

Profile of Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and Mrs. Akie Abe

Mr. Shinzo Abe was born on 21st September 1954 in Tokyo, Japan. He has been elected 7 times as member of the House of Representatives from the Yamaguchi 4th District from 1993 onwards. He graduated from the Department of Political Science, the Faculty of Law in Seikei University in 1977.

He joined the Kobe Steel Company in 1979. In 1982 he began his political career as the Executive Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in 1993 he won his first

election to the House of Representatives as the member for the Yamaguchi 4th District. In 1999 he was appointed to be a Trustee on the Committee on Health and Welfare and was a director in the Social Affairs Division of the LDP in 1999.

2004 the Acting Secretary-General of the LDP as well as Chairman of the Reform Promotion Headquarters of the LDP. In 2005 he became the Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Third Koizumi Cabinet, and in 2006 he became the President of the LDP as well as Prime Minister. He resigned from the Prime Ministership in 2007 but in 2012 he again became President of the LDP and Prime Minister for the second time.

Mr Abe is married to Mrs. Akie Abe. They were married in 1987.



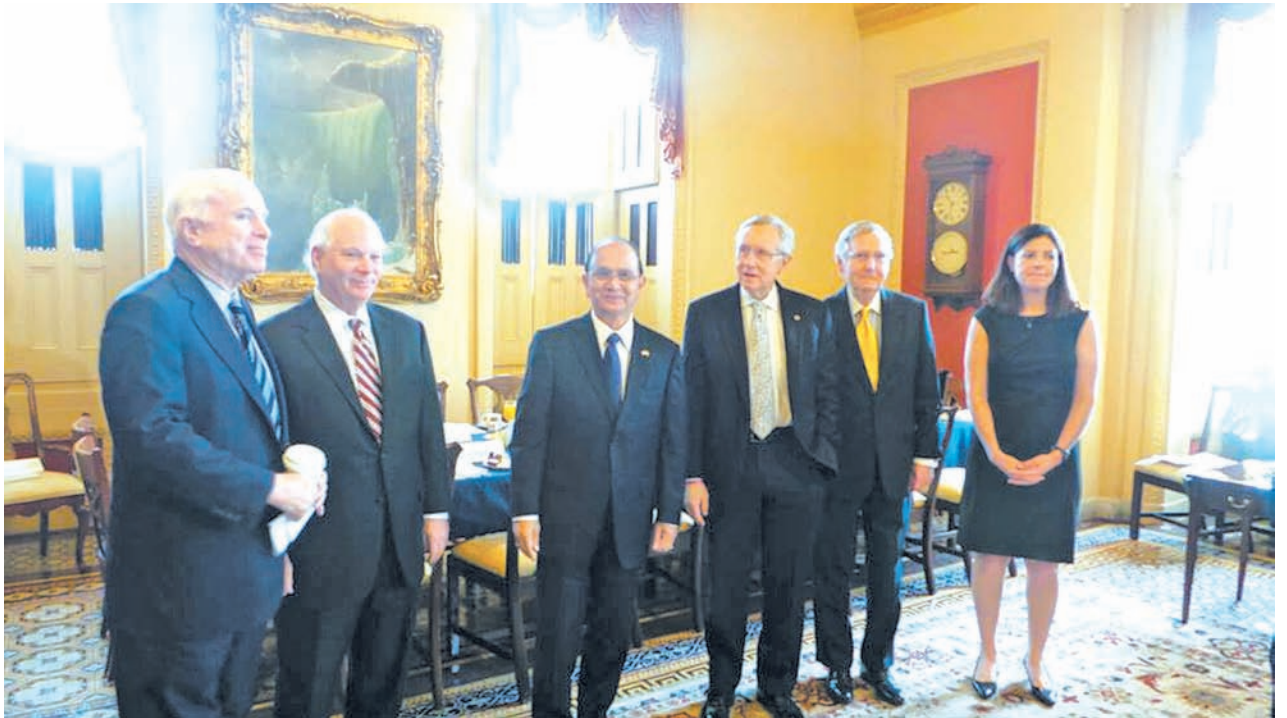
Profile of Mrs. Akie Abe

Mrs. Akie Abe is a homemaker who has been married to Mr. Shinzo Abe since 1987.

She was educated at the Sacred Heart School from Kindergarten to High School and Professional Training College, and she also studied Social Design Study for the 21st Century in the Graduate School of Rikkyo University.

Her hobbies are rice cultivation, running, golf, and the Japanese traditional martial art of Naginata.

In 2000 – 2002 he became a Deputy Chief Secretary in the Administrations of both Prime Minister Mori (Second Cabinet) and Prime Minister Koizumi (First Cabinet). In 2003 he became the Secretary-General of the LDP and in



U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, poses for documentary photo together with US lawmakers at Capitol Hill in Washington.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Leaders of US Senate, House of Representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, met the leaders of the United States House of Representatives led by Ms. Nancy Pelosi, US Speaker of the House of Representatives at Capitol Hill in Washington

of the United States of America at 8:30 am local time on 21 May.

Then, the President looked round the Congress building. At 10:30 am, the President met US Senate leaders led by Senator Mr. Harry Reid.

At the call, the

President had discussion on Myanmar's democracy reform processes, successes and challenges, future works and step-by-step lifting of sanctions which are hampering Myanmar's economic development.

The US majority leaders

have recognized Myanmar's progress and development and discussed constructive points for continued implementation of works.

Also present at the call together with the President were the Union Ministers and Ambassador U Than Swe.

MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister meets Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win held talks with Infrastructure Development Institute of Japan Chairman Mr Kiyofumi Yoshino and party, at the meeting hall of Region Government on 20 May. Both sides discussed water resources,

supply of drinking water and industrial-use water, use of irrigation water and rescue, relief supplies and rehabilitation for flood victims.

After that, the Chief Minister inspected paving of Shwethalyaung pagoda concrete road, dredging of old

Mazin Creek on Bago-Yangon motor road and maintenance of Lakepyarkan.

On 21 May, the chief minister met with Inter-Faith Concord Group led by Retd Ambassador U Hla Maung at the region government office.

MNA

State of the Sea

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h.

Kason, the month of festival of Environmental greening

The fullmoon day of Kason [May] the second month of Myanmar lunar calendar of 12 months is annually celebrated as Buddha's Day because it was on the fullmoon day in the Maha Sakarit year of 103 [Buddhist Era] that Bodhisattha [Prince Sidhartha as a forest recluse] became enlightened by attaining Sabbanuta Nyanna [Buddhahood] after six years of practising austerities in the forests in quest of spiritual truth. So this day is yearly celebrated as Vesak Day in all Buddhist countries and the Buddhists throughout the world.

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

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Merkel protege struggles with Germany's green revolution



PAGE 3

Thai team crowned with success in men's 100 km team event



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Crime

Illegal teak, hardwood seized in Mawlamyine District



NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — Forest staff led by Assistant Director U Aye Cho of Thaton District Forest Department launched an operation to fight against illegal timber extraction in Mawlamyine District during the period from 11 to 14 May and seized 76.7148 tons of

illegal teak and hardwood.

They confiscated 34.7714 tons of hardwood near Mokkanin Village in Lamaing Sub-township, 12.1472 tons of ownerless hardwood by the road to Asin Village and near Ye Township, 2.2478 tons of ironwood owned by U Yadana Tun and 2.8922 tons of hardwood owned by U Chit Oo, 4.1170 tons of ownerless hardwood in a farmland near Lamaing, 5.2242 tons of hardwood in Mudon Township, 3.2222 tons of hardwood in Thanbyuzayat Township and 44 teak logs (12.0928 tons) in Attayan river.

Actions are being taken against owners of the seized illegal hardwood and teak.

Kyemon

Accident

Drowning death of drunken young man in garden lake

YANGON, 23 May — A drowning death happened to a drunken young man in the middle of the lake in Myaing Hay Wun Garden in ward-5 of Mayangon Township.

A guard of the garden informed Mayangon police station that drunken Yan Naing Phyo, 24, guard

of No (19) Sein Mann Myaing training nursery, and his friend were trying to go for a swim in No (1) Lake. Police rushed there and they discovered Yan Naing Phyo at the bottom of the lake. As the drowned man was found dead with no external injuries, his

death was apparently ruled drowning.

The dead body was taken to North Okkalapa Hospital where investigation is ongoing whether or not there is evidence of third part hand in the drowning death.

Kyemon

Ward dwellers worry over leaky gas pipeline

YANGON, 23 May — A leak in an old gas pipeline occurred in Zaykon ward of Insein Township at about 7 am on 19 May.

The pipeline installed between a foreman line and Insein locomotive shed in the ward is in worn condition and leaking gas. The right side of the leaking pipeline is staff quarter and a primary school and the left side is the locomotive shed. As it is situated near the fuel warehouse, ward dwellers are giving voice to their concerns over possible danger of fire, looking forward effective actions of officials concerned.

Kyemon



National Sports

Thai team crowned with success in men's 100 km team event

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — The second day of the Pre SEA Games cycling contest continued at Nay Pyi Taw Hninsi roundabout, here, yesterday.

Thailand stood first, Malaysia second and Brunei third in the men's 100 km team event. Next, a prize presentation ceremony followed.

The competition with the participation of cyclists from Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei was held ahead of XXVII SEA Games.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik. — *Kyemon*



Odd News

12 men, eight women exposed before departure for neighbouring country

YANGON, 23 May — Tachilek anti-human trafficking task force educated 12 men and eight women totaling 20 and asked them to return home as they were exposed before departure for the neighbouring country on 16 May.

According to a tip-off of a member of the task

force in Kengtung, Tachilek anti-human trafficking task force took 12 men and eight women who were on board Taunggyi-Tachilek passenger bus to the office and interviewed them.

Investigations revealed that they had no relatives in Tachilek and they arrived there to go to Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai

of Thailand with the purpose of working there on their own volition.

Police officers explained real situations that undocumented persons are to face in Thailand and dangers of human trafficking. Then they were sent back to their own places by the passenger bus they took. — *Kyemon*

Cannon of second Anglo-Myanmar war unearthed at People's Square

YANGON, 23 May — An old type of heavy gun which is assumed to be from second Anglo-Myanmar war period was unearthed while digging for construction in People's Square and People's Park in Dagon Township, here, on 14 May.

The cannon caked in mud and rust is 14 feet and five inches in length, 13 inches in diameter at its upper part and 23 inches in diameter at its lower part. It weighs about six tones. It was unearthed at about 11.30 am on that day by

U Kyaw Kyaw Lay, 55, of Hlinethaya Township while he was digging at U Wisaya Shopping Mall construction site in the park. He informed

officials of the cannon and it is now being kept at the place it was unearthed by archaeological department.

Kyemon



Natural Disaster

Squalls with wind gusts lash Pathi Village in Twantay Township

YANGON, 23 May — Squalls with savage wind gusts tore through Pathi Village of Twantay Township in Yangon South District, here, at about 7.30 pm on 21 May, causing severe damage to houses, one primary school and betel and banana plantations in the village.

Strong winds uprooted trees, toppled down six houses, ripped the roofs of the primary school and destroyed four betel farms and banana plantations in the village.

Officials concerned led by the Twantay Township Administrator helped 26 households find accommodation at their relative houses.

Kyemon

WORLD

Iran pushes ahead with nuclear plant that worries West

VIENNA, 23 May—Iran is pressing ahead with the construction of a research reactor that Western experts say could offer it a second way of producing material for a nuclear bomb if it decides to make one, a UN report showed on Wednesday.

Iran has transported the reactor vessel — which would hold the fuel — to the heavy water plant near the central town of Arak but has not yet installed it, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report issued to member states.

“It certainly means that progress is made,” one diplomat familiar with the Iranian nuclear programme said, adding that several other major components for the reactor, including control room equipment, had yet to be put in place there.

The United States said Iran was in “non-compliance with its international nuclear obligations”.

“This report marks an unfortunate milestone with regard to Iran’s illicit nuclear activities,” State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said. Iran he said was “advancing its enrichment programme in blatant violation of its international obligations.”

Western concerns about Iran are focused largely on uranium enrichment plants at Natanz and Fordow, as such material refined to a high level can provide the fissile core of a nuclear bomb. Iran says it only refines uranium to fuel nuclear energy plants. But experts say Arak may also be a proliferation issue as it could yield plutonium for nuclear arms if the spent fuel were reprocessed. Iran has said it has no reprocessing activities.

“Once the reactor operates, it could spawn more than enough weapons-grade plutonium for a bomb per year, should Iran ever decide to do that,” said nuclear expert Mark Hibbs of the Carnegie Endowment



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visits the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility, 350 km (217 miles) south of Teheran, on 8 April, 2008.—REUTERS

think-tank. The Islamic Republic, which denies it has any intention of acquiring nuclear arms, plans to commission the plant in the first quarter of 2014 and expects it to become operational in the same year’s third quarter, the IAEA said.

Israel, which has threatened to attack Iranian nuclear sites if diplomacy

and sanctions fail to stop Teheran’s nuclear drive, bombed Iraq’s atomic reactor in 1981 and a suspected Syrian nuclear facility in 2007.

“Israel might be tempted to try to repeat what it did previously in Syria and Iraq and destroy the reactor before it goes critical,” Hibbs said.

Reuters

India is willing to resume talks on nuclear energy with Japan

NEW DELHI, 23 May—India is willing to resume talks with Japan on a civil nuclear energy deal during the forthcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Tokyo from next Monday, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said on Wednesday.

He made the comment in response to a question regarding media reports the Japanese leadership is ready to resume talks with India on civil nuclear cooperation that had been halted after concerns were raised within Japan in the aftermath of the core meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in northeastern Japan.

During a regular Press briefing, Akbaruddin said that nuclear energy is a major component of India’s energy mix and that New Delhi is also willing to resume talks with Japan.

“Dialogue on civil nuclear cooperation with Japan is under way, and India will be ready to resume talks on nuclear energy with Tokyo during the forthcoming PM’s visit (through 30 May),” he said.

Earlier in the day, *The Times of India* quoted Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Masaru Sato as saying the Japanese government has decided in favour of having an agree-

ment with India because of the faith New Delhi had shown in Japanese nuclear technology despite the meltdowns in Fukushima.

“The decision by the Japanese government has paved the way for formal resumption of negotiations,” the newspaper said.

Kyodo News

Merkel protegee struggles with Germany’s green revolution

BERLIN, 23 May—Chancellor Angela Merkel appointed him for his charm and political skill as a marshal of her vision of a ‘green revolution’ in Europe’s biggest power market. A year on, Peter Altmaier finds himself spurned by many environmentalists, disdained by industry and viewed coolly by a public wary of the costs.

Now, the chancellor herself seems to be turning

West may boost Syria rebels if Assad won’t talk peace

AMMAN, 23 May—Washington threatened on Wednesday to increase support for Syria’s rebels if President Bashar al-Assad refuses to discuss a political end to a civil war that is spreading across borders.

Rebels called for reinforcements to combat an “invasion” by Hezbollah and its Iranian backers, days after Assad’s forces launched an offensive against a strategic town that could prove to be a turning point in the war.

to revive diplomacy, compelled to step up peace efforts by new reports of atrocities on both sides, suspicions that chemical weapons have been used and the rise of al-Qaeda-linked fighters among Assad’s foes.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said several thousand Hezbollah fighters were taking part in the conflict, with Iranian support on the ground.

Forces loyal to Assad had made gains in recent



A Free Syrian Army fighter carrying his weapon walks along a street piled with rubble near damaged buildings in Deraa, on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

The battle for the town of Qusair has brought the worst fighting in months in a war that has already killed more than 80,000 people, and by drawing in Hezbollah has spread sectarian violence across frontiers at the heart of the Middle East.

Washington and Moscow are scrambling

days, but those were “very temporary,” Kerry told a news conference in Amman before a meeting of the “Friends of Syria” group, made up of Western and regional countries lined up against Assad. “Just last week, obviously, Hezbollah intervened very, very significantly,” Kerry said.

Reuters



The House of Councillors approves a bill necessary for Japan to join an international treaty to help settle cross-border child custody disputes, during a plenary session in Tokyo on 22 May, 2013. Japan plans to ratify the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by the end of the fiscal year through March 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Japan to help Myanmar in Postal Service Development

TOKYO, 23 May—Japan and Myanmar on Wednesday agreed on the Japanese help to develop qualified postal service in the southeast Asian country, according to local media.

The agreement was reached in a meeting in Tokyo between Japanese Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Yoshitaka Shindo and visiting Myanmar Communications and Information Technology Minister U Myat Hein, reported *Kyodo News*.

According to the agreement, Japan will transfer to Myanmar Japan Post Co.’s systems such as automatic post code reading and sorting system said the report.

Japan will also provide Myanmar Lore on postal system management, assist personal training and help promote the Country mail distribution network.

The two ministers also agreed that Japan will support Myanmar to build a disaster information system, said *Kyodo*.

MNA/Xinhua



File photo of German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) talking with Environment Minister Peter Altmaier before a cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin on 28 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

her back on him, an increasingly isolated figure, as September polls near. Merkel’s ambitious goal of weaning Germany off fossil fuels and phasing out nuclear power is widely viewed as her most significant domestic policy. Implementation is a mammoth task and means taking decisions unpopular either with Germany’s powerful industry or its strong green lobby.

Altmaier, who had impressed Merkel in quashing turmoil in her conservative party over euro zone bailouts, has become a lightning rod for dissatisfaction over the costs of an energy policy long central to her domestic agenda.

Merkel has maintained a high personal popularity rating, far higher than her party’s, and kept the peace in her centre-right coalition; but in so doing she has made his job harder, staying silent on some of his more controversial, but much-needed ideas such as reining in subsidies for renewables. “He’s been remarkably active and good at focusing on the message but he’s had difficulty building the bridges he wanted to. Not everybody is behind Peter Altmaier,” said Miranda Schreurs, member of a government environment advisory panel.—*Reuters*

NASA investing in 3-D food printer for astronauts

CAPE CANAVERAL, 23 May—In a scene right out of Star Trek, a Texas company is developing a 3-D food printer for astronauts to create custom meals on the fly.

With support from NASA, the firm, Systems and Materials Research

Corp of Austin, intends to design, build and test a food printer that can work in space.

“This project is to demonstrate we can create and change the nutrition of the food and be able to print it in a low-gravity environment,” the company’s

research director and lead chemist, David Irvin, told Reuters.

Three-dimensional printers create solid objects by depositing droplets of material one layer at a time.

Systems and Materials intends to create nutritionally rich, aesthetically appealing and tasty synthetic food by combining powdered proteins, starches, fats and flavors with water or oil to produce a wide array of digital recipes.

All the ingredients are designed for extremely long shelf-lives, making them suitable for long stays in space.

“The 3-D printing system will provide hot and quick food in addition to personalized nutrition, flavor and taste,” the company wrote in its proposal to NASA.

“The biggest advantage of 3-D printed food technology will be zero waste, which is essential in long-distance space missions,” it added.

Ultimately, the company sees food printers as a way to help feed a world population that is estimated to reach 12 billion by the end of the century. The technology may also have implications for the military. “A 3D-printed food system can reduce military logistics, disposal waste, increase operational efficiency and mission effectiveness especially during wartime,” the company said. “In addition, 3-D printed food can provide optimal nutrient to the soldiers depending on their personal needs and level of physical activities.”

Reuters



Tourists take pictures of a NASA sign at the Kennedy Space Centre visitors complex in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 14 April, 2010.—REUTERS

Teenager invents super device to recharge cellphone in 20 seconds

BEIJING, 23 May—A California teen has attracted the attention of tech giants Google for her potentially revolutionary invention which charges a phone in 20 seconds flat, reported by CNN news. The 18-year-old Esha Khare, a senior at Lynbrook High School in Saratoga, invented super-fast charging device and took home 50,000 dollars from the International Science and Engineering Fair, which took place in Phoenix this week.

The device will make waiting hours for a phone to charge a thing of the past and the gizmo packs more energy into a smaller space than traditional phone batteries and holds the charge for longer.

When NBC News asked her why she chose to research technology around energy-storage, she simply explained, “My cell phone battery always dies.”

After winning one of the two Intel Young Scientist Awards, Esha Khare is planning on putting her 50,000 dollar prize toward her education at Harvard. “I will be setting the world on fire,” she said.—Xinhua

Russia to launch 12 Proton-M rockets in 2013

MOSCOW, 23 May—Russia would launch 12 Proton-M heavy space rockets this year, Khrounchev space industry centre said on Wednesday.

Three had already been launched and a further nine would be launched from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan, Khrounchev CEO Alexander Seliverstov told reporters.

Meanwhile, the new Angara-5 heavy rocket would be launched from the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Far Eastern Amur region after its construction was completed, Khrounchev general designer Yuri Bakhvalov said.

Bakhvalov said the first launch of an Angara-5, which is capable of placing

manned spacecraft in orbit, was scheduled for late 2014 from the existing Plesetsk space site in Northern Russia.

Besides manned space missions, Russian scientists also plan to conduct daring biological experiments in space, including sending a “crew” of mice 200,000 km from the Earth, chief scholar of the Medico-Biological Institute Eugeny Ilyin told reporters.

“We are working on creating a spacecraft which could be launched to an orbit at 200,000 km distance for cell, gene and molecular experiments on mice following its return to Earth,” he said.

However, Russia no longer planned to send



Soyuz TMZ-16

large animals on space missions, the scientist said. “There is no need for a dog or a monkey. Whatever we test on them, we can test on humans as well,” he said.

Ilyin said, if federal space agency Roscosmos gave the green light to that experiment, it could be conducted within three to five years.—Xinhua

2 mini-spider species found in southwest China

WASHINGTON, 23 May—Two new minute spider species with oversized rumps have been discovered in southwest China, according to a new study published in the open access journal Zookeys.

The tiny new spiders are both less than 2 millimeters in length. One of them, Trogloneta yuensis, is as little as 1.01 millimetres, and the other, Mysmena wawuensis, is measured to be the even tinier 0.75 millimetre, which classes it among the smallest spiders known.

According to researchers from the Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the

new species belong to the least studied Mysmenidae family, which is composed of minute eight-eyed spiders.

“The spiders live in moist leaf litter and the obscure places such as moss and even caves and they prefer very humid habitats,” said the researchers in a statement on Wednesday. “Being extremely minute, up to 2 millimetres in total and having cryptic lifestyle these creatures become rather hard to find.” Found near giant panda sanctuaries in Sichuan and Chongqing in southwest China, the two new species are considered endemic to their particular regions, they added.—Xinhua



Twitter beefs up security after hacking spree on media

NEW YORK, 23 May—Twitter Inc unveiled technology to boost security for its users, following a spate of attacks on accounts of prominent media outlets including the Associated Press, the Financial Times and The Onion.

The micro blogging site, which transmits some 400 million messages a day, said on Wednesday that it had begun rolling out an optional “login verification” service to thwart hackers seeking to hijack accounts with stolen passwords.

Security experts welcomed the move as a positive step toward securing a service that is widely used by consumers, political activists, advertisers and news outlets around the globe to quickly exchange information.

Twitter had come under fire over the past year for failing to offer such an option, which is known as two-factor authentication, amid a surge in breaches of high-profile accounts. That criticism intensified in April after a fake tweet about a non-existent White House explosion sent from the Associated Press ac-

count briefly roiled US financial markets.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Jeremiah Grossman, chief technology officer of White Hat Security. “It’s not going to solve all problem, but it’s a step in the right direction.”

When users log in to Twitter via a web browser, they must confirm their identity by entering a six-digit code that Twitter delivers to their smartphones. To access the service through applications for PCs and smartphones, users must use an automatically generated temporary password for each of the programmes.

Twitter described the offering in a blog post, reminding users that they still need to use strong passwords to keep accounts secure. The approach is similar to security tools previously introduced by other Internet services from companies including Facebook Inc, Google Inc and Microsoft Corp. “This would have made the AP hack and other hacks against Twitter more difficult to accomplish,” said Jeffrey Carr, CEO of cyber security firm Taia Global Inc.—Reuters



Visitors view the models of the Long-March-series carrier rockets during the 16th China Beijing International High-Tech Expo in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 May, 2013.—XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Mitsubishi Motors weighs capital shift, dividends

TOKYO, 23 May— Mitsubishi Motors Corp (7211.T) is taking steps toward resuming dividend payments after nearly a decade-long turnaround bankrolled by other Mitsubishi group companies, according to people with direct knowledge of the plan. Specifically, Mitsubishi Motors is considering asking shareholders to approve plans for a 10-for-1 reverse stock split, the people said. At the same time, the company may ask shareholders to approve a capital reorganization — a change in accounting that would make it possible to resume paying dividends.

The plan under consideration would clear Mitsubishi Motors' more than

920 billion yen (\$8.9 billion) in accumulated losses by reducing capital stock by an equivalent amount, a common step for Japanese companies with a history of deep losses that have returned to profitability and want to begin paying dividends.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi Motors said the company had no immediate comment.

No final decision has been made but Mitsubishi Motors could announce the first of the steps as soon as Friday and put it before shareholders at the annual meeting at the end of June, according to the sources.

Taken together, the steps under consideration are intended to close a chap-



Mitsubishi Motors Corp's vehicles and a passer-by are reflected on an external wall at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 25 April, 2013.—REUTERS

ter that began with a 2004 bailout for Mitsubishi Motors.

Shares in Japan's seventh-biggest automaker by sales volume fell 11.5 percent on Thursday to 162 yen - set for its biggest one-day drop in more than 2 years. The stock had risen about 25 percent within a week.

Over the past decade, Mitsubishi Motors has struggled with failed tie-ups

with Daimler AG (DAIGn.DE) and Chrysler, quality and safety problems and the costs of being a niche player in the global market for cars and light trucks. Mitsubishi Motors expects a record operating profit for the financial year to next March, helped in part by a weaker yen. Shares in the company gained about 140 percent from mid-November to early Thursday.—Reuters

HP raises 2013 outlook as Whitman's plan takes hold

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 May— Hewlett-Packard Co raised its 2013 earnings outlook after quarterly results beat low expectations, as CEO Meg Whitman's turnaround plan helped offset shrinking personal computer sales with enterprise computing services.

While fiscal second-quarter profit plummeted 32 percent, Wall Street had braced for worse. HP shares gained 14 percent after the company projected full-year earnings per share of \$3.50 to \$3.60, raising the lower end by 10 cents, and fiscal third-quarter profit that topped analyst estimates.

Whitman, who took the helm at the world's largest PC maker more than

a year ago, is orchestrating a turnaround, trying to recapture some of the Silicon Valley icon's former strong growth. She has said the process could take years.

HP received a warmer welcome from investors for its results than smaller rival Dell Inc, which last week reported a 79 percent slide in profit and is now mired in a takeover battle between founder Michael Dell and activist investor Carl Icahn.

"This is another good deposit on the road to our turnaround here," HP Chief Financial Officer Cathie Lesjak said in an interview. "We are roughly where we want to be in total on the company."

Reuters

Sugary drinks tied to kidney stone risk

NEW YORK, 23 May— Adults who drink at least one sugar-sweetened drink a day are slightly more likely to develop kidney stones than people who rarely imbibe them, according to a new study. While the recommendation for kidney stone prevention has been to drink a lot of fluids, the study suggests that it's not just the amount of fluid but the type of drink that also matters.

Dr. Gary Curhan, the

senior author of the study, said patients often ask for dietary advice to help prevent kidney stones. While the recommendation has been to drink plenty of fluids, Curhan said, patients often ask, "what should I drink? There's a lot of lore out there." To see whether the type of beverage might matter, Curhan, of the Channing Division of Network Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and his colleagues collected

data from three massive surveys of nearly 200,000 people.

The questionnaires surveyed participants every two to four years and asked about diet, lifestyle and health, including how much they drank certain beverages and whether they developed kidney stones.

None of the people in the study had kidney stones at the start. They found that 159 out of every 100,000 people who drank a sugar-sweetened non-cola beverage, such as clear soda, less than once a week developed kidney stones, compared to 306 out of every 100,000 who drank soda daily. After accounting for other factors, that translated to a 33 percent greater chance of developing kidney stones. Frequent punch drinkers also had an 18 percent higher chance of developing kidney stones.

For every 100,000 people who drank punch at least every day, 226 developed kidney stones, compared to 158 out of every 100,000 participants who had punch less than once a week. Curhan said that while the numbers of people developing kidney stones in each group are not enormously different, the increased risk spread across an entire population is quite big.

Reuters



A Hewlett-Packard logo is seen at the company's Executive Briefing Centre in Palo Alto, California on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



Low carbohydrate diets may harm your health

SYDNEY, 23 May— More research is needed on the long term effects of low carbohydrate diets, health professionals at a Heart Foundation Conference in Adelaide heard on Saturday.

While low carbohydrate diets result in greater short term weight loss, other health implications are still not fully understood, said Jon Buckley, professor of health sciences at the University of South Australia.

"Before being able to

make recommendations in relation to whether or not someone should consume a particular diet, we need to understand the effects of that choice," said Buckley.

"A low carbohydrate diet may result in greater weight loss over the short term but there is an increase in LDL (bad) cholesterol, which raises concern about increased cardiovascular disease risk," he added.

The LDL cholesterol from low carbohydrate diets does not remain elevated over the long term,

Buckley said, but neither does the weight loss advantage.

There may, however, potentially be long term effects on mood and depression that scientists must consider further, he added.

Low carbohydrate diets may also miss out on the possible cardio-protective effects of nutrients and antioxidants from plant-based foods such as fruit, vegetables and wholegrain cereals, said Heart Foundation CEO Dr Lyn Roberts.—Xinhua

Pfizer takes its shot at a vaccine for evasive superbug

CHICAGO, 23 May— Kathrin Jansen is a microbiologist with at least two breakthrough vaccines to her name: she brought the cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil to market for Merck and helped develop the \$4 billion a year pneumonia and meningitis vaccine Prevnar 13 for Pfizer.

Jansen's next vaccine success could come by taming the superbug

MRSA, a drug-resistant bacterium that she has seen ravage a healthy man up close and personally.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infects an estimated 53 million people globally and costs more than \$20 billion a year to treat. In the United States alone, MRSA kills 20,000 Americans each year, exceeding annual deaths from AIDS. Jansen watched the infection

unfold two years ago when visiting her stepfather, who was in the hospital for a hip replacement. The man in the bed next door died soon after MRSA attacked the vascular graft in his leg.

Staph has been living in and on its human hosts for centuries. At any given time, 25 to 35 percent of individuals will test positive for staph, often with no symptoms. But the bacterium can cause a range of diseases from boils and impetigo to raging blood infections and deadly bacterial pneumonia.

The discovery of penicillin in 1928 gave doctors a way to defeat staph infections, but overuse and misuse gave rise to drug-resistant staph.

Methicillin was developed to overcome drug-resistance, but by the 1960s, staph evolved new defences to overcome this more powerful version of penicillin.—Reuters



Kathrin Jansen, senior vice president of Vaccine Research and Early Development at Pfizer Inc, poses for a portrait in one of her labs at Pfizer headquarters in Pearl River, New York, on 19 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Counterfeit Myanmar banknotes seized from Thai nationals

NAYPYITAW, 23 May— Counterfeit banknotes were seized from two Thais at Hteekhee inspection gate in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region on 21 May.

Mr Tahu, 57, and his wife Mrs Chan, 41 from

Dantettahto, Sonphi Sub-township of Lopburi were exchanging Thai Baht for Myanmar Kyat at Hteekhee inspection gate when their suspicious look made personnel concerned at the gate to conduct a search to find 100 sheets of K-1000

banknotes, and 194 sheets of K-5000 banknotes from the bag of Mr Tahu.

According to initial investigation, the two came from Thailand to Hteekhee border trade camp to learn about trade activities there and a Thai soldier called Asin gave the counterfeit banknotes to Achai who lives next door in Dantettahto Village and Asin is now living in Bangkok and Achai gave the counterfeit bank notes to them to exchange for Thai Baht.

Police has charged the two with holding counterfeit banknotes.

MNA

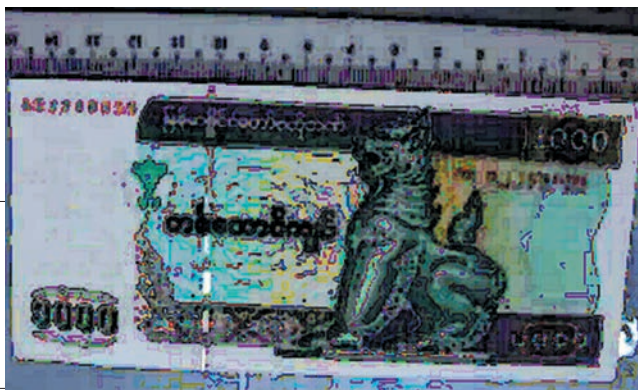


Counterfeit K 5000 banknote seized from Thai nationals.

MNA

Counterfeit K 1000 banknote seized from Thai nationals.

MNA



Press freedom is a foundation for democratic society, plays a role in democratic transition

(Continued from yesterday)

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein Correspondent, VOA Myanmar Programme

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein also expressed his views on media development conference.

More conferences like this one should be organized. More media persons should be there and comprehensive discussions held by officials. As a result, freedom and transparency of media will be made apparent. Such kind of conference can contribute to capacity building of media persons. I see organizers and international sponsors are contributing their efforts with genuine goodwill. I hope for development of Myanmar media world thanks to their commitments.

He also expressed his views on ongoing media reform process.

Media reform process is in the stage of implementation. This stage will go on in Myanmar. There are a lot of works to be done in the

current stage. It is still so far to go. It is required to put more efforts with added momentum. I see it is on the right track to meet the stage of satisfaction.

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein shared his views regarding the matters what media persons are encountering in hunting news.

Progress can be seen in shooting question to and getting information from government officials compared with a previous decade onwards. But I am also experiencing difficulties like media persons at home with regard to the right to collect information freely. I am facing a situation while trying to report news fairly as it is difficult to get information from both sides. It is required to overcome this situation. I would like to urge officials to tell about their stances to be fair in news reporting and to refrain from one-sided news reports. I heard they said that they would try.

U Kyaw Kyaw Thein continued regarding the right to gather information freely.

Media men have no rights to cover

secret information. The government has also no right to release information designated as secret one at current condition. However, in the Western countries, there are limitations for secret information. Officials have to release some information at suitable time. Freedom of Information Act is to be prescribed. According to it, media men can get governmental information from the respective officials. Those officials have to give that information when the news is no longer designated as secret status. Every country has its State secret act. I think that Secret Act should not hamper collecting news. I also assumed that secret information should be released step by step at a certain time even if the information is a secret one.

It is found that there is few arrangement for coverage of news by press media, radio and TV at present. For instance, media men have to cover an event while standing the stage as there is no designated place for media. So, it is like the audiences have to see his or her back. The audience

could not see the speakers as media men cover the speaker on the stage at the national theater. My suggestion is that managers and responsible persons are to help media men for better coverage.

We hope people from radio and TV will have easy access to the recording system for those who needs recording. I urged officials to create such facilities.

With respect to the development of private broadcasting media, U Kyaw Kyaw Thein said that in the past, Myanmar had a State-owned broadcasting media and has opened up to private sector. I am very pleased with youth's efforts in broadcasting media.

What I don't contended with it is that presentations and broadcasting of Myanmar's broadcasting media have a long way to go. Reporters are like the masters of ceremonies and interviewers and could not give any information. I don't know how many messages and information the audience has got. In the world, the reporters have to carry out new coverage by themselves. I want to see

MYANMAR GAZETTE

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Department
1. U Khin Maung Maw Deputy Director-General (Head of Office) Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	Director-General Fisheries Department Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
2. U Toe Aung Myint Deputy Director-General (Head of Office) Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Trade Promotion Department Ministry of Commerce
3. U Hla Maw Oo Deputy Director-General Trade Promotion Department Ministry of Commerce	Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce
4. Daw Yin Yin Mya Deputy Director-General Central Bank of Myanmar Ministry of Finance and Revenue	Managing Director Myanma Economic Bank Ministry of Finance and Revenue
5. U Min Htut Deputy Director-General (Head of Office) Ministry of Finance and Revenue	Director-General Internal Revenue Department Ministry of Finance and Revenue

ICCG donates medical equipment

NAYPYITAW, 23 May— International Cultural and Charity Group donated over K 30 million worth medical equipment for premature babies to Central Women's Hospital (Yangon) on 14 May. The group conducted

Inlay Silkware Fashion Show to raise funds for the medical equipment.

Physicians from Mandalay Dental University will also donate K 10 million and surgical equipment for surgical operations on babies

with cleft lip and palate, it is learnt. ICCG is a formed by wives of ambassadors, UN representatives and Myanmar housewives which raise funds for needy persons and organizations.

MNA

By- Thadin Lu Lin

progress in news coverage of reporters. I hope new presentation would be much better than before.

Daw Nan Phaw Gay Karen Information Center

Daw Nan Phaw Gay of Karen Information Center explained more voice of national races.

I discussed media development at the places where national races reside. It needs to present the news which national races actually want. I discussed the needs for huge development of radio broadcasting in the national races areas. At present, the government has allowed the publication of print media. And I suggested that the government should give green light to radio media on a wider scale. We have Myanmar and English online version. We issue publications in national races language.

Ms Michelle J. Foster Media Consultant Media Management and Marketing

I think in the long term Myanmar's business of media will be outstanding, because this is one of the last frontier economies in the world. There are all kinds of economic potentials here. There is a well educated and literate population who are curious for information and are politically engaged. In the short term there will be problems, as there is not enough revenue to support all media outlets right now. But in the long term, I think Myanmar's business of media has a bright future.

This is a transitional period and it is so exciting. There is this rapid expansion of media, here. Now there are a lot of newspapers, and also there is the online and the Internet. All these are happening at the same time. But also there is not yet a full consumer economy for all those media, therefore is going to be some bumps on the road ahead.

LOCAL NEWS

Religious Affairs

Ancient Buddha Image stolen in Bagan



An ancient Buddha Image was stolen from Myasigon pagoda in NyaungU.

NYAUNGU, 23 May—A standing wooden Buddha Image in the precinct of Myasigon pagoda in Taungbi village-tract in NyaungU Township near Myanmar's ancient city and tourism spot Bagan was stolen on 19 May. The ancient Buddha Image with an embedded diamond in the forehead was at the place until 6 pm on 18 May. U Jotisara, a visiting monk who first found the Buddha Image had been stolen and informed

the residing monk of Myasigon monastery about the incident. According to U Jotisara, the residing monk of Shwe-U-Min monastery, a suspicious boy with a backpack had been there at around 10 am on 19 May. The tools that thief(s) used were seized as evidence. The thief(s) broke the Buddha Image as it was screwed to the alter. Bagan police station has file a case as regards the incident.

Myanma Alinn

Course on Buddhist culture conducted

TAUNGTHA, 23 May—A course on Buddhist culture was conducted 11-20 April in Taunglulin village in Taungtha Township in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region. U Gunalankara gave

lectures along the course, organized by Sayadaw U Tejaniya. The first-ever course of its kind in the village was completed by 71 trainees. U Gunalankara gave

Myanma Alinn

Kyunsu Township to receive USD 80 million aids from World Bank

KYUNSU, 23 May—Kyunsu Township, the least developed township in Taninthayi Region will receive USD 80 million aids from World Bank for education, healthcare, transportation and infrastructural development.

The community-driven development National Plan workshop at the township meeting hall on 22 May to manage the aids.

Taninthayi Region government ministers, World Bank's Task Team Leader Mr Markus Kostner, high-ranking officials from rural development

department under the Ministry of Border Affairs, Myeik District and Kyunsu township departmental personnel, NGOs/INGOs, and administrators attended the meeting.

The regional development plan was discussed at the workshop in detail.

The township got the tag of the least developed township on 27 February as the township for the community-driven development was selected.

The township will receive USD 80 million for two years from 2013 to 2014.—Myanma Alinn

Parliamentary commission probes land grabs in Natmauk

NATMAUK, 23 May—A split group of farmlands and other lands confiscation investigation commission formed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw met officials at General Administration Department Office in Natmauk Township on 10 May.

The group led by MP U Hla Swe were making field trips to the region in response to complaints filed by farmers in Natmauk Township in Magway Region about land grabs when they held the meeting with the local authorities.

Forty one farmers had complained about confiscation of some 60 acres of farmland to build Pyawbwe-Yanaung-Ywada-Natmauk-Kanbya railroad section.

Saethar villagers also had lodged complaints about another land grabs to relocate filling stations in their suburbs with the rate K 0.1 million per acre.

There were three more complaints—two from two wards and one from a village—from Natmauk Township.

Myanma Alinn

Fire

Fire breaks out in Yaksawk

YAKSAWK, 23 May—A fire broke out in the yard of the Accounts office in Thida street in Sedan ward in Yaksawk Township in southern Shan State from a wire shock on 20 May.

Two self-reliant staff quarters of auditor Daw Marlar Hlaing and Daw Tin Tin Win caught fire. Head of township fire

Services Department U Zaw Lin and firefighters put out the fire within 20 minutes and could manage to prevent the spread of fire to other houses.

Yaksawk police station has opened a lawsuit against owners Daw Marlar Hlaing and Daw Tin Tin Win.

Myanma Alinn



Two staff quarters caught fire in Yaksawk of Shan State.

Working Groups formed for development of rural meat and fish sectors

KYAUKSE, 23 May—Kyaukse District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department held a meeting with local breeders on development of meat, fish and dairy product production at the hall of the district department on 21 May afternoon.

It was attended by staff officers of township LBVDs of Kyaukse District, responsible persons of District

and Township Livestock Breeding Federations and leaders of groups in livestock breeding sector from rural regions.

The meeting constituted working groups for respective sectors.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Head of District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Aung Naing Soe.—Kyemon

Disaster

Stormy winds destroy school building

TAUNGTHA, 23 May—Stormy winds in Kyigon village in Aye village-tract in Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region destroyed a building of a Basic Education Primary School at 6 pm on 20 May.

The roof of the school were torn off.

Deputy Township Education Officer U Kyaw Naing Soe, Aye village-tract administrator U Myint Kyaw and headmaster U Soe Naing visited the school to repair the building ahead of the new academic year that starts on 1 June.

Myanma Alinn



School building of Basic Education Primary School damaged by strong winds.

Tax service unit opened in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 23 May—Internal Revenue Department in Mandalay Region opened a tax service unit at the corner of 65th street and 22ndx23rd streets on 21 May.

The opening ceremony was attended by the director-general of Internal Revenue Department, officials, region level officials under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, departmental personnel, township staff officers of Internal Revenue Department and taxpayers. Director-General of

Internal Revenue Department U Than Aung unveiled the signboard of the tax service unit. It was followed by distribution of pamphlets about tax.

The unit will consult the taxpayers about rules and regulations, systems, laws and rates of taxes and answer queries raised by the taxpayers.

It will also handle complaints filed against tax offices and staff.

Myanma Alinn

Meiktila victims support group formed

MEIKTILA, 23 May—Buddhist and Muslim victims are taking refuge in five relief camps in Meiktila Township after the violence broke out on 20 March.

As calm has been restored now, the victims from houses that are not damaged are allowed to leave the relief camps.

Under guidance of leading monk of Asian Light of Pyin Oo Lwin (Maikitta Thukha), a support group for victims was formed on 10 May with U Aung Zaw Win as the committee chairman.

The group will work to bring back social harmony, peaceful coexistence and

reconciliation to both communities.

Meiktila victims aids, reconciliation and peace executive committee was formed with three patrons, seven religious advisors, three legal consultants and 26 members of work committee, totalling 39.

The committee will work in cooperation with local authorities, seek advices from monks to provide emergency aids to the victims.

The committee claimed itself to be clear of affiliation with any political party or organization.

Myanma Alinn

ARTICLE

Kason, the month of festival of Environmental greening

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 24 May, 2013

Vesak Day

Today is the full moon day of Kason. Myanmar is a land of festivals: a festival for every month of the year. Most festivals are cultural and religious. Kason (May), the second month in the Myanmar calendar, is deemed the hottest month of the hot season. It is the most significant day in the Buddhist world. The full moon day of Kason is deeply intertwined with the milestones in the Buddhas life. It is the festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree. This day is called Vesak Day in other Buddhist countries.

It is the season water in all ponds, lakes and creeks reduces to its lowest level. During the month of Kason the length of the day is longer and the night is shorter. People of Myanmar regard the month of Kason as Taurus season and the sign of the zodiac is a bull. The seasonal flower is Sagar and this festival is water pouring ceremony at the Maha-Bodhi tree, the holy Banyan tree at the foot of which the Buddha attained Buddhahood or enlightenment.

Myanmar people celebrate this day by watering the sacred Bodhi tree at various pagodas throughout the country. This is done as a mark of veneration to the Buddha who attained Enlightenment sitting under the Bodhi Tree. All Myanmar men and women of all ages go to pagodas in procession to pour water at the root of sacred "Bo-Tree" or Bodhi tree. On this auspicious day of Kason, let's take part in the water pouring ceremony.

Farmland Management Committee meeting held in Haka



HAKA, 23 May—Chin State Farmland Management Committee met Township, Ward/ Village Farmland Management Committees at the town hall of Thantlang, here, on 21 May.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Van Thong, township-level officials, Township, Ward/ Village Farmland Management Committees members and townsenders.

Chin State Chief

Minister U Hong Ngai delivered an address on the occasion. Then, member of State Farmland Management Committee member State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Van Thong participated in the discussions and Secretary of Township Farmland Management Committee and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U San Lyan raised questions.

The State Chief Minister and officials replied to the queries.

Kyemon

The fullmoon day of Kason [May] the second month of Myanmar lunar calendar of 12 months is annually celebrated as Buddha's Day because it was on the fullmoon day in the Maha Sakarit year of 103 [Buddhist Era] that Bodhisattha [Prince Sidhartha as a forest recluse] became enlightened by attaining Sabbanuta Nyanna [Buddhahood] after six years of practising austerities in the forests in quest of spiritual truth. So this day is yearly celebrated as Vesak Day in all Buddhist countries and the Buddhists throughout the world.

At the age of 29, Prince Sidhartha realized that spiritual truth or dhamma could not be found at the court of the capital Kapilavathu where defilements surrounded him day and night. After seeing the four omens of aging, infirmity, death and a forest recluse during his visits to the royal park, he renounced his mundane life and left his family and palace for the forest where he was in quest of the way to escape from the cycle of cravings and sufferings of life and death.

It was on the green throne of eight bundles of green grass presented him by a grass culter that the Buddha, sat cross legged meditating, determined to gain enlightenment. The encounter he met and finally overcame was the story with the implication of green environment.

Mara [Satan] the evil opponent riding a ferocious elephant appeared with hosts of his warriors to oust the Buddha from the place. Unshaken and undaunted the Buddha told Mara that he had no enemies and that in all his previous lives he had done only good deeds for which the goddess of Earth Wathondari shall bear witness. Whereupon Wathondari appeared and says, "I have collected all lustral waters at his all performances of good deeds

in my tresses," so saying the goddess squeezed out the collected waters from her tresses, creating a gushing river that washed away Mara and his party. Thus we have the greening background story of the Kason fullmoon day event.

Kason [May] is the hottest month of Geinman [Summer of four months] so hot that water dries up. Myanmar saying goes တန်ခူးရေလှန်၊ ကဆုန်ရေခမ်း: In Tagu water diminishes, in Kason water dries up. Very hardy tree like Banyan suffers from water shortage. Because Gotama Buddha became enlightened under the shade of this tree, this type of tree became sacred and it was worshipped as Bodhi Tree [Paribawga Zedi]. So Buddhists pour water at the Bodhi Banyan tree and perform other acts of life saving charity—supplying water to ponds

and lakes which begin to dry up under the scorching solar heat or removing watery creatures to rivers and lakes where there is abundant water. This wellknown and yearly observed festival of water pouring at the Bodhi Banyan tree is called Kason Nyaunggye Thun Pwe. Though it was religious in origin, has many environmental, social and cultural importances.

Bodhi Tree is not necessarily only Banyan Tree [Nyaungbin]. Any tree under the shade of which the Buddha attained enlightenment [Buddhahood] is Bodhi Tree. Therefore, in the histories of the 28 Buddhas, we learnt different Bodhi trees under which the 28 Buddhas attained enlightenment. The following is the list of Bodhi Trees under which the 28 respective Buddhas attained Buddhahood.

Serial No.	Names of the Buddhas	Names of the Bodhi Trees	Botanical Names
1	Tanhankarā	Sayi	<i>Astonia scholaris</i>
2	Medhan Karā	Pauk Pin	<i>Butea Monosperma</i>
3	Saranaṅkarā	Nyaung chin	<i>Ficus infectonia</i>
4	Dipaṅkarā	Nyaung gyat	<i>Ficus obtusifolia</i>
5	Kondañña	Sala Kalyani Bodhi	not yet identified.
6	Maṅgala	Gantgaw [iron wood]	<i>Mesua Ferra Linn</i>
7	Sumana	" "	" "
8	Revata	Gantgaw [iron wood]	<i>Mesua Ferra Linn</i>
9	Sobhita	" "	" "
10	Anomadassī	Htauk Kyant large timber tree	<i>Terminalia Tomentosa</i>
11	Paduma	Kyaung Sha Gyi Indian trumpet tree (big)	<i>Bigonia indica</i>
12	Narada	Kyaung Sha Nge Indian trumpet tree (small)	" "
13	Padumuttara	Pine Tree Conifer.	<i>Pinus Khasaya. Fir</i>
14	Sumedha	Tamar[margosa tree]	<i>Neem. Azadirachata Indica</i>
15	Sujāta	Kya Khat Bamboo with thorns	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>
16	Piyadassī	Shi Shar Species of goose-berry tree	<i>Phyllanthus Simplex</i>
17	Attadassī	Saga[champak]	<i>Champac Michellia</i>
18	Dhammadassī	Yey Khatet a kind of tree found near water courses	<i>Crataeva religiosa</i>
19	Siddhattha	Saga[champak]	<i>Champac. Michellia</i>
20	Tissa	Padauk[gumkino tree]	<i>Petrocarpus Marrocarpus.</i>
21	Phussa	Shi Shar	<i>Phyllanthus Simplex</i>

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein back home

Poem

Sacred Bodh Gaya

Supreme of the supreme
The many Dhamma
Lord Buddha delivered
Our sacrosanct heritage
With immense loving kindness
Buddha discoursed the Noble teachings
Enabling mankind to distinguish
Between right and wrong
And let them realize
The Correct Path

Today
The full moon day
In this holy month of Kason
The Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment
Milestone in human society
Added is the amazing glory
Ever in hearts we keep
The holy place and glorious day
Awe-inspiring for us

Bodh Gaya
In the capital Nay Pyi Taw
A place so sacred
And a place so pleasant
The pilgrimage to it
A wish of every one

Pholaylone Thaug Ko Ko
Trs: TMT



Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun welcome back President U Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—President U Thein Sein wrapped his working visit

to US and flew back from Washington on 21 May.

The President was seen off at Washington International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to US U Than Swe, Military Attaché Col Myint Thein and mission staff and personnel of US Department of State.

The President arrived at Incheon International Airport in the Republic of Korea on 22 May where he was welcomed by Korean Transport Minister Mr Suh Seoung-hwan, the head of protocol department of Foreign Ministry, the chairman of Incheon

International Airport Corporation, Myanmar Ambassador to Korea U Nyunt Hlaing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Myint Hein and mission staff.

The President then flew back Yangon from there and was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the commander of Yangon Command, departmental heads, the charge d affaires ai of US Embassy of Myanmar,

social organization members and people.

Journalists and correspondents were also at the airport to cover news on results of the President's US visit. The President arrived back here this morning and was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander and departmental heads.

MNA

Preliminary workshop for Myanmar's REDD+ projects held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—"The Ministry is making cooperation with UN agencies and international organizations for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation (REDD+) works," said Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung, at a preliminary workshop

for capacity building of Myanmar's REDD+ projects at Tungapuri Hotel, here, this morning.

Program Co-ordination, Monitoring & Evaluation Manager Mr James Bampton of RECOFTC extended the greetings. Those present discussed review on Myanmar's REDD+ works, the ways for capacity building and implementation,

wildlife conservation and development programme.

As of January, 2013, RECOFTC has been carrying out three-year basic capacity building projects through Myanmar's REDD+ project, with the assistance of Norway. The workshop is jointly organized by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and RECOFTC. —MNA

Kason, the month of festival of Environmental ...

(from page 8)

Serial No.	Names of the Buddhas	Names of the Bodhi Trees	Botanical Names
22	Vipassī	Tha Khut Trumpet Flower Tree	<i>Dolichandrone Spathacea</i>
23	Sikhi	White mango	<i>Curcuma amada</i>
24	Vessabhū	Ingyin Tree [Sal tree]	<i>Shorea robusta</i>
25	Kakusandha	Kokko Tree	<i>Albizia Lebbok</i>
26	Konāgamana	Yey Thaphan a kind of fig usually found near watercourses	<i>Ficus glomerata</i>
27	Kassapa	Pa Nyaung bin	<i>Ficus indica</i>
28	Gotama	Nyaung bin	<i>Ficus Religiosa</i>

Important events of Gotama Buddha's lifetime took places secluded away from madding crowds. He was born in the forest of sal trees. He saw the four omens in royal park, (1) the aged (2) the infirmity (3) the dead and (4) a forest

recluse [monk]. It was in the forest of Uruvela that Prince Sidharttha [Bodhisattha] searched for the right path to deliveration from Samsara for six years. He attained enlightenment, on the green throne of grass under the shade of Maha

Bodhi bannyan tree. He gave his first sermons to the five forest recluses in the Migavana [the deer park]. The monasteries he and his disciples resided were built in the green environments such as Jetavana vihara built in the gardens of the

Jata Princes. Veluvang vihara was built in the bamboo groves, etc, etc. He breathed his last in the forest of sal trees—Kusonavana.

In all his teachings, Gotama Buddha directly or indirectly pointed out the significance of

natural environment for the meditation of Samatha and vipassana.

In pursuance of the Buddha's teachings successive Myanmar kings, monks and people have preserved nature by founding arboreas, sanctuaries [Abaya thanas or no danger zones] and making dams, reservoirs, digging wells and lakes. In modern times, Sayadaw monks lead the public in creating arboreas such as Lumbani at the foot of Zwegabin hill in Kayin State, Gantgaw tahtaung in the Ayeyawady Region and Bodhi tahtaung near Monywa in Sagaing Region.

The festival of water pouring at the Bodhi trees on the fullmoon day of Kason [May] is originally religious but environmental in essence with social and cultural ramifications. Organized parties of girls

and women in their finery come out in procession to the Bodhi Tree with earthen pots on their heads well balances followed by troupes of male youth performers, singing, dancing and playing instruments. Onlookers cheering and presenting them snacks and drinks and participating in their activities, Sayadaw monks preaching and explaining the meaning of the festival, then followed by the life saving charity activities of supplying water to lakes and ponds where water dries up or removing aquatic creatures to rivers and streams are seen every year on the fullmoon day of Kason in Myanmar.

We may safely say that Myanmar have their own Environment Day or Arbor Day which is the fullmoon day of Kason.

Rural health branch opened in Naungtaya



NAUNGTAYA, 23 May—Opening ceremony of Khanwe rural health branch was held in front of the building in Khanwe Village, Hmwaypyin Village-tract, Naungtaya Sub-Township on 19 May morning.

At the ceremony, Shan State Hluttaw representative U Khun Aung Naing Oo, Sub-Township medical officer Dr San Kyi, Dr Thet Thet Mar of Tikyit Station and Hmwaypyin Village Administrator U Win Naing

cut the ribbon to open the building.

Then, Shan State Hluttaw representative U Khun Aung Naing Oo and Sub-Township medical officer Dr San Kyi gave speeches on the occasion.

Chairman of health branch construction committee U Thaung handed over documents related to the building to Sub-Township medical officer Dr San Kyi.

The building 27 ft long, 18 ft wide and 12 feet high is one-storey building. Local people contributed K 9,080,980 to the construction.

Kyemon

International AIDS Candle Light Memorial organized

DAWEI, 23 May—The International AIDS Candle Light Memorial was organized by Anagat Alinyaung Association of Dawei in Taninthayi Region was held at Bandoola Bungalow at Maungmagan Beach in Launglon Township of Dawei District on 19 May evening.

Coordinator Miss Hopewall of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) made an introductory speech. Chairman of the association U Zaw Tun explained the background history of AIDS candle light ceremony.

Three persons with HIV explained their lifestyles. Those present at the ceremony ignited the candles as praying. Members of the association presented songs.

About 200 people including Maungmagan village administrator joined the ceremony.

Kyemon

Nation-building endeavours

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

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

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

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

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

HRD

Children of staff get cash assistance

BAGO, 23 May—A ceremony to provide teaching aid and cash assistance to children of staff of Bago Region General Administration Department was held at its office yesterday afternoon.

Commissioner of Bago Region GAD U Maung Maung Than presented teaching aid and cash assistance worth over K 1.7 million to 44 children of the staff.—*Kyemon*



Student kits for primary students in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 23 May—Myanmar Red Cross Society donated 17 bags of students' kits for victim primary students through member of Kachin State Government Social Affairs Minister Daw Bawk Ja at Saint Patric Church of Aungthabyay Ward, here, Kachin State, on 19 May.

Each student kits comprised 13 kinds of stationery including school uniforms.

Altogether 43 victims from 12 families are taking shelter at the relief camp over one year who moved from Kahtayan Village in Hopin Sub-Township of Mohnyin District.

The Social Affairs Minister urged officials to provide health care services to the victims.

Myintzutha Company donated K 120,000, Kaungkinlwin Company K 50000 and Royal Soe Nyunt Company K 50000 to the victims.

NLM-001

Concrete lamp-posts being erected in places of wooden ones by electricians along 6.6 KV power lines on Palaw-Shatpon road section in Myeik District on 19 May for ensuring safety of electricity and improving power supply system.
KYEMON



Surgical operation equipment donated to Gangaw Hospital

GANGAW, 23 May—The Midwifery Course No 2/2012 concluded in Htilin Township of Gangaw Township of Magway Region on 13 May.

The ceremony was held at the hospital in commemoration of the 5th

anniversary of Yaw Region Nurses in Singapore who are members of Yaw Region Association (Singapore).

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Htut of Gangaw District spoke on the occasion. On behalf of the wellwishers, townselder U Pe Nyo of Myaukgon Ward of Gangaw handed over donations to anesthetic specialist Dr Zin Lin Mar. District Medical Officer Dr Myo Thant spoke words of thanks.—*Kyemon*

Htilin Township turns out midwives



Health Care Services

The Midwifery Course No 2/2012 concluded in Htilin Township of Gangaw Township of Magway Region on 13 May.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tin Latt, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htay and Township Medical Officer Dr Chaw Chaw Naing presented medical kits

and certificates of honour to 40 trainees who attended the theoretical and practical course.

Under the arrangement of Magway Region government, the training course was conducted. At present, a total of 100 midwives participate in providing health care services to the local people.

Kyemon

REGIONAL



Photo taken in Tokyo's Minato Ward on 22 May, 2013, shows five overseas-built motorcycle models, which Honda Motor Co said the same day it will begin selling in Japan from June.—KYODO NEWS

Cambodia says to continue cooperation with UN on human rights

PHNOM PENH, 23 May—Cambodian Senior Minister Om Yentieng, president of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, said on Wednesday that the country would continue good cooperation with the United Nations for a better human rights development.

Speaking to reporters after a two-hour meeting with visiting Surya P Subedi, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights to Cambodia, Om Yentieng said as a member of the United Nations, Cambodia, in the status of a sovereign state, always enhanced every UN's policy on human rights.

"As a good and active member of the UN, Cambodia will continue to work with the United Nations in developing human rights," he said.

In the meeting, Subedi said he wanted to follow up his recommendations made in his previous reports on the judiciary, parliamentary reform, electoral reform and economic land concessions

in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Om Yentieng lashed out at Subedi, saying that his reports were groundless and had a trend towards the opposition party.

He said Subedi produced the reports by listening to only a very small group of people with opposition tendency, ignoring the opinions of millions of the Cambodian people.

Subedi arrived in Cambodia Sunday for a one-week fact-finding mission on human rights situation.

During the stay, he had already met separately with a ruling party lawmaker Chheang Von, chairman of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Commission at the National Assembly, Kem Sokha, vice president of the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party, Im Suosdey, chairman of the National Election Committee, and civil society representatives as well as some victims in cases of human rights violation.

Xinhua

Building construction gives way to birds in central China

ZHENGZHOU, 23 May—Prospective residents of a building that is under construction in central China's Henan Province will have to wait to move in because of some strange intruders at the construction site—swallows.

Nearly 1,000 swallows were found to have nested at a construction site in Longhu Township in the county-level city of Xinzheng, which is located in the provincial capital of Zhengzhou.

Local officials decided to suspend construction on Tuesday until the fledglings are old enough to fly.

"We are concerned that our workers may hurt the birds while working, as they are not able to fly yet," said Yang Weizeng, deputy chief of Xinzheng's munic-

ipal forestry bureau.

Yang said the swallows began nesting at the site about a month ago, when builders had just finished laying the building's foundation.

The manager of the construction company responsible for the building said the building is being used to resettle nearby villagers. Although the construction is already behind schedule, the local government has managed to persuade the company to postpone construction.

A similar incident occurred in the area last year, when a group of birds nested in a nearby construction site.

"Likewise, we stopped the project last time to let the young birds grow," Yang said.

INTERVIEW

Information committee, US experts discuss transparency timeliness in information ...

(from page 16)

discussion was held on 19-23 November, 2012 and the second on 26-28 December, 2012.

During the discussion, news crews from the New Light of Myanmar daily under the News and Periodicals Enterprise interviewed two US experts.

Q: We are glad to know that your mission here is to share knowledge with us.

What makes you come here and help our media?

Ans: I think telecommunications and media have a tremendous ability to empower people, to enjoy better life, to improve their education, improve their healthcare, to improve their involvement in their communities and to understand their relations with other people. We can use tools of modern

communication to solve a lot of problems of societies.

Q: The World sees rapid development in ICT. Is this trend beneficial or harmful to media, especially the print media?

Ans: The real challenge is how do we have the journalism which informs people? How it is delivered, whether on a piece of paper or on a mobile device. It should be delivered in the way people want to read it, to have best access to it. As a business model, news delivered over the internet is the challenge, but from the

perspective of delivering news to people there are a lot of advantages of it. If you have a newspaper, you have a comment; there is limited space in letters to editors. But you are reading the same story on internet, and you want to respond to the story, they have unlimited space for comments.

The news crews also interviewed spokespersons Director U Thaug Lwin of Road Transport Administration Directorate of the Ministry of Transport and Deputy Director U Myint Aung of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

U Thaug Lwin (Director)

In the past, government officers were reluctant to release their department's news and to meet media. Thanks to the discussions, as a departmental spokesman, I have come to know dos and don'ts and need to collect necessary facts and figures in advance for release of explanations, and notifications of the department.

In addition, I can notice department's weaknesses and refute false news with exact information. It can help spokespersons understand how to deal with media best.

U Myint Aung (Deputy Director)

Main speaker Jim Mc Queeny had worked as a reporter as well as a spokesperson. His experience and discussion is very valuable for us who are not familiar with media.

MNA



News crew from the New Light of Myanmar makes an interview.

MNA

General Electric Offices opened in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—General Electric Offices have been opened in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

Its opening ceremony was held at Thingaha Hotel, here, yesterday, in the presence of Union Ministers U Hla Tun, U Khin Maung Soe, U Win Myint, Dr Kan Zaw and U Aye Myint Kyu and Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Chairperson

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and invited persons.

Among ASEAN countries, Myanmar is the ninth member country of General Electric that is running its business with over 3 billion USD incomes and over 4 billion USD order values. It has about 7500 staff.

Chief Executive Officer of GE (ASEAN countries) Mr. Stuart

Dean said that Myanmar includes in the list of fastest growing economies in ASEAN countries. He said GE would assist in electric power and health care services and fulfill the needs the transport sector would be fulfilled.

U Zaw Win (Andrew Lee), a Myanmar citizen, will run GE Offices in Myanmar as resident representative.—MNA

Sri Lanka to use summit to showcase developments

COLOMBO, 23 May—The Sri Lankan government on Wednesday said that it will use a key Commonwealth summit in November to showcase the post-war developments in the country.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Sri Lanka in November this year, and heads of state from almost all the Commonwealth countries, including Britain's Prince Charles, will attend the summit.

The Sri Lankan Ministry of External Affairs said that Sri Lanka will be able to show the developments following a three-decade separatist terrorist conflict and the vast economic opportunities available in the country.

It also said that the Commonwealth Business

Forum, which will be held alongside the summit and attracts extensive participation both from within and outside the Commonwealth, will serve as a springboard for Sri Lanka to promote trade and investment and further enhance economic cooperation.

"Preparation of investment projects and sectors for cooperation is already under way, and the response is encouraging participation at the Commonwealth Business Forum later this year.

The objective of the government with regard to the outcome of CHOGM 2013 is to derive the maximum benefit for the people of the country by making full use of a unique opportunity," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Xinhua

Zoologist Dong Chao-wei predicted that the nestlings will be able to fly by July.—Xinhua



This photo taken on 22 May, 2013 shows swallow nests on the subsoil at a building site in Xinzheng City, central China's Henan Province. Tens of thousands of swallows have burrowed holes here for nests in recent months. The builder has decided to postpone their construction work for a month to make sure the squabs born in those holes could grow up and be capable of flying.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (315)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (315) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (208)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MVMOROTAI VOY NO (208) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ER TURKU VOY NO (018)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.5.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Japanese Yen (JP¥);

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Qty
1.	1/MR/Rail Bus(M) 2013-2014	Inservice Rail Bus (RBE) with Roof Mounted Air Condition	20 Nos

Closing Date & Time - 12.7.2013(Friday)(12:00)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 27.5.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994

Singapore's Q1 GDP growth revised at 0.2 pct

SINGAPORE, 23 May—Singapore's economy grew by 0.2 percent on year in the first quarter (Q1), revising the advance estimate of 0.6 percent contraction released earlier in April, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Thursday.

The growth was slower than the gross domestic product (GDP) expansion of 1.5 percent in the last quarter of 2012. On a quarter-on-quarter seasonally-adjusted annualized basis, the economy grew by 1.8 percent, slower than the 3.3 percent growth in the previous quarter. The ministry said the

pull-back "in the quarter-on-quarter growth momentum was mainly due to the decline in externally-oriented sectors such as manufacturing and wholesale trade."

However, the slight expansion was still out of expectation of the market. According to an earlier survey by the Monetary Authority of Singapore released in March, economists and analysts expected a 0.8 percent growth in Q1 of 2013.

In particular, the manufacturing sector declined by an annualized rate of 12.3 percent on quarter, reversing the 3.1 percent gain in the

previous quarter. On year-on-year basis, this sector also contracted by 6.8 percent, even larger than earlier expectation of 6.5 percent in advance estimates. "The sequential decline largely reflected a contraction in the output of the biomedical manufacturing and transport engineering clusters, which more than offset the expansion in the electronics cluster," the ministry added.

The wholesale and retail trade sector contracted by 1.1 percent on year, while the transportation and storage sector declined by 0.5 percent.—Xinhua



Photo taken April 17, 2013 shows the interior of Cafe Danbouru, a small restaurant in Tennoji, Osaka City, operated by packaging material maker Yanosiki Co. The cafe uses nothing but cardboard furniture including lamp shades hanging from the ceiling.

KYODO NEWS

GM recalls nearly 20,000 new Cadillac SRX SUVs

CHICAGO, 23 May—General Motors Corporation said it is recalling nearly 20,000 new Cadillac SRX SUVs for faulty wheel lug nuts, according to a *Detroit News* report on Wednesday.

The Detroit automaker told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration it is recalling 18,871 2013 SRX SUVs in the United States and nearly 1,000 in Canada over concerns that a wheel could eventually fall off.

GM has been investigating the issue of loosening wheel nuts since October 2012. In March and April, GM received six reports for noise and other issues caused by loose lug nuts. But according to GM spokesman Alan Adler, the automaker has no reports of wheels falling off.

GM said owners could experience creaking, rattling or grinding noises from the wheels or steering vibrations.

Xinhua

Nepal marking diamond jubilee of man's conquest of Mt Qomolangma

KATHMANDU, 23 May—Nepal on Wednesday officially launched events to mark the 60th anniversary of man's first ascent on Mt Qomolangma, also known as Mt Everest, to be observed in the foothills of the world's highest peak and Kathmandu from 26 to 30 May.

Nepal Tourism Board unveiled the programme amid a ceremony which was participated by famous Sherpa mountaineers, tourism experts and government officials.

As per the plan, an

"Everest Conference" will be held in Khumjung near the Qomolangma base camp on 26 May, in which working papers on global warming and its effect on the Himalayas will be presented.

On 27 May, photo and philatelic exhibition related to Mt Qomolangma will be held in Kathmandu, while on 28 May, Tenzing and Hillary Award will be given to the most deserving Qomolangma summiteers.

29 May will be the main event day, as it was the day when Sir Edmund

Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal jointly ascended Mt Qomolangma in 1953. On this day, many famous personalities of the mountaineering sector will be the guests of honour.

Among them are Appa Sherpa, a 21 times Qomolangma summiteer, Reinhold Messner, the first person to climb Qomolangma without oxygen and all 14 highest mountains on earth, Tensing's grandson Tashi and Hillary's granddaughter Amelia.

Xinhua

BRICS countries pledge to step up cooperation in public health

GENEVA, 23 May—The BRICS countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — pledged in a joint communique on the sidelines of the 66th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation in promoting health of their peoples.

According to the communique released to *Xinhua* Wednesday, the BRICS decided to continue cooperation in the sphere of health through the Technical Working Groups on five thematic issues, such as strengthening health surveillance system; reducing noncommunicable disease risk factors.

The communique said that the five countries discussed the World Health Organization (WHO) report on Monitoring Achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and acknowledged that despite progress made, much needs to be done if these Goals are to be achieved by 2015 and beyond. The BRICS reiterated their commitment to support WHO as a coordinating authority in global health and expressed support for the leadership role and broad directions of WHO's action plan and further emphasized the importance of providing access to quality primary health care services for all.

To achieve the universal health coverage, the BRICS countries agreed to identify their institutions to work with WHO in developing a monitoring framework that would help countries track their progress to this end.

Xinhua



Students practise for cycling skill for the Bike to School Week at a secondary school in Vancouver, Canada, on 22 May, 2013. Over 40 schools from Metro Vancouver will participate in the annual Bike to School Week competition. The event aimed to educate the students to support cycling for better health, cleaner air and strong school communities.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart allowed to date others?

BEIJING, 23 May — According to reports, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart's split means they are both able to "date other people", although the "On The Road" actress is said to be struggling with their recent break. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart are reportedly allowed to date other people. The on/off couple have apparently called time on their four-year relationship, and it is said the "On The Road" actress is finding it tough to deal with.

A source told HollywoodLife.com: "They are basically allowed to date other people and Kristen is super sad

over the whole thing. "She has absolutely no desire to date anyone and the thought of Rob possibly seeing other people has made her sick

to her stomach. She's depressed and rightly so." "Her good friends have been hanging out with her at her house giving her support. This is a tough time for both of them. But Kristen seems to be taking the split the hardest." Xinhua



Leonardo DiCaprio snubbed by supermodel Cara Delevingne

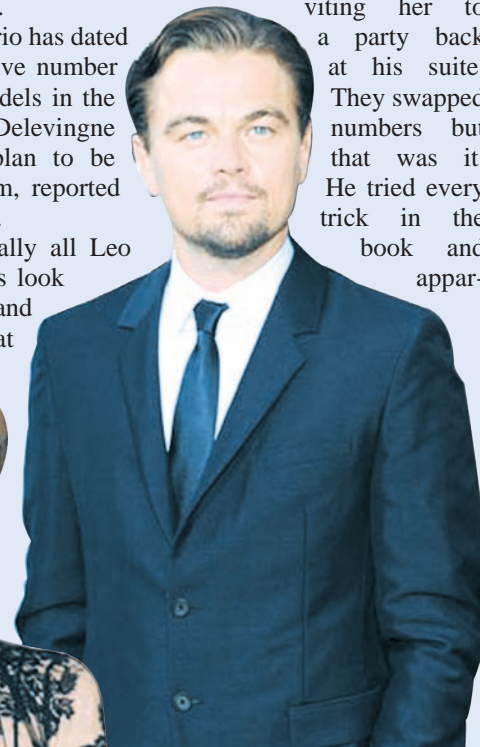
LONDON, 23 May — Supermodel Cara Delevingne reportedly snubbed actor Leonardo DiCaprio at The Great Gatsby premiere in Cannes, after the actor spent the whole evening chasing her.

DiCaprio has dated an impressive number of supermodels in the past but Delevingne does not plan to be one of them, reported Digital Spy.

"Normally all Leo has to do is look at a girl and they fall at

his feet. Though Cara was having none of it. He spent the night chasing after her and essentially she blew him out.

"They spoke and he was pretty forward inviting her to a party back at his suite. They swapped numbers but that was it. He tried every trick in the book and appar-



Leonardo DiCaprio, who is famous for dating supermodels in the past, was snubbed by Cara.—PTI

Pop goes Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in blue at Cannes

NEW DELHI, 23 May — Aishwarya Rai Bachchan popped against the Cannes red carpet on day seven in blue Gucci and fuchsia pink lips.

In a dramatic departure from her favoured palette of black and white, Ash wore a one-shouldered teal blue satin dress at the premiere of the film Behind the Candelabra.

Instead of her usual smoky eyes and nude lips, Ash kept her eyes simple and wore bright pink lips. Fashion redemption after the previous day's voluminous Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla anarkali? Yes

But wait. She still didn't get it right. Ash scored a perfect 10 with the bold colours but ruined the look with a severe, sculptural hairdo which was much too harsh for her face.

We've been hoping to see Ash with her hair up since she walked this year's red carpet in black lace Elie Saab, but this too-high chignon wasn't what we were looking for. Also an outfit downer was the black clutch she accessorized with.

Overall, 5 on 10 for Ash's third red carpet showing at Cannes 2013. This, on a day that American actress Sharon Stone also wore blue, to stunning effect.

PTI



Ash poses on the red carpet.—PTI



Lindsay Lohan struggling in rehab

BEIJING, 23 May — Lindsay Lohan is reportedly looking "very disheveled" and lacking "energy" as she is said to be struggling through her current 90-day stint at the Betty Ford Centre. Lindsay Lohan is said to be struggling with her latest stint in rehab. The 'Liz & Dick' actress is currently at the Betty Ford Clinic in California — with another three months left on her 90-day court-ordered stay — and friends worry she is lacking "energy" since her Adderall was taken away. The troubled star has had the medication — which she has claimed is to treat her ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) — stopped

by doctors at the clinic and those close to her think it's harming her progress. An insider told RadarOnline.com: "Lindsay just doesn't want to be there. She was forced to go to Betty Ford by the judge instead of going to jail."

The actress looks extremely haggard, her face is bloated, and it doesn't look like she has brushed her hair in days. "She looks very disheveled and has absolutely no energy since docs took away the Adderall." It is said Lindsay, 26, has to accept the rehabilitation process to bene-

ently kept lunging for her but she kept dodging them.

Everyone is howling at the fact she actually knocked back the biggest actor in the world.

She thought he was too forward and too old," an insider said.—PTI

fit from it, rather than letting herself go "through the motions". The source added: "[Until she] surrenders to the recovery process, she will never have a shot of sobriety. "To Lindsay, rehab is just a revolving door, and she is just going through the motions, pro forma." Xinhua

Xinhua



Lindsay Lohan

SPORTS

Santos reject Barcelona Neymar bid



RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 May — Santos have rejected a 20 million-euro offer from Barcelona for Brazil starlet Neymar, local media reported on Wednesday. The Brazilian outfit, which last week turned down Barcelona's initial 18 million-euro bid for the striker, made the decision after a meeting of the club's board on Wednesday night.

"Santos has analyzed the the proposal and it doesn't meet our requirements," Santos vice-president Odilio Rodrigues told

O Globo. "He (Neymar) remains a part of our team and has a contract until July 2014." The latest development involving Neymar's future comes amid reports that representatives from both Barcelona and Spanish rivals Real Madrid are currently in Brazil to negotiate a deal for the 21-year-old.

Santos, to whom Neymar is contracted until the 2014 World Cup, owns 55% of the player's economic rights. The remainder is held by investment firms DIS (40%) and Terceira Estrela Investimentos (5%). The club risks losing Neymar for nothing if it does not strike a deal for the forward before the close of the European summer transfer window in August.

Xinhua

Head coach Vigneault sacked by Canucks

LOS ANGELES, 23 May — The Vancouver Canucks fired head coach Alain Vigneault on Wednesday, along with assistants Rick Bowness and Newell Brown, following the National Hockey League team's first-round exit from the playoffs. The Canucks ended the regular season by winning the Northwest Division championship with a 26-15-7 record but were swept 4-0 by the San Jose Sharks in the Western Conference quarter-finals.

"Alain, Rick and Newell worked tirelessly to lead this team to great on-ice success," Canucks president and general manager Michael Gillis said in a statement. "I am personally grateful to each of them and their families for their com-

mitment to the Canucks and the city of Vancouver and wish them continued success in future."

Vigneault, 52, was the all-time leader in coaching wins for Vancouver and guided the club to six Northwest Division titles,



Vancouver Canucks head coach Alain Vigneault looks on during the second day of training camp in Vancouver, British Columbia on 14 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Seedorf out to revive Botafogo's past glory

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 May — Mention Botafogo to most young Brazilian football fans and the likelihood is the word will conjure images of a battling club with a small, if passionate, supporter base and a sparse trophy cabinet. For-

gotten is the fact that Brazil's 1962 World Cup-winning team comprised five Botafogo players, including the crook-legged Garrincha, rated by many as the game's greatest player before Pele.

Since then the solitary white star — Botafogo's



Clarence Seedorf

unmistakable, if prosaic, logo — has been in rapid decline. The one-time Brazilian giants have won just two top-flight titles since the first incarnation of country's national league more than five decades ago, the most recent being in 1995. However as Brazilian clubs prepare for the 2013 national Serie A championship, which begins on Saturday, there are signs that Botafogo's fortunes may be about to change.

Earlier this month the club won the Rio de Janeiro state title after losing just one match in more than four months. Oswaldo de Oliveira's team has been buoyed by the addition of Uruguay international midfielder Nicolas Lodeiro last

Garcia sorry after 'stupid' Woods fried chicken jibe

VIRGINIA WATER, (England), 23 May — Sergio Garcia said "sorry" 11 times and used the word "apology" on five occasions as he spoke of his regret at causing a furor by making a "fried chicken" jibe at world number one Tiger Woods. Spaniard Garcia told reporters on Wednesday that his comment, made at the European Tour Player of the Year awards the night before, was "stupid and out of place" and said he regretted it the moment he made it.

Fourteen-times major winner Woods, whose relationship with the Spaniard is frosty at best, was in unforgiving mood earlier in the day. "The comment that was made wasn't silly. It was wrong, hurtful and clearly inappropriate," the American said on his Twitter account. Garcia's remark came when he was asked on stage

whether he would be inviting Woods for dinner during next month's US Open in Pennsylvania. "We will have him round every night," said the



Sergio Garcia of Spain reacts as he watches his putt on the seventh green during the final round of The Players Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on 12 May, 2013.

REUTERS

world number 14. "We will serve fried chicken."

Fried chicken has become a racial stereotype in the United States when referring to African-Americans - a reference to the days before the abolition of slavery when chicken was believed to be a staple part of the diet. Garcia moved quickly to explain his

remark, at first issuing an apology through the European Tour. The 33-year-old Spaniard then took part in a hastily-arranged news conference on the eve of the PGA Championship at Wentworth to underline

his regret. "I want to send an apology," said Garcia. "I didn't want to offend anyone...I was caught off-guard by the question."

"I answered a question that was clearly made towards me as a joke with a silly remark but in no way was the comment meant in a racist manner. I understand my answer was totally stupid and out of place and...I can't say sorry enough about that." I'd also like to say sorry to the European Tour and to my Ryder Cup team mates for taking the shine away from what was a wonderful dinner that we all thoroughly enjoyed until that moment," said Garcia. "Finally, and most importantly, I want to apologize to Tiger. I feel sick about it, I'm truly, truly sorry and hope we can kind of settle things down and move on." — Reuters

Hamilton lets sleeping dogs lie - and snore

MONACO, 23 May — Lewis Hamilton made his point and Roscoe, his pampered pet bulldog, promptly proved him right at the Monaco Grand Prix on Wednesday. Positioning, the 2008 Formula One world champion told British reporters gathered round him in the Mercedes harbourside motorhome, is everything in Monaco.

The Briton was referring to the special skills required to win the most glamorous and glittering race on the calendar but Roscoe demonstrated that positioning was important in other ways as well. Nestled with his head on Hamilton's lap, the puppy stretched out comfortably on the bench alongside and started to snore — loudly.

"He was out late last night," said Hamilton, smiling as he completely lost the thread of the conversation amid general laughter.

"He does it all the time. When I go to bed, he sits next to the bed or on it, and that's how he snores." Hamilton — who has a colourful new helmet for Monaco with a cartoon of himself, Roscoe and American pop singer girlfriend Nicole Scherzinger together in a



Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain gestures during a news conference ahead of the Monaco F1 Grand Prix on 22 May, 2013.

REUTERS

San Francisco's Crabtree has surgery on torn Achilles

LOS ANGELES, 23 May — San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree has had surgery to repair a torn Achilles tendon but is not expected to miss the entire 2013-14 season, the National Football League (NFL) team said on Wednesday.

Crabtree, San Francisco's leading receiver last season when they reached the Super Bowl before being beaten 34-31 by the Baltimore Ravens, injured his right Achilles during

an organized team activity on Tuesday. "(Coach) Jim Harbaugh tells media @ KingCrab15 has torn Achilles tendon but has had successful surgery. Crabtree not expected to miss full season," the 49ers tweeted on Wednesday.

"We feel like someone is going to emerge there," Harbaugh later told reporters about the challenge facing the 49ers' younger receivers in Crabtree's absence.

Reuters



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree scores a touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens during the third quarter in the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Xinhua

GENERAL

Signs point to Krzyzewski staying as Olympic coach



Duke Blue Devils head coach Mike Krzyzewski yells instructions to his team in the first half during their Midwest Regional NCAA men's basketball game against the Louisville Cardinals in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 31 March, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 23 May—USA Basketball is set to name its men's coach for the next Olympic cycle and all signs point to Mike Krzyzewski, who has already led Team USA to a pair of Summer Games golds, retaining the job.

A news conference hosted by USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo to announce the selection has been called for Thursday at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where Krzyzewski presides as head coach of the Blue

Australian assessment to help developing nations manage resources

CANBERRA, 23 May—The Australian government released a comprehensive assessment of how developing nations can be assisted to sustainably develop their mineral and energy resources on Thursday. A report by Geoscience Australia, commissioned by AusAID, details the known mineral and energy resources of 138 developing countries, along with insights into other factors that can influence investment such as political, operational, security and terrorism risks.

Resources and Energy Minister Gary Gray said in a statement that Australian development assistance can assist developing countries

to grasp the opportunities afforded to them through mining. He also said in the statement that many of Australia's development partners were endowed with substantial mineral and energy resources that could propel them on a path to inclusive and sustainable development.

"Supporting the progression of this sector in developing nations assists poverty reduction and accelerates economic development by increasing government and community revenues and this revenue can generate jobs and improve infrastructure," Gray said.

Xinhua

Dev. Dr May May Khin (1937-2013) 76 years

"God will take care of you, Through days of toil when heart doth fail. God will take care of you, When dangers fierce your path assail. God will take care of you, Through everyday o'er all the way..." (Civila and Stillman Martin, 1904)

Chairman, Conference of the Independent Methodist Churches, Yangon, Twantay, Hlaing Thayar, Ngamoyeik, Kon Wetchaung and the Evangelical Centre, Dalla.

Graduate of the former Methodist School, Twantay and Seminary, Insein, Daughter of the late U Ba Khin and Daw Thein Nyunt. Preceded in death by siblings, Htay Poe and Ko Tin Myint.

Survived by sister, Ms. Julie

Devils.

Krzyzewski said before and after the United States won the 2012 gold medal at the London Games that he would be stepping down from the national team head coaching job he assumed in 2005, but in recent days he reportedly was reconsidering.

The 66-year-old Krzyzewski, who also led the US team to victory at the 2008 Olympics and 2010 world basketball championship, has posted a 62-1 record over the last seven years in charge of the team. Last year, Krzyzewski steered a star-studded squad including LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony to their second successive gold medal game triumph over Spain in the London Olympics final. After a third-place finish at the 2006 world championship, Team USA has not lost since under Krzyzewski, popularly known as Coach K.

Krzyzewski has been on the staff of 13 US national teams since 1979 and in following up his Beijing triumph with the London win became only the second coach ever to win back-to-back Olympic men's basketball titles.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-5-13 09:30 am ~ 25-5-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * The Chefs' Recreation Trip Episode (2)
- * Kason Full Moon Day of Buddha
- * A Pilgrimage to Dhammayangyi
- * News
- * A Fiverine Cruise with RV Ma-Hay-Thi
- * Lovely Customs and Dances of Gon Shan
- * News
- * "Great Shwedagon" The Religious insignias of pagoda in Myanmar
- * News
- * A Glance At A Naga Family Life
- * News
- * Nyaung Yethun Festival
- * Cuisines of Shan Nationals
- * News
- * Marketable Goods (Straw Painting)
- * News
- * Talking Statues (Peace Creator)
- * Myanmar Movies "Kamma"

Myanmar TV

(24-5-2013, Friday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</p> <p>6:30 am
2. Sermon On "Fullmoon Day of Kason", The Sacred Day</p> <p>7:00 am
3. News</p> <p>8:00 am
4. News / International News</p> <p>8:25 am
5. India Drama Series</p> <p>9:00 am
6. News / International News</p> <p>9:20 am
7. How It's Works</p> <p>9:50 am
8. TV Drama Series</p> <p>10:00 am
9. News</p> <p>11:00 pm
10. CLEVER</p> <p>11:30 pm
11. Myanmar Series</p> <p>11:45 pm
12. ASEAN Programmes</p> <p>12:00 pm
13. News/ International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>12:25 pm
14. Myanmar Movies</p> <p>2:25 pm
15. Teleplay</p> <p>3:00 pm
16. News</p> <p>3:15 pm
17. TV Drama Series</p> | <p>4:00 pm
18. News/ Weather Report</p> <p>4:15 pm
19. Dance & Song of National Races</p> <p>4:30 pm
20. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Botany)</p> <p>4:45 pm
21. Road to 27th SEA Games (Takwando)</p> <p>5:00 pm
22. News</p> <p>5:15 pm
23. Documentary (kason)</p> <p>5:30 pm
24. India Dram Series</p> <p>6:00 pm
25. News / Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm
26. Amazing World</p> <p>6:50 pm
27. TV Drama Series</p> <p>7:00 pm
28. News</p> <p>7:15 pm
29. TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 pm
30. News/ International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>8:45 pm
31. Dhamma Puja Songs</p> <p>9:00 pm
32. News</p> <p>33. Mono Classical Songs</p> <p>34. TV Drama Series</p> |
|--|--|



People take photos of a rainbow arching above Moscow's Red Square after a heavy rain on 22 May, 2013.—XINHUA

Peru, Canada leaders agree to boost economic ties

LIMA, 23 May—Peruvian President Ollanta Humala and visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Wednesday agreed to strengthen bilateral economic relations following talks here.

Speaking to the press, Humala said his meeting with Harper was "varied, rich and positive," and that they agreed to strengthen bilateral economic ties, in

particular in the mining sector.

"We have exchanged views on the mining extraction activities," Humala said. "We have also talked about the importance of developing infrastructure, about large projects to make the market more dynamic."

The leaders also discussed security issues including the threat posed by drug-trafficking and

terrorism, emphasizing the importance of joint work through supranational policies.

The Peruvian president announced that Harper had invited him to visit Canada.

For his part, Harper touted Peru for its good policies and governance, calling it a country of great investment opportunities, especially in the mining sector.—Xinhua

Saudi Arabia reports 17th death of novel coronavirus

RIYADH, 23 May—Saudi Arabia reported on Wednesday the 17th death out of 31 novel coronavirus infection cases in the country, according to an official statement.

The 17th victim of the virus was a non-Saudi in al-Qassim region, who has been admitted to hospital a few days ago due to severe acute respiratory syndrome and passed away Tuesday, the health ministry said.

Most cases have been recorded so far among elderly patients and people with multiple chronic diseases, according to the ministry.

Since last year, tens of cases of infection with the novel coronavirus have been confirmed. The patients mainly came from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Britain. The transmissibility and pathogenesis of the novel coronavirus remains poorly understood.

Xinhua



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives NDI's chief

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received Dr Richard A. Nuccio, Chief of National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Myanmar at Amyotha Hluttaw Building, Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Present at the call

were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Chairman of Bill Committee and National Planning Affairs Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Chairman of International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Dr Richard A. Nuccio, Chief of National Democratic Institute (NDI).—MNA

Trade and Investment Agreements between Myanmar and US inked

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Myanmar and US could sign trade and investment agreements during President U Thein Sein's working visit to the United States of America.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Acting US Trade Representative Mr Demetrious J. Marantis signed Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between Government of Myanmar and Government of United States (TIFA), at the Office of the US Trade Representative in Washington of US on 21 May.

On the same day, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and Mrs Elizabeth L. Littlefield also inked Investment Incentive Agreement between Government of Myanmar and Government of United States (IIA), at the Office of Oversea Private Investment Cooperation (OPIC) in Washington.

With respect to the agreements, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan said that under the TIFA, both countries can make trade and investment. Under the IIA, the US will provide assistance and make cooperation with Myanmar in

various sectors including agriculture, microfinance, monetary infrastructures and SMEs.

"In the past, people only knew US eased economic sanctions against Myanmar. There are questions among Myanmar private entrepreneurs of how US would make cooperation with Myanmar. Now it is clear thanks to the agreements. It is the strong evidence that the US would make economic cooperation with Myanmar. It is a shot in the arm for Myanmar entrepreneurs. Those agreements also provide a clear answer for US investors," said

Joint Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) who attended the signing ceremony.

UMFCCI and the US Chambers of Commerce have already signed an agreement on boosting trade and investment and sharing of information in February this year. It is a b2b cooperation. It can be said that the two countries have pledged economic cooperation as the governments of both countries have reached agreement, she added.

MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and Mrs Elizabeth L. Littlefield sign Investment Incentive Agreement between Government of Myanmar and Government of the United States (IIA).—MNA

Information committee, US experts discuss transparency timeliness in information



Media laws and mass communication experts from the US hold talks with information team at Ministry of Information.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Media laws and mass communication experts from the US discussed legal affairs, ICT and media, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information here yesterday.

The discussion sponsored by the Ministry of Information intends to release real-time information and inform changes to the public in a transparent manner. It focused on theories and practices of how the information committee deals with media. Chairman of Winning Strategies of US Jim Mc Queeny and media advisor Ms Barbara Swann discussed dos and don'ts for Ministries' information committee.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for

National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung, departmental heads, officials from information committee of the Ministries and high-ranking officials, totaling 146.

This afternoon, the US experts held discussions with officers from the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Communication and ICT and the Attorney-General of the Union. In the evening, they discussed mass media technology with officials from the Ministry of Information.

It is the third time discussions between officials from information committee of the government ministries and foreign experts. The first (See page 11)