Lord of the Rings," though these hero-themed films always bring similar story plots, audiences are still attracted, because

they can always relate themselves to the young heroes in the films, who are just like anyone around us.

This summer, another young hero film, "Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monster," is expected to attract millions of moviegoers. Based on the true situation of the novel writer's son — who is suffering from dyslexia and attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) — the film will continue the adventure journey of Percy, son of God of Ocean in Greek myths, in his search for Golden Fleece.

In 2010, 20th Century Fox turned the first novel of the "Percy Jackson" series into movie, which made 226.5 million dollars worldwide. Compared to the gross revenues of the eight-film franchise "Harry Potter" and the three-film franchise "The Lord of The Rings," it is relatively small.—Xinhua



Paris Saint-Germain's English midfielder David Beckham (2nd L front) celebrates with teammates during the celebration for winning the French League 1 title after the League 1 football match between Paris St Germain and Brest at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on 18 May, 2013.—XINHUA

## Juventus confirms Tevez talks

ROME, 19 May — Juventus general manager Beppe Marotta confirmed on Saturday that the Serie A champions are contacting with Carlos Tevez in an attempt to sign the Argentina striker. Marotta said Juventus could have some meetings with Tevez's team.

"It is clear that at this stage of the season agents step forward and I will not rule out a meeting in that

sense. We could reach an agreement with them, but then we'd have to strike a deal with his club too."

"He wants to make up for lost time, as his years at Manchester City were not the best. We have not made any approach towards the English club," he said.

Marotta dropped hints that Juventus could sign Tevez ahead of Real Madrid forward Gonzalo Higuain.

"Higuain is younger and is therefore worth more on the transfer market. Tevez is certainly an easier negotiation process, as his contract expires next summer," he said.

"We are trying to strengthen the attack for next season, so that is our primary objective. We're after players who suit Antonio Conte's football," he said.

Xinhua

## Carpenter slays IndyCar giants to win 500 pole

NEW YORK, 19 May—Ed Carpenter upstaged IndyCar's biggest names and teams on Saturday to grab pole for the 97th Indianapolis 500.



Carpenter slays IndyCar giants to win 500 pole

## German Bjorn Otto makes best world performance at street pole vault

ATHENS, 19 May—German athlete Bjorn Otto made the best world performance this year, clearing the bar at 5.83 metres during a street pole vault event hosted in central Athens on Saturday.

Otto who won the silver medal during last year's London Olympic Games participated with other seven athletes in the 1st Athens Street Pole Vault event at Zappeion hall organized by the Greek Association of Amateur Athletics (SEGAS).

Greek athlete Costas Filippidis, who was holding the previous best world performance in 2013, clearing the bar at 5.82 meters a few days ago at Doha, ranked second on Saturday with 5.73 metres.

Russian Anton Ivakin was third with 5.63 metres. "It was a very good battle and the crowd was so warm, as I expected," Otto said after the event, as Athenians and tourists of all ages cheered.—Xinhua

Carpenter, IndyCar's only owner/driver, delivered the big surprise on Pole Day at Indianapolis Motor Speedway clocking a four-lap average speed of

228.762 mph in his Chevrolet powered Dallara around the sprawling 2.5 mile oval.

Rookie Colombian Carlos Munoz was second fastest. Munoz, who currently leads the Indy Lights (IndyCar's development series) driver's standings will do double duty with the Freedom 100 and Indy 500 next week.

Starting on the outside of row one in next Sunday's race is Marco Andretti, grandson of former-Formula One and Indy champion Mario Andretti.

"(Two series) victories were great, but an Indianapolis 500 pole is the best,"

said the 32-year-old Carpenter, who has two wins in 132 career starts and a decade of racing on the IndyCar circuit. "This is the start of a dream come true."

"This is just the first part of what we want to do. To fight with the Penskes and Andrettis is an accomplishment in itself."

Early showers delayed the start of qualifying but the cool, damp conditions could not distract Carpenter, who muscled his way into the 'Fast Nine' to set up a David and Goliath showdown for pole against two of IndyCar's giants Team Penske and Andretti Autosport.—Reuters



Jason Richardson (L) of the United States, Xie Wenjun (C) of China and Ryan Wilson of the United States compete during the men's 110m hurdles during the IAAF Diamond League Athletics meet in Shanghai, east China, 18 May, 2013. Richardson won the first place of the event in 13.23 seconds. Wilson took the second place. Xie Wenjun took the third place.

XINHUA

## Swiss fairytale continues as they set up

### Sweden final

STOCKHOLM, 19 May—Switzerland's fairytale run at the world ice hockey championships continued on Saturday when they reached the final thanks to a 3-0 victory over United States.

They now face host nation Sweden who beat Finland 3-0, Loui Eriksson scoring twice. The Swiss, the only remaining unbeaten team, went ahead when Martin Pluss snapped up a loose puck and laid on a goal for the unmarked Nino Niederreiter.

Julian Walker made it 2-0 with 10 minutes to go when he latched on to Simon Moser's defense-splitting pass before Reto Suri completed the scoring.

With a squad almost entirely made up of home-based players, elated Swiss fans spent much of the final period ringing cowbells and chanting 'Allez' from the stands.

The players threw themselves at every puck in defence and anything that got through was dealt with comfortably by Reto Berra in goal.

"The team played unbelievably," an exhausted but elated Berra told Reuters. "It was a hard fight because it was the semi-final and there was a lot of pressure."

Despite being founder members of the International Ice Hockey Federation, the Swiss will be contesting only their second final, having lost on their only previous appearance in 1935.

"I think we've been really mentally tough in this championship which we haven't been the last couple of years," added Berra, 26.

"It's pumped up in our dressing room. You could see it today, from the first to the last second we were ready."

Earlier, Eriksson netted twice and the Sedin brothers, Daniel and Henrik, grabbed two assists apiece as Sweden ousted Nordic neighbours Finland. The Swedes endured a sluggish start to the tournament but the arrival of the Sedins from National Hockey League duty with the Vancouver Canucks gave much-needed spark to their offence.—Reuters



Switzerland's players celebrate their victory over Canada after their 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship preliminary round match at the Globe Arena in Stockholm on 5 May, 2013.—REUTERS

## Nadal to meet Federer in Rome final, Serena rolls on

ROME, 19 May—Roger Federer will meet great rival Rafa Nadal in the Italian Open final after the Swiss held off a spirited challenge by unseeded Frenchman Benoit Paire on Saturday.

The 7-6, 6-4 scoreline suggested a routine victory for the world number three, but the 24-year-old Paire was a break up in the first set and held three mini breaks in the tiebreak before being let down by poor shot selection.

The second set was more straightforward for Federer, into the Rome final for the third time and first since 2006, as he wrapped up victory in just under 90 minutes.

Nadal had earlier beat Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych 6-2, 6-4 with a dominant performance that he described as emotional after a long injury absence which saw him return to court in February after seven months off with a knee problem.

The Spaniard has won six titles since returning, while Federer is yet to register a title in 2013.

"For me it's already a good tournament. He (Nadal) is the favourite but he's near the end of a long claycourt season, it may be my chance,"



Roger Federer

Federer told reporters.

Nadal, the sport's dominant claycourt player was at his aggressive best in dismantling the heavy hitting Berdych, breaking in the first and fifth games of a one-sided first set before clinching a decisive advantage in the ninth game of the second.

Nadal wrapped it up when his opponent sent a backhand return long and then said he could not have hoped to be playing better after his lengthy layoff.

"I am feeling better physically," the 11-times grand slam winner said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Teledeporte.

"These are emotional moments for me as I think I have managed to turn around a situation in which after many months of doubts I am able to play at a level that I would not have dreamed of four months ago."—Reuters

GENERAL

**M6.0 quake jolts northeastern Japan, no tsunami warning issued**

TOKYO, 19 May—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 jolted northeastern Japan and surrounding areas on Saturday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami warning was issued. On the Japanese seismic scale to 7, the 2:48 pm quake, which

originated off Fukushima Prefecture at a depth of about 46 kilometres, registered upper 5 in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, and 4 in several parts of Miyagi as well as Fukushima, according to the agency.

Ishinomaki was one of the areas hard hit by the 11 March, 2011 earthquake and

tsunami. So far no injuries have been reported, the Miyagi prefectural police and firefighters said. The agency believes the latest earthquake was an aftershock of the 2011 earthquake. “Aftershock activities have become less frequent but we urge the public to be careful since there are also unusually strong aftershocks like this one (today),” an agency official said.

No abnormalities were caused by the quake at the Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini nuclear power plants in Fukushima Prefecture and the Onagawa plant in Miyagi Prefecture, according to the utilities that operate them. Sendai airport briefly suspended flights to check the runways, while train services on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line were partially stopped for about six minutes, their operators said. —Kyodo News



Photo taken in Shiogama, Miyagi Prefecture, on 18 May, 2013, shows a road that was flooded due to a damaged water pipe, after an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 jolted northeastern Japan and surrounding areas the same day.

KYODO NEWS

**Deadly torrential rain affects 200,000 in Guangxi**

NANNING, 19 May—Continuous rainfall has claimed a life while affecting about 200,000 people in southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local authorities said on Sunday. As of Saturday, the heavy rain, which started

on Thursday, has battered 14 counties in Guangxi, said a statement from the regional department of civil affairs.

The weather has left 199,700 people affected and over 12,100 displaced in Guangxi, according to

the statement.

It added that the downpours have damaged or destroyed 561 houses and ruined 12,120 hectares of crops, resulting in direct economic losses of 148 million yuan (about 24 million USdollars).—Xinhua

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(20-5-13 09:30 am ~ 21-5-13 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Myanmar Customs & Naming System
- \* News
- \* A Holiday Paradise & Me
- \* News
- \* Sail With SMEs in the Life’s Sea
- \* News
- \* Fashionable and Beautiful Silk Fabric
- \* Let’s strive for Revitalization of once Asia’s Famous University
- \* News
- \* “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Golden Land
- \* News
- \* Yoke Sone Monastery of Lae Kai Ancient City
- \* Volunteers Rural Field Trips
- \* News
- \* A Highland with Peace and Charm
- \* News
- \* Secret Place for Yummy Food (Episode-3) “Rakhine Noodle Soup”
- \* Traditional Pa O Dance
- \* Myanmar Movies “Glass Marble”

**Myanmar TV**

(20-5-2013, Monday)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>6:00 am</b>                                | <b>3:15 pm</b>  |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 17. TV Drama Series   |
| <b>6:25 am</b>                                | <b>4:25 pm</b>  |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise                     | 18. Song & Dance of National Races                                      |
| <b>6:35 am</b>                                | <b>4:40 pm</b>  |
| 3. Dance & Song of National Races             | 19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Maths) |
| <b>6:40 am</b>                                | <b>5:00 pm</b>  |
| 4. Documentary                                | 20. News  |
| <b>7:00 am</b>                                | <b>5:15 pm</b>  |
| 5. News / Weather Report                      | 21. Songs Programme   |
| <b>7:20 am</b>                                | <b>5:45 pm</b>  |
| 6. People Talks                               | 22. Documentary (SEA Games)   |
| <b>8:00 am</b>                                | <b>6:00 pm</b>  |
| 7. News/ International News                   | 23. News / Weather Report   |
| <b>8:25 am</b>                                | <b>6:20 pm</b>  |
| 8. SEA Games Go For Gold (SAPAK TAKROW)       | 24. SEA Games (Teleplay)  |
| <b>9:00 am</b>                                | <b>6:50 pm</b>  |
| 9. News/ International News                   | 25. TV Drama Series   |
| <b>9:20 am</b>                                | <b>7:00 pm</b>  |
| 10. Cartoon Series                            | 26. News  |
| <b>10:15 am</b>                               | <b>7:15 pm</b>  |
| 11. TV Drama Series                           | 27. TV Drama Series   |
| <b>11:00 pm</b>                               | <b>8:00 pm</b>  |
| 12. Beautiful ASEAN                           | 28. News/ International News/ Weather Report                            |
| <b>12:00 pm</b>                               | <b>8:35 pm</b>  |
| 13. News/ International News/ Weather Report  | 29. People Talks  |
| <b>12:25 pm</b>                               | <b>8:45 pm</b>  |
| 14. Myanmar Movies                            | 30. Present Songs   |
| <b>2:35 pm</b>                                | <b>9:00 pm</b>  |
| 15. Choice of Vocalist                        | 31. News  |
| <b>3:00 pm</b>                                | 32. Cartoon Series  |
| 16. News                                      | 33. Wut Hmon Music Troupe   |
|   | 34. India Drama Series  |

**Canadian astronaut wrestles with gravity after spaceflight**

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 19 May—Back on Earth, Canadian astronaut and cyberspace tweeter Chris Hadfield is getting a rough re-introduction to gravity after a five-month stint aboard the *International Space Station*, the former commander told reporters during a video webcast from Houston. Hadfield became a social media rock star with his zero-gravity version of David Bowie’s “Space Oddity” and a continuous stream of commentary on Twitter about his life in orbit. But living without gravity for five months has left him feeling dizzy, weak and prematurely aged. A veteran of three space flights, he is wearing a pressure suit under his clothes to help his circulation as his body re-adapts to getting blood back to his brain.

“Without the constant pull-down of gravity, your body gets a whole new normal, and my body was

quite happy living in space without gravity,” Hadfield, 53, said in a video conference call with Canadian reporters on Thursday, three days after returning to Earth. The video conference was posted on the Canadian Space Agency’s UStream channel. “Right after I landed I could feel the weight of my lips and tongue ... I hadn’t realized that I had learned to talk with a weightless tongue,” he said. He is suffering overall body soreness, particularly in his neck and back which are again having to support his head after months in weightlessness.

“It feels like I played full-contact hockey, but it’s getting better by the hour,” Hadfield said. “The subtle things and the big things are taking some re-adaptation to get used to and they are coming back one by one.” Hadfield, who is the first from Canada to command a space station crew, NASA astronaut Thomas Marshburn



Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield speaks on the phone after the Russian Soyuz space capsule landed some 150 km (90 miles) southeast of the town of Zhezkazgan, in central Kazakhstan on 14 May, 2013.—REUTERS

and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko landed in Kazakhstan on Monday. He and Marshburn were then flown to Houston to begin rehabilitation. As a departing finale Hadfield created a music video rendering of Bowie’s classic “Space Oddity,” which as of Friday had 13 million hits on YouTube. Hadfield, who is the lead singer and bass guitarist in the all-astronaut rock band Max Q, said it is too early to think about what he will do next. “For now, I’m still trying to stand up straight.—Reuters

**Plane catches fire in Moscow**

BEIJING, 19 May—Part of a Russian airliner carrying more than 130 people caught fire as it was landing in Moscow. Passengers evacuated the plane by jumping off one of its wings and shooting down an evacuation slide.

The Emergencies Ministry says none of the passengers or crew members were injured

by the fire on the landing gear of the *Boeing 737* at Vnukovo Airport. The ministry says the plane belongs to Russian carrier UTair.

It was flying to Moscow from the southern city of Stavropol. The airport was immediately closed down and all flights transferred to other destinations.

Xinhua

**Japan Olympic coach Sekizuka set to take over at Jubilo**

IWATA, (Japan), 19 May—Takahashi Sekizuka, the man who masterminded Japan’s sensational run to the semifinals of last year’s London Olympics, is on the verge of taking over as manager of struggling Jubilo Iwata, club president Yoshiro Takahira said on Saturday. “I am talking (to Sekizuka) about various things and I reckon it will be a done deal soon,” Takahira said after a 4-2 defeat at

home to Kawasaki Frontale kept three-time champions Jubilo second-from-bottom in the table with just one win from 12 games.

Former Frontale boss Sekizuka watched the defeat with Takahira but left Yamaha Stadium without speaking to reporters. Hitoshi Morishita stepped down as manager two weeks ago after a disastrous start to the season and assistant coach Tetsu Nagasawa was installed as

caretaker while Jubilo look for a permanent replacement. But Jubilo, whose failure to win in their first seven games marked their worst ever start to a J-League campaign, squandered a two-goal lead and were held 2-2 by FC Tokyo in Nagasawa’s first game in charge on 6 May.

A 1-0 reverse at home to Kashiwa Reysol followed before their latest setback against Frontale.

Kyodo News

**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai of Thailand**



*Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends opening ceremony of Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand.—MNA*

NAYPYI TAW, 19 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham left Yangon yesterday evening by air to attend the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit to be held in Chiang Mai and the 10<sup>th</sup> Celebrations for the United Nations Day of Vesak (Buddha's Birthday)

in Bangkok of Thailand and arrived in Chiang Mai at 4.40 pm local standard time.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed by the Vice-Governor of Chiang Mai Province, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Tin Win and officials at Chiang Mai International Airport.

Next, the Vice-President

and party arrived at Imperial Hotel.

This morning, the Vice-President attended the opening ceremony of the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit at International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Chiang Mai together with the President of Tajikistan, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand,

ministers, deputy ministers and high ranking officials of the Asia-Pacific region countries, responsible persons of UN and international organizations and officials of Asian Development Bank.

Thai Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Minister Mr Preecha Rengsomboonsuk made an opening address.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Plodprasop Suraswadi extended greetings. President of Tajikistan Mr Emomalii Rahmomi and Special Representative of the Hungarian President Dr Gabor Baranyai delivered addresses.

Next, the plenary meeting followed. The meeting continues till 20 May.

The first Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Bappu of Japan in 2007.

In the evening, the Vice-President together with the attendees of the summit attended the dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at Wiang Kum Kam Historical Site in Chiang Mai.

MNA

**Moontaekwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ring road construction gaining momentum**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin oversaw construction works of Moontaekwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ring road and progress of Ngaphe-inn bridge and box culverts yesterday.

After inspecting progress in construction of a concrete bridge, chosen

site for construction of Paunglaung river crossing bridge and earth works of Road Construction Special Group (5), the Union minister left necessary instructions.

Moontaekwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ring road which will be 22 miles in length and 12 feet in width is

under construction by three special groups, one district group and four companies. So far seven miles and five furlongs long tarmacking work, eight miles and two furlongs long earth work and four miles and five furlongs long gravel work have been completed and the remaining works are underway.—MNA



*Road construction work seen with heavy machinery.—MNA*

**Kawthoung: A worthwhile place to visit**



**Byline: Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)**

A historic border town of Taninthayi Region situated on the southernmost tip of Myanmar sharing borders with the neighbouring country, Thailand, is called Kawthoung. It is home to more than 70000 people whose livelihoods rely on border trade, fisheries, oil palm and rubber growing. The coastal town with a favourable climate patterns is a worthwhile place to visit.

Kawthoung is easily accessible by all modes of transport, by car, by

boat or by air because an air port, a port for five star ocean liners and Kawthoung-Myeik Union Highway are facilitating public transport.

Thahtaykyun Resort is a five star one unique to Kawthoung. Oil Palm plantations along Kawthoung-Myeik motorway draw the interest of every visitor.

Kawthoung is also known as a place of smokeless industry thanks to daily arrival of tourists via Thailand. It thereby

contributes more foreign exchange income of the country.

The town with scenically attractive areas has become a tourist attraction spot because of its famous Cape Bayintnaung (It is formerly called Cape Victoria) where a huge statue of King Bayintnaung stands and Salons (Mawkins) tribe inhabiting the waters of Kawthoung.

*Kyemon: (16-5-13)*

**Trs: YM**  
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