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President U Thein Sein attends work coord meeting on agriculture sector development



President U Thein Sein attends work coordination meeting on agriculture sector development.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June — A work coordination meeting on agriculture sector development was held at the meeting hall of the Union Government's Office in the Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon, attended by President of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, the Union ministers, region/state chief ministers, deputy ministers, chairpersons of self-administered division and zones and departmental heads.

First, Union

Minister U Myint Hlaing elaborated on progress in five-step of agriculture sector reform process, measures to promote agro-based industry, to manage commodity supply chain, to reduce increased transport charges and to encourage more production of crop

strains and basic needs for sustainable development in agriculture sector.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan explained matters related to agriculture sector development in rural

areas through cooperative system. Then, Union Ministers U Ohn Myint and U Than Htay clarified cooperation between livestock breeding sector and energy sector for development of

agriculture sector.

Afterwards, region/state chief ministers presented reports on regional requirements to be fulfilled for agriculture sector development.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesia organize workshop on democratic transition

YANGON, 26 June — "I would like to thank ASEAN countries including Indonesia and international community for their support to overcome challenges during the democratic transition period of Myanmar. The entire Myanmar people and international community welcome and recognize Myanmar's sweeping reforms during the period of more than two-year as tangible ones. I hope there will be better outcomes from pragmatic discussions of the today's workshop", says retired ambassador U Nyunt Maung Shein at Indonesia-Myanmar Dialogue on democratic

transition at Parkroyal Hotel, here, this morning.

Next, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono discussed mutual interests that could be brought about by diplomatic ties between Indonesia and Myanmar that have own background history, standing tall among world nations and similar democratization process.

Then, Head of Policy Analysis and Development Agency Ambassador Mr. Pintono Pumomo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Executive Director Dr. I Ketut Putra Erauan (MA. Ph.D) of Institute of Peace and

Democracy (IPD) extended greetings, and the agenda of the workshop followed.

Jointly-organized by the two foreign affairs ministries of the two countries, IPD and School of Planning and International Studies, the workshop in which 13 Myanmar scholars and seven Indonesian scholars will hold discussions under six titles in order to understand the challenges of democratic transition and to seek possible solutions will be held till tomorrow.

The workshop is intended to share experience of Indonesia on development of democratic system.—MNA

Australian government dumps PM Gillard for former leader Rudd



CANBERRA, 26 June— Kevin Rudd returned as Australian prime minister on Wednesday, executing a stunning party room coup on Julia Gillard almost three years to the day after being ousted by his former deputy and less than three months out from a general election.

The reinstatement of Rudd as leader was a last-ditch effort to shore up support by the governing Labor Party, which opinion polls show faces a battering at a poll scheduled for Sept 14.

The Mandarin-speaking former diplomat draws

strong popular support but has divided and destabilised his party after launching two failed leadership bids in the past 18 months.

Analysts said the move could backfire.

"I don't think it will help Labor. I think they've dug themselves a deeper grave," said John Wanna, professor of politics at the Australian National University.

The return of Rudd

could now see Australia go to an election in August rather than the set date of September 14 to cash in on his greater popularity with voters and an expected honeymoon period with the electorate.

The leadership change followed a series of opinion polls showing Gillard's minority government could lose up to 35 seats, giving the conservative opposition a massive majority in the 150-member parliament.

Reuters

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (26-6-2013)

Myitkyina	6.22 inches
Zalun	4.02 inches
Bilin	3.11 inches
Hpa-an	2.79 inches
An	2.75 inches
Kawkareik	2.75 inches

Race boats in Monywa Township maintained in the memory of boat racing in old days

MONYWA, 26 June — A race boat called Pyi Aye that used to be presented many prizes in boat races held in Chindwin River is found being kept in the compound of Maha Minkyaung monastery on Monywa-Amyint road linking with Monywa-Mandalay road in Nyaungbinzauk ward in Monywa. The Sayadaw of the monastery takes care of it in a hall.

The Pyi Aye race boat used to be a big 28-ore boat.

Other boats contemporary with it are Tein Khoe race boat at Seiktathukha monastery in Pyiayekyun village and Thaugzin race boat at Tawpu village in Monywa Township, Taikthein race boat at Natkyun village in Salingyi Township, Nat Mounge race boat at Nyaungtanhmyar village in Budalin Township, Hsaungpan race boat at East Natkyikyun monastery in Monywa District, Mya Daung race boat at

Latpadaung village and Shwe Hmyar race boat at Nagatwin village in Salingyi Township. They all used to be rivals in boat racing in the old days.

Now the race boats are being kept at their respective places and maintained as ones to be observed by the public. — *Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

ODD NEWS



More than 10-foot crocodile captured alive in Pazundaung creek



YANGON, 26 June — A crocodile which is believed to have mistakenly entered Pazundaung creek was caught by fishermen in the creek in Dawbon Township, here, yesterday and it was handed over to officials concerned. It is a kind of reptile living in both fresh water and salt water.

A boatman, Ko Thet Ko, discovered the nearly 10 feet long crocodile first near Naval Dockyard and Officer Housing of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command HQ during his way in the creek at about 8 am on that day.

He informed nearby boatmen and fishermen of the living crocodile and

captured it.

“As soon as I found it which was kept afloat in the water under a bridge, I informed others and we drove it out of the creek and into a nearby drain. We captured it at about 10 am. We successfully caught it, but no one had experience of catching a crocodile,” says Ko Thet Ko.

The captured crocodile was sent to Thakayta crocodile breeding farm and officials concerned made an examination. “The crocodile is a type of reptile living in both fresh water and salt water and its natural habitat is both fresh water and salt water. It can be assumed that the crocodile mistakenly

arrived here after it lost its way. As the crocodile with four feet and three inches in girth is 10 feet and five inches long, it is to be about 10 years old. It is female. We will keep it at the farm,” says Staff Officer U Myo Naing of the farm under Fisheries Department.

According to locals, it was the first time a crocodile was found alive in Pazundaung creek which is always busy with traffic of vessels and motorized boats, but the discovery of living crocodiles once occurred in Ngamoeyeik creek and Bago river that links with the creek.

Kyemon-Thiha Thu & Khin Maung Win (Photo)

Young man run over, killed by express train near Toungoo railway station

TOUNGGOO, 26 June — A young man was fatally struck by an express train en route to Yangon at a place between mile post Nos (161/1) and (161/2) near Toungoo railway station on Yangon-Mandalay railroad at about midnight on 22 June.

The victim was knocked

down by the No (6) down-train driven by U Myo Win together with U Khin Maung Myat while crossing the rail track. He was declared dead on the spot at the scene as his body was cut into two from his waist and his right leg and right arm cut off while he was run over by the train.

The victim was identified as Kyaw Thu, 26, of Shwe Myodaw restaurant on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in ward-19 in Toungoo and he was mentally ill. Myoma police station in Toungoo opened a case and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon-129

Head-on collision hurts six passengers in Kyaukdaga Township

KYAUKDAGA, 26 June — Ahead-on collision between a passenger bus and a container truck occurred near Thingan

creek bridge No (115) at mile post No (114/3) on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Kyaukdaga Township of

Bago Region on 23 June.

The passenger bus bound for Kyaukkyi from Yangon collided head-on with the 18-wheeled container truck driven by U Po Thet (a) U Kyaw Thet Swe, 30, from Myingyan to Yangon near the bridge.

The road crash left six passengers— five men and one woman— on board the bus injured but in stable condition.

Action is being taken against the car crash by Kyaukdaga police station.

Kyemon-578



DEVELOPMENT

South Korean company proposes to build Yangon-Dala Bridge

YANGON, 26 June — It is learnt that a South Korean company proposed to build a Yangon-Dala bridge across Yangon river.

There are three proposed sites for construction of US\$ 178 million worth of 2425-metre long Sule-Dala bridge at Phonegyi street jetty No (2), US\$ 146 million worth of 2243-metre long bridge that links between Pyay Road and Bo Min Yaung Road in Dala Township or US\$ 188 million worth of 2510-metre long bridge that links between Botahtaung road and Kanaung road in Dala Township.

Construction of a Myanmar-South Korea friendship bridge can contribute towards improvement in living standard of Myanmar people, Yonhap news agency reported.



Photo shows a proposed site for construction of a bridge linking between Yangon and Dala Township near Phonegyi Street jetty No (2).

Upon completion of the project, the bridge can bring development to Dala Township and benefit nearly 5000 people from Dala who cross the Yangon river everyday by ferry to reach downtown Yangon. If the bridge was put into

service, they would be able to cross the Yangon river safe and sound and to work at factories and plants in industrial zone which is expected to be established in Dala Township.

Kyemon-Shwe Htoo

WORLD

Obama, Karzai reaffirm cooperation on talks with Taleban

WASHINGTON, 26 June—US President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai reaffirmed on Tuesday they will cooperate to make progress in peace talks planned in Doha between the Afghan government and the Taleban, the White House said.

Obama and Karzai during a video teleconference “reaffirmed that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process is the surest way to end violence and ensure lasting stability in Afghanistan and the

region,” the statement said. The envisioned peace talks in Doha have yet to start due to Karzai’s objection to the Taleban’s use of the former name of Afghanistan when it was under their rule in a flag and sign at their new office in Qatar.

James Dobbins, US special envoy for the Doha talks, has already left Washington but it is uncertain when negotiations involving the Afghan government, the Taleban and the United States will begin.

Kyodo News

Alaska volcano erupts with new intensity, disrupts local flights

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 26 June—An Alaska volcano spewing ash and lava for the past six weeks erupted with new intensity early on Tuesday, belching a plume of cinders 5 miles into sky and onto a nearby town and disrupting local flights, officials said.

The eruptions from Pavlof Volcano, on the Alaska Peninsula 590 miles southwest of Anchorage, were its most powerful since its current eruptive phase began with low-level rumblings in mid-May, according to scientists at the federal-state Alaska Volcano Observatory.

The latest series of more powerful ash-producing blasts from the crater of the 8,261-foot (2,518-meter) volcano started late on Monday and continued overnight into Tuesday, scientists said.

“For some reason we can’t explain, it picked up in intensity and vigor,” said Tina Neal, an observatory geologist.

While the ash plume has so far remained too low in the sky to affect jetliner

traffic, topping out at an altitude of 28,000 feet, smaller planes had to fly around it, officials said. Anchorage-based PenAir cancelled one flight and re-routed others, said Missy Roberts, a company vice president.

Ash has dusted King Cove, a town of about 900 people located 30 miles southwest of Pavlof, the Alaska Volcano Observatory reported.

The National Weather Service issued an ash advisory for the region, warning of breathing problems for people with respiratory ailments and potential damage to exposed electronic equipment.

A second Alaska Peninsula volcano continued a low-intensity eruption, the observatory said. Ash from Veniaminof Volcano, 485 miles southwest of Anchorage, has been limited to the area around its 8,225-foot (2,507-meter) summit, the observatory said. The eruptions at Pavlof and Veniaminof are unrelated, scientists say.—Reuters



The Pavlof Volcano in Alaska is pictured in this 18 May, 2013 NASA handout photo taken by astronauts aboard the International Space Station. Situated in the Aleutian Arc about 625 miles (1,000 km) southwest of Anchorage, Pavlof began erupting on 13 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Russia, US fail to agree plan for Syria peace talks

BEIRUT/GENEVA, 26 June—Talks between the United States and Russia to set up a Syrian peace conference produced no deal on Tuesday, with the powers on either side of the two-year civil war failing to agree when it should be held or who would be invited.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal accused the Syrian government of “genocide” and described the involvement in the conflict of foreign militias backed by Iran as “the most dangerous development”.

Washington and Moscow announced plans for the peace conference last month, but their relations have since deteriorated rapidly, as momentum on the battlefield has swung in fa-

vor of President Bashar al-Assad.

Washington decided this month to supply military aid to the rebels fighting Assad, while Moscow refused to drop its support for the Syrian leader it has continued to arm.

After five hours of talks in Geneva sponsored by the United Nations, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov said there was still no consensus on a role for Assad’s ally Teheran, or on who would represent the Syrian opposition.

“There is a disagreement on whether or not, for example, Iran should take part. From our point of view, Iran’s participation in the conference is necessary because it can play an important role as a country

of the region,” he told reporters. Washington has opposed including Iran in the



talks amid continuing disagreement about its disputed nuclear programme.

Gatilov added that Russia wanted the opposition delegation to represent all the main groups, without saying which he meant.

With such issues unre-

Free Syrian Army fighters carrying their weapons are reflected in a mirror in the old city of Aleppo on 24 June, 2013.—REUTERS

solved, the conference is not expected now to be held before August or even September. The United States and Western European powers have joined Arab countries and Turkey in supporting the mainly Sunni Muslim rebels.—Reuters

16 killed, 33 wounded in fresh bomb attacks in Iraq



A man wounded by a suicide bomber in Tuz Khurmatu city is carried to a hospital in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 25 June, 2013.—REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 26 June—At least 16 people were killed and 33 others wounded in the latest bomb attacks on Tuesday in Iraq, the police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a football playground in Baquba, capital of Diyala Province in eastern Iraq, killing eight young people and wounding 18

others, a police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The same source said an improvised explosive device struck a minibus in the Zafaraniyah area in southern Baghdad, killing four people and injuring 15 others.

Meanwhile, in the northwestern Province of Nineveh, a bombing attack on an Iraqi army patrol killed four soldiers, he added.

Before the latest attacks, an assault occurred in the city of Tuz-Khurmatu when two suicide bombers killed 10 people and wounded some 50 during a rally of Shiite Turkoman

minority in the city, some 200 km north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

Additionally, three Iranian Shiite pilgrims were killed and 15 wounded when a roadside bomb struck their bus on their way from Baghdad to the holy Shiite city of Karbala, on a main road near the town of Iskandriyah, some 50 km south of Baghdad.

Tuesday’s bombings came amid soaring violence and escalation of sectarian tension between the Sunni and Shiite communities, which is at its highest level since the US troops pulled out from the country at the end of 2011.

Xinhua

Japan’s education spending lowest again among OECD nations

TOKYO, 26 June—Japan spent the least on education in 2010 among 30 member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that had comparable data, an OECD report showed on Tuesday.

The ratio of public spending on education to gross domestic product remained almost unchanged from 2009 at 3.6 percent for Japan, which ranked last in educational spending for the fourth consecutive year.

Noting that the ratio of private funding for kindergarten and college education is high in Japan, the 34-member OECD encouraged Japan to increase public spending by saying educational invest-

ment is beneficial to both individuals and society.

The average ratio of such public spending-to-GDP among the 30 countries was 5.4 percent, with Denmark leading the list at 7.6 percent. Norway ranked second at 7.5 percent and Iceland third at 7.0 percent.

Meanwhile, the number of Japanese students studying abroad decreased to about 39,000 in 2011 from the 2005 peak of about 63,000, the report said.

The figure represents only 1.0 percent of all Japanese students, compared with the OECD average of 2.0 percent and 4 percent or more for Germany and South Korea.—Kyodo News

EU postpones accession talks with Turkey

BRUSSELS, 26 June—The European Union (EU) on Tuesday decided to postpone accession negotiations with Turkey, according to a EU General Affairs Council statement.

The statement said the 27-member bloc agreed to push back negotiations with Turkey originally scheduled on 26 June. New rounds of talks between EU and Turkey are now expected after the presentation of the European Commission’s annual progress report expected in October.

In other words, Turkey’s accession talks have been postponed for another four months.

Germany, the Netherlands and Austria last

week raised objections due to Turkey’s recent “crack-down” on anti-government protests.

On Monday, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle proposed delaying the talks to the EU Foreign Affairs Council.

Turkey has been a candidate for EU membership since 1999 with accession negotiations beginning in 2005. A revised accession partnership was adopted in 2008.

However, EU-Turkey negotiations stalled in 2010 due to a veto by Cyprus, which is locked in a decades-old frozen conflict with Turkey over Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus.

Xinhua

China's Shenzhou-10 mission successful

BEIJING, 26 June—Three astronauts who completed China's longest manned space mission returned to Earth safely on Wednesday morning, marking another step forward towards the country's goal of building a permanent manned space station by 2020.

Zhang Youxia, commander-in-chief of China's manned space programme, said the *Shenzhou-10* mission was a "complete success".

The reentry module of *Shenzhou-10* landed safely on a sun-lit prairie in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at about 8:07 am on Wednesday. All three astronauts were in good physical condition.

Nie Haisheng, commander of the *Shenzhou-10* crew and a second-time space traveller, was the first to emerge out of the bowl-like module, followed by Wang Yaping, the only female astronaut of the mission, and Zhang Xiaoguang.

During a brief welcoming ceremony held at the



Astronauts Zhang Xiaoguang, Nie Haisheng and Wang Yaping (from left to right) wave after getting out of the re-entry capsule of China's *Shenzhou-10* spacecraft following its successful landing at the main landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 26 June, 2013.—XINHUA

landing area, the astronauts waved merrily to a crowd composed of military officers, the search and recovery team, and health personnel.

"It feels really good to be back home," said astronaut Nie Haisheng.

"We are dreamers, and we have now fulfilled our dream," said Zhang Xiaoguang. "Our space dream knows no boundary, and our hard work will never cease," he said.

Vice Premier Zhang

Gaoli arrived at the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre Wednesday morning and watched the live broadcast of the return and recovery of *Shenzhou-10* there.

Zhang delivered a congratulatory note on behalf of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the State Council, and the Central Military Commission, celebrating the success of the *Shenzhou-10* and *Tiangong-1* mission.

The *Shenzhou-10* is

China's first application-oriented space flight.

Compared with its previous mission *Shenzhou-9* last year, the *Shenzhou-10* is no longer experimental but considered an applicable shuttle system for transporting astronauts and supplies to orbiting modules.

The mission aims to further test technologies designed for docking and supporting astronauts' stay in space, as well as to use new technologies related to the construction of a space station in the future, a spokeswoman for China's manned space program told the press prior to the launch of the *Shenzhou-10* spacecraft on 11 June.

In its 15-day journey in space, *Shenzhou-10* docked with the orbiting space lab *Tiangong-1* twice, once through automatic operation and the other manual.

The astronauts spent 12 days in *Tiangong-1*, where they conducted space medical experiments, technical tests and delivered a lecture to students on Earth about basic physics principles.

Xinhua

Scientists find neighbour star with three planets in life-friendly orbits

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 26 June—A neighbour star has at least six planets in orbit, including three circling at the right distance for water to exist, a condition believed to be necessary for life, scientists said on Tuesday.

Previously, the star known as Gliese 667C was found to be hosting three planets, one of which was located in its so-called "habitable zone" where temperatures could support liquid surface water. That planet and two newly found sibling worlds are bigger than Earth, but smaller than Neptune.

"This is the first time that three such planets have been spotted orbiting in this zone in the same system," astronomer Paul Butler, with the Carnegie Institution in Washington, DC, said in a statement.

Scientists say the discovery of three planets in a star's habitable zone raises the odds of finding Earth-

like worlds where conditions might have been suitable for life to evolve.

"Instead of looking at 10 stars to look for a single potentially habitable planet, we now know we can look at just one star and have a high chance of finding several of them," astronomer Rory Barnes, with the University of Washington, said in a statement.

Additional observations of Gliese 667C and a reanalysis of existing data showed it hosts at least six, and possibly, seven planets.

The star is located relatively close to Earth, just 22 light years (129 trillion miles/207 trillion km) away. It is about one-third the size of the sun and the faintest star of a triple star system.

In addition to the three well-positioned "super-Earths," two more planets may orbit on the fringe of the star's habitable zone and also could possibly support life.—Reuters

US regulator tells Web search firms to label ads better



A Google sign is seen at a Best Buy electronics store in this photo illustration in Encinitas, California on 11 April, 2013.

REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 June—US regulators warned leading Internet firms including Google Inc to better identify paid ads in search results, particularly as new technology such as mobile services and voice-based online services become more common.

The US Federal Trade Commission said on Tuesday it had sent letters to 24 Internet search companies, including giants Google, Microsoft Corp and Yahoo Inc, updating its guidance on advertising practices.

The FTC's update to its 2002 guidance on search advertising practices comes as consumers are increasingly accessing the Internet on

small-screened smartphones and using specialized apps and social media services to find information online.

"In recent years, paid search results have become less distinguishable as advertising, and the FTC is urging the search industry to make sure the distinction is clear," the agency said.

The FTC, which sent the letters on Monday, has the power to fine companies that violate its rules against deceptive advertising.

The agency said background shading for search ads that appear alongside natural search results was not always sufficiently visible, particularly on mobile devices. Text labels intend-

ed to flag search ads were not always easy to spot, as some search engines had reduced the font size of the text or placed a single label at the corner of a group of ads.

In the case of voice-based search for instance, the agency said that a search engine should make an "audio disclosure that is of an adequate volume and cadence for ordinary listeners to hear and comprehend it." The letters, which were also sent to several popular "vertical" search engines that specialize in online shopping, travel and local business, did not specifically accuse any search engines of wrongdoing.

Google, the world's No1 search engine, accounted for 73.8 percent of the \$17.3 billion spent on search advertising in the United States last year, according to research firm eMarketer. Last year Google altered its specialized shopping search engine, making it based solely on paid search listings.

Google said in a statement that clear labeling and disclosure of paid search were important and "we've always strived to do that as our products have evolved."

Reuters

US energy companies seen at risk from cyber attacks

WASHINGTON, 26 June—US oil and natural gas operations are increasingly vulnerable to cyber attacks that can harm the competitiveness of energy companies or lead to costly outages at pipelines, refineries or drilling platforms, a report said on Wednesday.

The energy business, including oil and gas producers, was hit by more targeted malware attacks from April to September last year than any other industry, said the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) report, citing data from a Houston-based security company, Alert Logic.

Cyber attacks on energy companies, which are increasing in frequency and sophistication, take two main forms, the CFR report said. The first kind, cyber espionage, is carried out by foreign intelligence and defence agencies, organized crime, or freelance hackers.

These parties covertly capture sensitive corporate data or communications with the goal of gathering commercial or national security intelligence. US energy companies are subject to frequent and often successful attempts by competitors and foreign governments to access long-term strategic plans, bids

tendered for new drilling acreage, talks with foreign officials and other trade secrets, the report said.

A campaign against US energy companies by hackers based in China, called Night Dragon by McAfee, a leading security company that is part of Intel Corp, began in 2008 and lasted into 2011. The campaign stole gigabytes of material, including bidding data in advance of a lease auction. One unidentified energy company official believes his company lost a bid in a lease auction because of the attack, the CFR report said.

Many companies are either unaware of similar attacks or are afraid to disclose them for fear of upsetting investors, it said.

"That's too bad because

it makes it harder for Washington to help them and it also makes it harder for the public to be aware of what threats are out there," said Blake Clayton, a fellow in energy and national security at CFR and a co-author of the report.

The second main cyber risk to energy companies is the disruption of critical businesses or physical operations through attacks on networks.

"This has a lower probability but potentially higher cost," said Clayton. The Stuxnet virus, said to have been created by the United States and Israel to attack Iran's nuclear programme, is an example of a campaign that ended up escaping from its intended target at the risk of causing harm to a US company.—Reuters



A magnifying glass is held in front of a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Most Asia shares rebound on PBOC but Shanghai extends slide



An employee of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) works at the bourse in Tokyo on 13 June, 2013.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 26 June—Most Asian shares turned around a four-day losing streak and rose on Wednesday as investors took comfort from US data underscoring an American recovery and assurances from China's central bank that it will offer funds to banks if needed.

But fears of a credit crunch and slower loan growth continued to fuel selling of Chinese banking shares in Shanghai, pulling Japan's Nikkei (.N225) down nearly 1 percent at one point after a solid start. (T).

Even as they eased for a fourth day, China's short-term borrowing rates remained at elevated levels and some traders expected liquidity to remain tight until mid-July.

"Worries over China's banking system and economy still weigh on the markets," said Hiroaki Hiwada, a senior strategist at Toyo Securities.

Hong Kong shares (HSI) were up 0.9 percent but Shanghai shares <csi300>(.SSEC) once again turned lower and extended losses to more than 1 percent, after tumbling nearly 7 percent at one point on Tuesday to the lowest since January 2009.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan <.miapj-0000pus> climbed 1.1 percent after plumbing an 11-month low on Tuesday, with Australia, Taiwan and Southeast Asian bourses firming.

Reuters

Heart disease deaths show dramatic decline in Europe

LONDON, 26 June—The number of people dying from heart disease in Europe has dropped dramatically in recent decades, thanks largely to the success of cholesterol-lowering drugs and drives to persuade people to quit smoking, scientists said on Wednesday.

Cardiovascular disease death rates have more than halved in many countries in the European Union since the early 1980s, according to their study in the *European Heart Journal*.

Yet heart disease — which can lead to fatal heart attacks and strokes — remains a leading cause of death in the region and rising rates of obesity and diabetes could soon start to reverse progress made in the past 30 years.

"For the most part and for most countries this is good news — the death rates have come down quite substantially in the last 30 years," said Nick Townsend of Britain's Oxford University, who worked on the study.

"But what we don't want to say is that the job is

done, because we know by looking at trends in other conditions that they could reverse the trends we've worked so hard to achieve in heart disease."

According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular diseases kill around 17 million people globally each year.

Townsend's team looked at deaths from coronary heart disease between 1980 and 2009 in both sexes and four age groups: under 45, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 years and over.

They found that almost all EU countries had a large

State regulators warn virtual currency exchanges

NEW YORK, 26 June—State regulators are warning virtual currency exchanges and other companies that deal with Bitcoin that they could be shut down if their activities run counter to money transmission laws, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Banking regulators in California, New York and Virginia in recent weeks have issued letters saying the companies need to follow the state rules or prove that the rules do not apply to them, the Journal said.

"Virtual currency firms inhabit an evolving and sometimes murky corner of the financial world," Benjamin Lawsky, superintendent of New York's Department of Financial

Services, told the WSJ in an interview.

"The extent and nature of their operations morph constantly, so it's important for regulators to ask the hard questions and stay ahead of the curve in order to root out dangerous or illegal activity," Lawsky said.

Spokespeople for California banking department and Virginia Bureau of Financial Institutions declined to comment to the Journal.

Most money transmission rules require companies to provide detailed financial data, business strategy and information about the management. States also usually require companies to put up a bond of several million dollars.



Fats, meat unlikely to impact prostate cancer risk.

REUTERS

and significant decrease in death rates from heart disease over the last three decades in both men and women when all the age groups were considered together.

Britain, Denmark, Malta, The Netherlands and Sweden had the largest declines in death rates for both sexes, while among men in Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, the decreases were small and not statistically significant. In Romanian men, there was a small but statistically significant increase. Although the study did not look specifically for causes,

Townsend said the progress was probably mainly due to better drugs - such as statins to treat high cholesterol and anti-hypertensives to treat high blood pressure - as well as lower rates of smoking in the region overall.

He warned, however, that other risk factors, such as obesity and diabetes, were a real concern: "It could lead to a future time bomb, whereby these fantastic gains in terms of heart disease mortality could start to reverse with the impact of rises in obesity and diabetes."—Reuters

High rate of head injuries seen among Canadian youth

NEW YORK, 26 June—One in five Canadian teens reported a serious head injury in a new study, a rate researchers say is much higher than previous studies have found.

In a survey of 8,900 students in grades seven through 12, close to six percent reported losing consciousness for at least five minutes or being hospitalized for head trauma in the past year, and



Four thousand US dollars are counted out by a banker counting currency at a bank in Westminster, Colorado on 3 Nov, 2009.—REUTERS

Digital currency is electronic money that can be passed between individuals without the use of the traditional banking or money transfer system.

Bitcoin, which has been embraced by a number of venture capitalists in Silicon Valley, exists through an open-source software programme that any users with enough

skill and computing power can access. It is not managed by a single company or government. Users can buy bitcoins through exchanges that convert real money into the virtual currency. None of the parties could immediately be reached for comment by Reuters outside of regular US business hours.

Reuters

Rise in high-end treatment for low-risk prostate cancer

NEW YORK, 26 June—The proportion of US men with early, slow-growing prostate cancer who received robotic surgery and other expensive treatments increased between 2004 and 2009, according to a new study.

Researchers found that use of those therapies also rose among men who were unlikely to die from prostate cancer because they were sick with other chronic diseases when their cancer was diagnosed.

"You can't get at what the right rate (of treatment use) is from our study, but what we did find was treatment with these advanced technologies increased over the past decade, and was fairly common," said Dr Brent Hollenbeck, who worked on the study at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Evidence has been building that a wait-and-see approach might be most effective for men with low-risk prostate cancer that may or may not progress, rather than

scheduling surgery or radiation right away.

But both doctors and patients have been hesitant to adopt that strategy, also known as watchful waiting or active surveillance, researchers said. "There's no incentive for (doctors) to do it, because there's no real payment, and it's very complicated. It's not easy to do active surveillance," said Grace Lu-Yao, who studies prostate cancer treatment at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

What's more, she told Reuters Health, "Some patients may just feel they'll go with the most advanced technology and get rid of the cancer, so they'll feel more secure in a way." Hollenbeck and his colleagues analyzed data on about 56,000 older men diagnosed with prostate cancer and covered by Medicare, the government's health insurance program for the elderly and disabled.

Reuters



A US heart patient is prepared for a two-hour surgery at Bangkok Heart Hospital in Bangkok on 19 Dec, 2005.

REUTERS

WORLD



Photo shows the main building of the National Archives of Japan in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward on 25 June, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

Japan's National Archives to reach full capacity in 4 years

TOKYO, 26 June—The National Archives of Japan, which house state documents of historical value such as the country's constitution, are set to become full by March 2017, government officials said on Tuesday.

The main building of the archives, located in Chiyoda Ward in Tokyo, is already at maximum capacity and a second building in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, was 70 percent full as of last summer.

The archives are being filled at an increased rate due to a law on the preservation of official state documents introduced in April 2011, which resulted in a 50 percent increase in document entries into the archives compared with fiscal 2008.

The law was enacted in response to the loss of numerous national pension records at the government's now-defunct Social Insurance Agency.

While documents are stored as digital files, physical copies are also kept within the two buildings. If stacked on top of each other, files stored as of March 2011 would be roughly 57 kilometres high, according to government officials.

The Kansai branch of the National Diet Library in Kyoto is set to temporarily accept documents once the archives are full, after the Cabinet Office's plans for building additional facilities were dashed due to a budgetary shortage.

Kyodo News

India flood rescue helicopter crash kills eight

GAUCHAR, 26 June—A rescue helicopter delivering wood for the mass cremations of the victims of flooding in northern India crashed on Tuesday, killing the eight people on board, the government said.

Floods and landslides unleashed by early monsoon rains last week killed at least 680 people in Uttarakhand state and left thousands of people missing.

Government officials fear the toll could cross 1,000 and the rescue operation is still in full swing, with thousands of army personnel involved, supported by air force and private helicopters.

The Indian Air Force helicopter was delivering wood and trying to bring out survivors, many of them Hindu pilgrims and tourists, from inundated areas on the banks of the sacred Ganges river, where houses and apartment blocks were washed away in the foothills of the Himalayas.

The government statement did not say who was

on board at the time of the crash, or why the aircraft had come down.

Thousands of pilgrims are still stranded in the Kedarnath Valley, one of the worst affected areas. Some of those rescued by helicopter told charity officials in state capital Dehradun they had seen bodies scattered everywhere.

Many areas have been cut off by the water and can only be reached by helicopters, but torrential rain is hampering their work.

Reuters

Afghan Taliban attack in Kabul throws peace talks into further doubt

KABUL, 26 June — Taliban militants attacked key buildings near Afghanistan's presidential palace and the US CIA headquarters in Kabul, a brazen assault that could derail attempts for peace talks to end 12 years of war.

The Taliban, who have said they are willing to take

Moscow, 26 June—Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed on Tuesday a former US spy agency contractor sought by the United States was in the transit area of a Moscow Airport but ruled out handing him to Washington, dismissing US criticisms as “ravings and rubbish”.

In his first public comments since Edward Snowden flew in on Sunday, Putin appeared to make light of the diplomatic uproar over the fugitive, whose flight from US authorities is becoming a growing embarrassment for President Barack Obama. Asked by a journalist about the affair, he smiled fleetingly.

“I myself would prefer not to deal with these issues. It's like shearing

a piglet: there's a lot of squealing, but there's little wool,” Putin told a news conference in Finland.

Snowden, who worked as a systems administrator at a US National Security Agency facility in Hawaii, is facing espionage charges from the United States after leaking details about secret US surveillance programmes to the news media.

Two US national security sources said intelligence agencies have detected that members of targeted militant organizations, including both Sunni and Shi'ite Islamist groups, have begun altering communications patterns, believed to be in response to the leaks on eavesdropping programmes.

NSA Director Keith

Alexander sought to reassure his employees that the outcry over surveillance programmes leaked by Snowden was not directed at them and that agency leaders would “take the heat.”

Putin's refusal to hand

back Snowden risked deepening a rift with the United States that has also drawn in China and threatens relations between countries that may be essential in settling global conflicts including the Syrian war.

Reuters



An exterior view shows Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport on 26 June, 2013.—REUTERS



An air cushion landing craft of Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force lands on a beach during a joint exercise in southern California on 24 June, 2013. The US Navy and the US Marine Corps conducted the joint landing drill with Japan's Self-Defence Forces and Canadian and New Zealand forces as part of the Dawn Blitz 2013 exercises.

KYODO NEWS

US to extend CO2 cut rule to all thermal power plants

WASHINGTON, 26 June—The US government said Tuesday it will expand its regulations on carbon dioxide emissions to all thermal power plants and boost cooperation with other major emitters China and India in its new steps aimed at curbing global warming.

The administration of President Barack Obama also pledged to try to double the amount of electricity to be generated by renewables such as solar and wind power by 2020 in a bid to reduce consumption of coal and crude oil on the back of rich domestic natural gas

resources and stabilize energy supply.

Obama, who focused on the issue of climate change in his inauguration speech in January, released the Climate Action Plan as the first comprehensive package of steps against global warming for his second term.

Under the action plan, the president directed the Environmental Protection Agency to work to establish carbon pollution standards for “both new and existing power plants” including coal-fired ones.

The action plan sets a

goal to reduce carbon pollution “by at least 3 billion metric tons cumulatively by 2030,” or more than half of the annual carbon pollution from the US energy sector.

Power plants are the largest concentrated source of emissions in the United States, together accounting for roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions, according to the action plan.

Obama in his first term proposed a carbon dioxide pollution standard only for newly built thermal power plants.

Kyodo News

Russian shipyard to deliver third frigate to India

SAINT PETERSBURG, 26 June — Russia's Yantar Shipyard said on Tuesday that it will hand over on Saturday the last of the three frigates it contracted to build for India.

The handover ceremony of frigate *Trikand* will be attended by Indian naval officers and diplomats as well as representatives of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, said the Kaliningrad shipmaker.

The first two vessels under the 1.6-billion-US-dollar contract, *Teg* and *Tarkash*, were delivered in April and November 2012.

Russian media reported that the new frigates are each equipped with eight BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and an antisubmarine warfare helicopter, among others.

Xinhua



Afghan policemen arrive to the site of an insurgent attack in Kabul on 25 June, 2013.—REUTERS

part in talks with the United States and Afghan President Hamid Karzai's administration, said they launched the early morning assault, which triggered a 90-minute firefight.

A US envoy was in Kabul on Tuesday to try to smooth the way forward for the stalled talks in the Gulf state of Qatar

ahead of the pullout from Afghanistan of most of the NATO-led troops next year. He had been expected to meet reporters at the US Embassy, but the conference was called off.

Karzai was also due to attend, but his whereabouts were not known. A palace official said he was safe.—Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Lacquerwares selling good in Pakokku pagoda festival

PAKOKKU, 26 June— Lacquerwares from Nwenein village in Shwebo District are selling well in Tihoshin Pagoda Festival in Pakokku.

The pagoda festival is held the entire month of Nayon, the third month of the Myanmar lunar

calendar.

The village lacquerers brought their products with motorboats and sold to the local market in Pakokku yearly.

Their markets include Tihoshin, Magway, Bagan and NyaungU pagoda festivals.

This year, the government has granted loans to lacquer ware makers.

Lacquer wares from the Nwenein village are famous for their persistence to their unique traditional patterns and designs.

MMAL-Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

Bridge on inter-village road being repaired in Yamethin Tsp



YAMETHIN, 26 June— Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Bo Ni, Yamethin Township Administrator U Maung Maung and officials of Township Development Affairs Committee on 23 June visited the repair site of Sone-ma-ai bridge on the inter-village road linking Paese village and Pinsuhtaung village in Paese village-tract in Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region.

They met local people and attended to the needs.

The bridge crossing Myohla creek is a crucial bridge for the region as a route to transport agricultural produce.

The transportation was often delayed by the dilapidated bridge.

The major repair of the bridge is funded by the Mandalay Region Government, Township

General Administration Department and donors.

The construction of new reinforced concrete bridge is closely supervised by the ward/village-tract administrators.

MMAL-Hlaing Than Tint

KNOWLEDGE

Library opened in Pyawbwe



PYAWBWE, 26 June— Cetana Alinyaung Library was opened in Kyaunggon village in Minlan village-tract in Pyawbwe Township on 23 June morning.

Presiding monk U Sunandara of Gaihtauk monastery in Kyaunggon

village, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representative U Tin Oo, Township Administrator U Kyaw Aung Hsan and departmental personnel formally opened the self-reliant library.

Wellwishers donated cash, furnishings and

publications to the library through officials.

The one-storey building has the length of 26 ft, the width of 23 ft and height of 12 ft. The donors funded the construction of the building which cost K 2,519,890.—MMAL-440

HRD

MEB grants stipends to offspring of staff



Officials present stipends to an outstanding student.

NAYPYITAW, 26 June— Nay Pyi Taw Myanma Economic Bank granted stipends to offspring of staff in a ceremony to honour outstanding staff in microfinance works of the bank at MEB Hall here on 20 June.

At the ceremony, Myanma Economic Bank, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's

Affairs Organization presented stipends to students from staff families.

The outstanding staff who performed well in microfinance works in Kyaukpadaung and Kalaw Townships were honoured by Managing Director of Myanma Economic Bank Daw Yin Yin Mya and officials.

MMAL-MEB

MSI organizes international education fair

YANGON, 26 June— Myanmar Search International organized an international education fair at Summit Parkview Hotel here on 20 June.

The fair was joined by 12 universities from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand which are branches of the US, England, French, New Zealand and Australian

universities.

A contest which allows youths between 13-16 display their talents was also organized in the fair.

"Myanmar youths have high capacity, hidden by lack of application," Daw Su Su Hlaing, managing director of Myanmar Search International, said.

MMAL-Nanda Win

Cash, stationery donated to Hngetawsan youth rehab centre

YANGON, 26 June— Myanmar-Malaysia Association donated cash and stationery to Hngetawsan youth rehabilitation centre in Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region on 16 June.

The centre was under management of Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and

Resettlement.

Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ahmad Mouhad, on behalf of the association, donated K2,113,000 and stationery worth K 1,370,800 to the principle of the centre U Lwin Oo who returned a certificate of honour to the former.

MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)



Educative talk on consequences of drug abuses organized

TAMU, 26 June— An educative talk on consequences of drug abuse was organized in Tamu No (2) Basic Education High School in Tamu District in Sagaing Region on 23 June morning.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw delivered a speech at the ceremony and Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association U Saw Ngwe and Secretary of Sagaing Region ANA

U Kyaw Yin and Police Sub-Inspector Sai Nan of Myanmar Police Force Anti-Drug Squad (Central), District Police Force Commander Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Thaw and Dr Thein Naing Oo of District Health Department delivered talks on adverse consequences of drug abuses. Those present at the talk raised queries which were answered by the Speakers.

MMAL-Win Naing (Tamu)

BUSINESS

Foreign currency exchange rate on the increase

YANGON, 26 June— The fall in global gold price and the ongoing gem exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw spurred changes in foreign exchange rates.

The exchange rate reached its peak in 2013, according to the market sources.

The exchange rate of one USD is increased to

970 Kyats.

The Myanmar migrant workers' dilemma in Malaysia also affected the market.

According to a personnel at Theinbyu Money Exchange Counter, the exchange rate could continue to be on the increase.

MMAL-Khin Yadana



PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 June, 2013

The need of structural reform in education

For more than two decades, Myanmar universities have been infamous for mechanically turning out thousands of graduates. Universities are mushrooming across the nation, and so do the graduates. The quality of education was forgotten. The entrance to any university is determined by the matriculation exam performance. There is incredibly large demand for institutes that could offer medicines, economics and technological studies which guarantee after-graduation jobs. The universities which are called “arts and science universities” become the choice that gets low priority. The consequential problem is that all the branches of arts and science are not equally respected.

As the youths crowding into these institutes where the resources are doubtfully limited for all the students there are a waste of national treasures both in terms of human resources and educational resources. To overturn the situation and reform the dilapidated education system, we need to try to first address the issue. The education sector was subject to various remedies only to add more errors to existing ones.

Since the start of Myanmar’s sweeping reforms more than two years ago, educational reform has taken precedence. There are many changes in the education sector. Yet there is no tangible reform in the education system as a whole. The educational reforms are stubbornly built on the old structure despite the need of structural reforms itself.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—A ceremony to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June today was held at the assembly hall of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Commander’s Office this morning.

Deputy Commander Police Lt-Col Than Win

read out the message of the Minister of Home Affairs on the occasion. Afterwards, Police Lt-Col Than Win and Police Lt-Col Soe Myint Oo presented awards to prize-winning students in cartoon, posters and painting contests in commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.—Aye Than

East-West Center Journalists’ Exchange Group in Myanmar

YANGON, 26 June—Sixteen distinguished journalists from 10 Asia-Pacific nations, including the US, are currently visiting Myanmar on a study tour, as the East-West Center brings it internationally recognized Jefferson Fellowships journalists’ exchange program to the country for the first time in the program’s 46-year history.

During their five-day

visit, the group—which includes two Myanmar journalists—will be meeting in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw with officials, business and community leaders, scholars, fellow journalists, and others to learn about the dramatic reform that has been taking place in the country, and to discuss this year’s program theme, “New Leadership in Asia Pacific: Solving Old Problems, Managing New Realities.” In addition,

NATIONAL
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Hluttaw committee chairmen, secretaries, commission members meet

Work coordination meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee in progress at the meeting hall of Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee chairmen, secretaries, commission members held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, in his opening speech, said that the Hluttaw committees are to contribute to parliamentary affairs by

the Hluttaws as they are like branches of the Hluttaws. One of the crucial changes in Myanmar’s political reforms was emergence of Hluttaws.

After the country had seen Hluttaws, the Hluttaw Speaker paid visits to Russia, India, China, seven European Union member countries, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and the United States. The main duties of the Hluttaws are legislation and ensuring check and balance.

Formation and practices

of Myanmar Hluttaws are similar to the systems and procedures of the United States, but not the same. Congress of the United States is totally responsible for legislation. Union level organizations, committees, and parliamentarians have the right to submit bills to the parliament.

He explained his findings on legislation process, budget affairs and check and balance on departments concerned by respective committees at the

US Congress and parliaments of other countries. Then the Speaker called on Hluttaw committees to do their best and to carry out their duties serving the interests of the nation and its people.

Next, committee chairmen pre-sented reports respectively and those present took part in general round of discussions. Then, the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

MNA

Haul of narcotic drugs incinerated to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

YANGON, 26 June — To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a narcotic drug incineration ceremony took place at No (2) Police Training Depot in Shwepyitha Township, here, this morning. The incineration of more than K 4407 million worth and US\$ 4.5 million worth of 15 types of narcotic drugs was done at the ceremony.

First, Commander of Yangon Region Police Force Police Col Win Naing, Vice-Chairman of Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control, explained matters related to the incinerations ceremony.

the Jefferson Fellows will have the unique opportunity to engage with Yangon’s emerging media sector and provide professional training and regional perspectives to local journalists.

“It’s a powerful indicator of the change that has been occurring in Myanmar that the East-West Center is for the first time able to take international journalists there



Next, the seized narcotic drugs were burned in the presence of officials, ambassadors and diplomats.

as part of our media exchange programs,” said EWC Media Programs Manager Susan Kreifels. “We are very excited about this opportunity to facilitate mutually beneficial exchanges between Myanmar and international journalists.”

Note to media: To arrange an interview with visiting journalists, please call 095404098, or email smthinn@gmail.com.

A ceremony to present prizes to winners of contests to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and

The Jefferson Fellowships offer U.S. and Asia Pacific journalists an opportunity to broaden their understanding of Asia Pacific issues and build a professional network through a 3-week program of dialogue and travel organized around a special theme. The program is supported by a generous grant from The Freeman

Illicit Trafficking was held at Drug Elimination Museum on Kyundaw street in Kamayut Township at 10 am.—MNA

Foundation. The Spring 2013 Jefferson Fellowships program is focusing on “New Leadership in the Asia Pacific: Resolving Old Problems, Managing New Realities,” with travel to Honolulu, Tokyo, Beijing and the first-ever visit to Myanmar in the 46-year history of the program.

Sagawah

NATIONAL

It needs to be aware of stoppage of current reform processes due to blame, criticism: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June— Planning Commission Meeting continued for second day at the meeting hall of the Union government at the Presidential Palace here this morning.

It was attended by Commission Chairman President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, the Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, the Region/State Chief Ministers, the deputy ministers, chairpersons of the Self-Administered Division/

Zones and departmental heads.

Union Ministers U Aye Myint, U Khin Maung Soe and U Win Shein reported development of industrial sector and services sector. After that, the Union ministers held discussions on the reports presented by the region/state chief ministers and the chairpersons of the Self-Administered Division/ Zones.

Afterwards, Vice-President U Nyan Tun gave suggestions on extended distribution of electric power, development of SMEs and establishment of special economic zones.



President U Thein Sein delivers concluding remarks at Planning Commission Meeting.—MNA

development of the country.

He called for law enforcements for assuring the rule of law. He urged administrative bodies to instill sense of liberty, accountability, responsibility and law abiding into the people.

He continued that Myanmar Police Force will be upgraded into international-standard one as police force was crucial for assuring the rule of law. He called for taking examples of procedures of international police forces.

Efforts should be made for country's development with added momentum.

administrative bodies during the remaining 31 months. He pledged that the new government would have to serve the interests of people and the State to the best.

It is undeniable that efforts for peace and stability, the end of decade-long armed conflicts, writing off old debts, removal of two-decade-long economic sanctions, receiving of low-interest development loans and assistances, reentering into the international communities and international supports are significant milestone in the history of the new government. In conclusion,

Vice-President U Nyan Tun participates in discussion at Planning Commission Meeting. MNA



Then, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham discussed implementation of State-owned economic entities.

In his concluding speech, President U Thein Sein said that the new government had a chance to shape a new system for the country for the first time. Thanks to government's strenuous efforts, local strength and supports of international communities, the country saw success of reform processes to a certain extent even though country's democracy was still young.

Criticism and

demonstrations are common in democratic countries. Even old democratic countries have to face such events. It needed to pay special attentions to constructive voices of the people and to fulfill their wishes as much as possible. He highlighted that it needed to be aware of stoppage of current reform processes due to blame and criticism.

Special emphasis should be placed on ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law as peace and stability and security were essential requirements for economic



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham participates in discussion at Planning Commission Meeting. MNA

Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko views drug eliminating activities photos to mark Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Myanmar Police Force Headquarter. MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—A ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters here today.

In his address, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control called on anti-narcotic bodies

working for opium substitute crops growing, livestock breeding, providing health treatment to drug users, rehabilitation, raising awareness of narcotic drug and supervising controlled chemicals for stepping up their respective efforts while the CCDAC is cooperating with international agencies to combat the drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Manager Mr Jason Eligh read out the message sent by the UN Secretary-General. During the ceremony, wellwishers donated cash to award the winners of the contests to mark the 2013 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

As part of activities

for combating the drug abuse and illicit trafficking, seized drugs worth K 7760 million were incinerated in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay Region, seized drugs worth K 4407 million in Shwepyitha, Yangon Region, and seized drugs worth at K 60947 million were incinerated in Taunggyi, Shan State today.

MNA

It needed to lay sound foundations for political, economic, social and the President called for moving forwards. MNA

Golden Jubilee Myanmar Gems Emporium continues for 12th day

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June— The twelfth day of Golden Jubilee Myanmar Gems Emporium continued at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, this morning.

The Mani Yadana Jade Hall was packed with local and foreign gem merchants who bought jade lots eagerly through the competitive bidding system.

Those from Myanmar

Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association were presented gifts by Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems Enterprise this afternoon.

Deputy Minister U Than Tun Aung and party visited the emporium.

A total of 66 jade lots were sold out today. Tomorrow, 76 jade lots will be sold.—MNA

USDP members, trainees of MDRI visit Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—The 105 trainees of Postgraduate Certificate in Pace, Democracy and Development Course No.4 conducted by Myanmar Development Resources Institute (MDRI) and 52 committee members of Union Solidarity and Development

Party of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region observed seventh regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw that continued its second day session this morning.

Later, they viewed round the Hluttaw Buildings and left here.—MNA

Students in Loilem fed with milk



LOILEM, 26 June—The 217 students were fed with milk at No. 1 Basic Education Primary School in Loilem on 20 June.

The purpose of milk feeding is to improve

intelligent of the students. The milk feeding ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han and wife, officials of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department,

members of WAO and donors U Tu Tu and U R John. It is learnt that the wellwishers will feed the students from all schools in the town.

Kyemon-Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem IPRD)

Peaceful coexistence and amity among all religions discussed in Myawady

MYAWADY, 26 June—A ceremony to discuss to peaceful coexistence and amity among all religions in Myawady was held at the hall of Cedanar Funeral Service Association in Myawady Township on 22 June.

At the ceremony, the chairman Sayadaw of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee made an

opening speech. Then, Staff Officer U Myo Ko Swe of Township Religious Affairs Department and Leader of funeral service association U Hla Tun participated in discussions.

Afterwards, the leaders of Buddhism, Islam and Christianity and townsenders took part in the discussions.

After speaking

conclusion remarks by the Taungkalay Sayadaw, those present posed for a documentary photo.

Kyemon-Nadi Myintmo (Myawady)

Stipends, stationery provided to students

MYITKYINA, 26 June—A ceremony to provide

Fund-raising music concert for development of Inlay Region

NYAUNGSHWE, 26 June—The fund-raising music concert titled “Medium Wave and Brothers” will be staged at the town hall in Nyaungshwe on 13 July, said organizer Thi Yang Su from Pat; X Myanmar Group. The concert is aimed at enabling the people to know requirements of Inlay Region and raising fund, he added. They will perform in Taunggyi, Hopong, Inlay, Kalaw and Aungban Regions and the proceeds will go to the monastic education schools and charity clinics, he continued. Together with Medium Wave Music Band, Vocalists Khaing Htoo, J Maung Maung, Graham, Sue Nit, Thi Yang Su, Nay Yan Lin, May Kha Lar, Yadanar, Khet Khet Yan Aung, Nang KZ, Aye Min Min San and Inn Thway Thit Group will join the concert in Nyaungshwe. Those wishing to donate cash and kind assistance are to contact Ph-09-5228275.

Kyemon-Shwe Htoo (Bago)

CRIME

A man with cable seized in Kywepwe of Ottwin Tsp

OTTWIN, 26 June—A squad led by SIP Min Ko Ko of Kywepwe Police Station in Ottwin Township of Bago Region together with witnesses while on the patrol searched a suspect man holding a knife and pieces of cable near the transformer in Khingyi Ward of Kywepwe at 11.30 pm on 21 June.

They seized eight and a half feet long cable and one 1.5 feet long knife from U Win Myint, 58, son of U Thaug Sein of Kyingyi Ward.

Kywepwe Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him under the law.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

41 oxen, cow seized before illegal trading

YANGON, 26 June—A combined team comprising Police Captain San Myint and party of Taikkyi Police Station and police officers of Udo police outpost and village administrator and party made inspection near mile posts 1/0 and 2/0 on Udo-Aphyauk Road in Udo Village of Taikkyi Township on 23 June.

They seized 40 oxen and one cow, totalling 41 tied at trees of the roadside.

Owner of 26 oxen was Aung San (a) Agyi Lay, 27, of Okkan in Taikkyi

Township, and another 14 oxen and one cow was Myo Aung, 36, of Okkan. Altogether 26 oxen of Aung San were bought by those people nearby villages of Aphyauk and these herd of oxen will be sold at the cattle market in Myaungdaga.

After the investigation, eight persons including Myo Aung and Aung San had no permission from the respective authorities.

Therefore, Taikkyi Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against them under the law.—Kyemon-31

Action taken against reckless driver in Hmawby Tsp

YANGON, 26 June—A vehicle driven by Tun Min, 51 of Mayangon Township heading for Taikkyi from Yangon hit Than Htoo, 45 of Hmawby Township on Yangon-Pyay Road near mile post 38/7 in front of Yegyaw bus stop in Myaungdaga Village of Hmawby Township at 9 am on 23 June.

In the incident, Than Htoo sustained injuries at head, left eyebrow and knee. He died while receiving medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital.

Hmawby police station opened a file of lawsuit against U Tun Min for his reckless driving under the law.—Kyemon-31

NATIONAL SPORTS

Veteran mountaineers, sponsors honoured

YANGON, 26 June—Organized by Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Team of Thabawa Khawthan Foundation, the 18th get-together was held at Royal Rose Restaurant on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township on 23 June.

Chairman of the foundation U Myo Thant extended greetings. Former secretary of the team U Myint Ohn made a speech.

Next, the chairman and responsible persons presented medals of honour and certificates to members of Chin State mountaineering squad of Lower Myanmar Universities and Colleges, pilot mountaineering squad for Mount Khakaborazi, members of mountaineering team for snow-capped Mount Phonyin of Kachin State, members of the team



Chairman of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Team of Thabawa Khawthan Foundation U Myo Thant presents a certificate of honour to a wellwisher.

from Kalaw-Inlay-Kakku region summer endurance trip and sponsors.

Members of the old student committee Ko Hein Thu Aung spoke words of thanks.

Kyemon-Myo Min Thura

stipends and stationery to children of staff was held at Kachin State High Court on 21 June, with an address by Chief Justice U Tu Ja of Kachin State High Court.

Officials presented K 210,000 as stipends to 32 students of staff from State High Court, Myitkyina District and Township Courts and stationery worth K 16,200.

Moreover, K 90,000 was awarded to three distinction winners in the matriculation examination for 2012-2013 academic year.

Also present on the occasion were judges of the State High Court, the Kachin State Judicial Officer and law officers, district and township judges, staff and their offspring.

Kyemon-Moe Kya (Myitkyina)

Beware of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever



REGIONAL

TEPCO to get more support for compensation, aid totals 3.8 tril yen

TOKYO, 26 June —The government decided on Tuesday to provide an additional 666.2 billion yen to Tokyo Electric Power Co so the struggling utility can pay compensation stemming from the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster.

The decision brings the total amount of compensation assistance by a state-backed bailout fund to 3.79 trillion yen, moving closer to the 5 trillion yen ceiling for special government bonds which the fund can convert into cash.

Under the current assistance scheme, the Nuclear Damage Liability Facilitation Fund is allocated

a type of bond from the government that carries no interest and can be cashed when necessary.

TEPCO received a separate capital injection of 1 trillion yen from the government last year to bolster its financial standing, a move that put the utility under de facto state control.

TEPCO needs massive funds not only to compensate people and companies affected by the nuclear disaster, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011, but also to scrap the Fukushima plant's crippled reactors and finance increasing fuel costs for thermal power generation.—*Kyodo News*



A policeman takes part in an anti-chemical terror attack exercise in Seoul, South Korea, on 25 June, 2013. South Korean military, police and government missions participated in the anti-terror exercise, part of the annual training, Hwarang Drill.—XINHUA

Japan welcomes "strong evaluation report" by IOC

TOKYO, 26 June—Japan on Tuesday welcomed a "strong evaluation report" from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Evaluation Commission on Tokyo's bid to host the 2020 summer Olympic Games.

Tsunekazu Takeda, IOC member and President of Tokyo 2020 as well as the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) said at a Press conference held in Tokyo after the announcement of the IOC report that, "We are proud that the report confirms our bid's very strong technical excellence, which offers certainty in uncertain times for sport."

The report which is a technical assessment of the 14 themes included in the Bid Candidature File following the Commission's visit to Tokyo in March 2013, has confirmed that Tokyo 2020 is capable of hosting an excellent Games.

"There can be no doubt that we will deliver and offer the IOC a strong partnership," said Takeda.

Naoki Inose, governor of Tokyo also welcomed the report at the Press conference, saying "I am extremely happy to learn that Tokyo's compact venue plan, quick and reliable transportation system, first-class accommodation, strong financial base, solid security system, and strong hosting ability were rated high by the Evaluation Commission members."

"Between now and the announcement of the Host City decision at the IOC General Assembly in September, Tokyo will continue to give our all to the bid in order to realize our goal of hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Games which inspires the world," Inose said.—*Xinhua*



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (2nd L) and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong (4th L) inspect the guards of honour during a welcoming ceremony at the Government House in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 25 June, 2013. Nguyen Phu Trong arrived in Bangkok on Tuesday evening for three-day official visit to Thailand.—XINHUA

No economic reforms till next general elections: India tells US

NEW DELHI, 26 June—India has confessed to the US that economic reforms, particularly in retail and foreign direct investment, are not possible till next general elections, slated for next year, as the country's Parliament would not approve, sources said on Tuesday.

"This was conveyed bluntly to visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry by the Deputy Chairperson of India's Planning Com-

mission Montek Singh Ahluwalia, during a delegation-level meeting, led by the top American diplomat and Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, at the India-US Strategic Dialogue in the national capital Monday," the sources said.

Kerry, who arrived in India on Sunday on a three-day visit, was apprised by Ahluwalia of the problems of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance gov-

ernment in getting the approval of the Indian Parliament for the proposed economic reforms due to the country's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party's stiff rebuff to them, the sources added.

The US eyes India for greater economic opportunities for its companies. The bilateral trade between the two countries currently stands at 108 billion US dollars.—*Xinhua*

Nepali VP, Chinese state councilor jointly inaugurate road project in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 June—Nepali Vice President Paramananda Jha and visiting Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi on Tuesday jointly inaugurated a Ring Road Improvement Project here. "Chinese support in Ring Road extension is a greater gift from China," Jha said while addressing the ceremony. The Chinese government will provide 40 million US dollars as grant assistance for the first phase of widening the 9 km stretch

of the Ring Road as pilot project. Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Chabbiraj Pant appreciated Chinese support in the development of transportation in Nepal.

"China has been supporting Nepal for the last 40 years in developing major roads and expansion of Ring Road will benefit Nepal," he said. Yang expressed the desire of the Chinese government to work together with Nepal to enhance the

Nepal-China comprehensive partnership of cooperation for mutual benefit. The improvement of Ring Road is expected to ease traffic congestion in Nepal's capital city, which is home to 3.5 million people. Thousands of commuters pass the 27 km Ring Road daily, which links the suburbs of Bhaktapur and Lalitpur Districts adjoining Kathmandu valley.

The opening ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Wu Chuntai in honor of the visiting Chi-

nese delegation led by Yang, before their departure on Tuesday evening.

A technical team of Shanghai Construction Group Company Limited has concluded the survey work to expand the two 1 km long stretches at Balkhu-Kalanki and Ekantakuna-Koteshwore sections of Ring Road. It will take 42 months to complete the construction, according to a design by the Third Railway Survey and Design Institute Group Corporation, a Chinese engineering consultant company.—*Xinhua*

1,300 arrested in Mekong anti-drug campaign

BEIJING, 26 June—Police from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand have arrested 1,300 suspects and seized 3.9 tonnes of drugs during a two-month anti-drug campaign that started in April, the Ministry of Public Security announced on Tuesday. Police confiscated 29 firearms, 797 bullets and 78.7 tonnes of chemicals used to produce drugs during the campaign, according to the ministry.

Police also solved 1,037

drug-related cases in the campaign, the ministry said.

It said the frequent occurrence of drug-related crimes on the Mekong River has been effectively contained. The joint campaign against drug trafficking, titled "Safe River," was carried out from 20 April to 20 June. The Mekong River, which flows through China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, is a major trade route in Southeast Asia.—*Xinhua*



People walk in the rain in Singapore, on 25 June, 2013. A sudden downpour relieved the smoke haze caused by forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia in Singapore on Tuesday afternoon.—XINHUA

Thai, Malaysian tourists to be exempt from visas from next Monday

TOKYO, 26 June—Short-term tourists from Thailand and Malaysia will be exempt from visas from next Monday, while those from the Philippines and Vietnam will be issued with multiple-entry visas good for three years, the Japanese government said on Tuesday. For short-term visitors from Indonesia, the duration of stay on a multiple-entry visa will be extended to 30 days from the current 15 days, effective next Monday, according to the Foreign Ministry.

"I hope these measures will further develop exchanges between Japan and the countries concerned, such as through an increase in the number of tourists to Japan from those countries and greater convenience in business," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a news conference. The visa exemptions will in principle apply to those who hold chip-embedded passports.—*Kyodo News*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



Children's Art Enrichment Programme

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

New OPENING



Date : 29th June 2013(Saturday)
Time : 10am - 12pm
Venue : No. 97, Kabaraye Pagoda Road
 (near Pho Pyone Cho stationery),
 Bahan TSP, Yangon, Myanmar.
Contact : 0949319573, 0949319574

Fun activities for kids

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

The school will open on the First day of July.

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

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

09- 49319573, 09- 49349574

www.globalart.com.mm

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHENG YANG VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHENG YANG VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 VAN BLOOM SHIPPING LTD
 Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) 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 SANG THAI SHIPPING
 CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

MYANMAR YANG TSE COPPER LIMITED
(OVERSEAS TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER NO. (Ref No. CCS-06-13)

Sale of an estimated (1000 metric tons) of Copper Cathode from MYTCL S&K Mine site in Monywa, Myanmar.

CLOSING DATE & TIME: 8th July 2013 at 12:00 noon

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

Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Limited
 70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
 Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1-514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: yangtse@yangtse.com.mm)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 Ministry of Energy
 Proposal for Aviation Fuel Business

1. It is announced that both local firms and foreign firms who are able to incessantly import and sell the aviation fuel that meets the internationally recognized specifications, can submit the proposals to the following address:
 Ministry of Energy
 Office Building No.(6)
 Nay Pyi Taw
2. For more details please contact the following phone numbers during office hours: 067-411135, 067-411053, 067-411136.

Ministry of Energy

Students from Huiwen No1 primary school visit a greenhouse in the botanic garden in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 June, 2013. Students from a biology group of the Huiwen No1 primary school visited Beijing Botanic Garden on Tuesday to enrich their understanding of various plants.
 XINHUA



Five soldiers wounded in S Philippine clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (Philippines), 26 June —Five soldiers were wounded in a clash with leftist rebels in the southern Philippine Province of Zamboanga del Sur, a military official said Wednesday.

According to Lt Col Tangawhon, commanding officer of the 53rd Infantry Battalion, Tuesday's clash

China, India to hold talks on border issues

BEIJING, 26 June—Special representatives from China and India will meet in Beijing from Friday to Saturday to discuss border issues, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Indian National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon will attend the boundary talks, known as the 16th meeting between special representatives on Sino-Indian border issues, according to spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

China and India share a 2,000-km border, which has never been formally delimited. The two began discussing border issues in the 1980s.—Xinhua

Israel behind in OECD ranking of education investment

JERUSALEM, 26 June—Israel's education system scores far below the average among Western countries as far as its public investment on education and class size are concerned, a report issued on Tuesday by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) revealed.

The report, Education at a Glance 2013, analyzed education trends in its 34 member countries and observer countries, and showed that while on average OECD countries spent in 2010 more than 7,500 US dollars per student, Israel's spending was about 5, 100 dollars per

student.

Ranked at the top, Norway invested about 13,414 dollars per student; the United States, about 10,200 dollars; and Britain, around 7,200 dollars. The report also showed that Israel is one of the countries with the most crowded classrooms. On average, an Israeli junior-high class has 28.7 students, compared to an average of 23.3 students in the OECD countries. The situation is even worse among primary schools, as Israeli ranks the lowest in the category among all OECD countries with an average of 27.3 students per class.—Xinhua



A seaman works on the "Xinhai No 19" ro-ro passenger ship which ferries in the Qiongzhou Strait in south China's Hainan Province, on 25 June, 2013. 25 June marks the third International Day of the Seafarer.—XINHUA

in Lakewood town occurred after they received reports that members of the New People's Army were abusing some civilians. He said at least three platoons of soldiers were deployed for offensive operation resulting to a gunfight with rebels. The rebels then detonated landmines, the blast injuring soldiers and rebels.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



Russell Brand was earlier married to singer Katy Perry.—PTI

Russell Brand looking for future wife

LONDON, 26 June—British comedian Russell Brand says he is ready to get married and settle down again. The 38-year-old, who was married to singer Katy Perry for 11 months before parting ways in 2011. “I would like to marry again and have a family. I am looking for my future wife,” mirror.co.uk quoted Brand as saying. Brand also has a list of qualities he wants in his life partner. “I hope she’s kind and sweet and sexually adventurous. I don’t ask for much, do I,” he said. Brand is said to be dating heiress Alessandra Balazs.—PTI

Star Wars director George Lucas marries longtime girlfriend

LOS ANGELES, 26 June—Star Wars creator George Lucas has married his girlfriend of seven years, Melody Hobson. They exchanged vows at the Peninsula Hotel in Chicago. The guest list had fellow movie Director Ron Howard and actor Samuel L Jackson, reports femalefirst.co.uk. After the wedding, Jackson took to Twitter and posted: “Let’s give a Galactic shout out to Master George Lucas & his bride Melody on this their wedding day!! Congrats!” Even Howard congratulated the newlyweds on his Twitter page. He tweeted: “George Lucas Melody Hobson

wedding was joy to behold Bill Moyers service was beautiful, nothing short of profound. Congrats Mr & Mrs Lucas (sic).” Lucas, who also has three adopted children, and businesswoman Hobson, 44, met in 2006 and got engaged in January this year.—PTI



This is the first marriage for Melody and the second for George, whose union with Marcia Lucas lasted from 1969 to 1983.—REUTERS

George Clooney never repeats socks

LOS ANGELES, 26 June—Actor George Clooney says he likes to wear a fresh pair of socks everyday and never puts on the same pair twice even after they are washed.



The Ocean’s Eleven actor donates his socks after wearing them once.—PTI

Clooney is currently dating former wrestler Stacey Keibler, donates the pair to charity instead. “George gets his dirty socks washed and then donates them to a homeless shelter. He just has a thing about wearing the same pair twice,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted a source as saying. PTI

Kristen Stewart gets inked

LOS ANGELES, 26 June—Former Twilight actress Kristen Stewart has become the latest celebrity to show her love for getting inked, as she has been seen flaunting a new tattoo on her right wrist. The 23-year-old got tattooed at the Pride & Glory parlour in Nashville with her friends.



The actress, who is on a road trip with her girlfriends, got the tattoo as a memoir.

The tattoo parlour authorities later posted pictures of the actress on social networking site Facebook, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

When a fan questioned whether it was really Stewart in the pictures who got inked, the tattoo parlour replied “Yes, they all did. She asked us to keep it hush hush”, and added that she is an “humble amaz-

ing soul”. Stewart, who recently broke up with actor Robert Pattinson, is said to be enjoying a road trip with three other friends. She was also spotted in Memphis, Tennessee, Amarillo, Texas and New Orleans,

Louisiana. It is believed that she and her travel companions got tattoos together to commemorate their trip before flying back to Los Angeles from Nashville. PTI

Emma Stone’s amazing beauty trick

MUMBAI, 26 June—The Amazing Spider-Man actress Emma Stone has made an interesting revelation about her beauty secret. She uses baking soda to exfoliate her skin.

“When I want to exfoliate my skin, I simply scrub it with some baking soda,” Elle Magazine quoted the 24-year-old as saying. The star admits she hardly ever works out and says she prefers to practice relaxing techniques like yoga instead, reports con-

tactmusic.com. “At the moment I don’t do that much, but I know I need to change that. I’m trying to get into yoga, I like it and apparently it’s very good for you. As well as yoga, I do a bit of meditation,” said Stone. PTI



Emma Stone

Jessie J to undergo ankle operation

MUMBAI, 26 June—Singer-songwriter Jessica Ellen Cornish, popularly known as Jessie J, says she is going to have an ankle surgery to get a metal plate removed from her left foot. She will undergo the operation in December.

The pain and discomfort she suffers is due to an injury she sustained two years ago when she fell off the stage at Wembley Stadium here.

“I’m getting some time off at Christmas and I’m having surgery to have the plate removed. It is flicking against my bone and is causing a lot of pain,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted Jessie J as saying.

“I hurt my ankle about two years ago and it’s still causing me a lot of discomfort. The foot is still bruised and swells up because it won’t heal, so I’m having the metal taken out,” she said. PTI



Singer-songwriter Jessica Ellen Cornish.—PTI

SPORTS

Keeper Mignolet becomes first Belgian to play for Liverpool

LONDON, 26 June—Goalkeeper Simon Mignolet will become the first Belgian to play for Liverpool after the Premier League club announced his arrival at Anfield on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old former Sunderland keeper completed his medical and signed on a long-term deal after making 90 appearances for the Black Cats since his debut in August 2010.

Mignolet, who has 13 Belgium caps, drew plenty of plaudits in England last season and will add extra competition for a starting berth alongside established goalkeepers Pepe Reina and Australian Brad Jones.

Manager Brendan Rodgers told the official website (www.liverpoolfc.com) that his latest signing would be given opportunities to perform.

"I am delighted that we have been able to sign one of the top goalkeepers

in the Barclays Premier League," said Rodgers.

"Simon will join a club that will give him an opportunity to demonstrate and improve his huge talent."



Mignolet said he was proud to become the first Belgian to be signed by Liverpool.

"I'm very confident in myself and I can't wait to get the first clean sheet under my belt," he said

Liverpool's latest addition is the fourth transfer to

the English club in the close season. Striker Iago Aspas joined from Celta Vigo on Sunday, while Spanish Un-

Belgium's goalkeeper Simon Mignolet fails to save a penalty shoot from Romania's Gabriel Torje (R) during their friendly football match at the National Arena in Bucharest on 14 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

Tevez reaches terms with Juventus - Italian media

LONDON, 26 June—Argentine striker Carlos Tevez has agreed terms to join Serie A champions Juventus from Manchester City, Italian media reported on Tuesday.

The reports said the 29-year-old would sign a three-year contract with the 29-times Italian champions. Juventus did not immediately comment.

Gazzetta dello Sport, Sky Sports Italia, Tuttosport and Corriere dello Sport all said an agreement had been reached following a meeting between officials from the clubs in Manchester, with Juventus expected to pay 12 million euros.

Tevez spent four years at Manchester City after joining them from neighbours United, but it was far from plain sailing.

Although he won a Premiership winner's media in 2011/12, he was also fined and suspended by City after refusing to warm up during a Champions League match at Bayern Munich in 2011.

He has also fallen out of favour with the Argentine national side.

His signing would mark a change in direction by Juventus, who have won the Serie A twice in a row

without a big name forward.

Coach Antonio Conte has rotated between any two of Sebastian Giovinco, Alessandro Matri, Mirko Vucinic and Fabio Quagliarella, who have shared the goals evenly between them.

Tevez began his career at Boca Juniors in Argentina and has also played for Corinthians in Brazil and West Ham United in England.

He has never been far from controversy and was once sent off for Boca after celebrating a goal against River Plate by flapping his arms to imitate a chicken, a reference to that fact Boca fans use "chickens" as a derogatory nickname for their arch-rivals.—Reuters



Manchester City's Carlos Tevez

Inbee the player to beat at US Women's Open



Inbee Park of South Korea holds the trophy after winning the LPGA Golf Championship in Pittsford, New York on 9 June, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 26 June—It is very difficult to look beyond South Korea's Park Inbee as a likely winner of this week's US Women's Open in Sebonack, New York where the world number one will be bidding to clinch her third major crown of the year.

Inbee has dominated the women's game this season, triumphing five times on the US LPGA Tour, and she will tee off in Thursday's opening

round at Sebonack Country Club fresh from victory at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship on Sunday.

"I've played very good golf the last two or three months," Inbee, 24, told reporters at Sebonack on Tuesday while preparing for the third women's major of the year. "Everything's going the way I really want it to." I'm hitting the ball and striking it great and putting it very well. Especially last week, I

hit the ball very well and that gave me a lot of confidence coming into this week.

"This is the best I'm playing in my career so far, and I'm trying to keep this going."

Inbee, who won last month's LPGA Championship at Locust Hill where she beat Briton Catriona Matthew in a three-hole sudden death playoff, is aiming to become only the fourth player to claim three LPGA majors in a single season. Asked if she felt any extra pressure coming into this week, Inbee replied: "I've had a lot of wins this year and that's definitely taken a lot of pressure off of me." Coming into this season after last season I was really doubting myself if I could do as good as last year, but I've done a lot better ... that's taken a lot of pressure off of me, and it's just been helping my game a lot." In-

der-21 player Luis Alberto and former Manchester City defender Kolo Toure have also signed.—Reuters

bee, who at 19 became the youngest ever winner of the US Women's Open with a four-shot victory in the 2008 edition at Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minnesota, triumphed twice on the 2012 LPGA Tour.—Reuters

Ferrer tumbles his way into second round

LONDON, 26 June—Fourth seed David Ferrer was tested by Martin Alund, a man who had never previously played an ATP Tour match on grass, before winning through to the second round at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

Spaniard Ferrer, who took two heavy falls on the slippery Centre Court grass, won 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 in two hours nine minutes and then shrugged off questions about the tumbles.

This year's French open finalist said his left ankle was slightly swollen and

David Ferrer of Spain hits a return to Martin Alund of Argentina in their men's singles tennis match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 25 June, 2013. —REUTERS



painful but he expected to be in perfect condition by his next match.

His falls, in the second and fourth sets, certainly looked dramatic. On the second occasion he cried out in pain before limping back to receive serve, but the ill-effects were short-lived and he went on to break Argentine Alund for a 4-1 lead.

Alund, a clay specialist whose grass-court experience amounts to little more than two qualifying matches at Eastbourne last week, gave Ferrer a hard time in the middle two sets and was helped

to a break in the second by two double faults.

Ferrer, however, got back on top in the final set, winning three successive games to love to go 3-1 up.

The Spaniard, a quarter-finalist here last year, hit four aces in his final two service games, including one to finish off the victory with a flourish. Ferrer, who will now play compatriot Roberto Bautista, said he planned to put ice on his ankle but was not worried about it.

"It's a little bit swollen but I think it's not important—I hope," he told reporters. "After tomorrow I will play 100 (percent) of my condition and if I win, perfect. If I lose, it's going to be because my opponent, he was better than me.—Reuters

Franklin cruises to 100m freestyle win at US trials

INDIANA, 26 June—Four-times Olympic gold medalist Missy Franklin cruised to victory in the 100 metres freestyle at the US national trials in Indiana on Tuesday, booking her spot at the upcoming World Championships in Barcelona.

Franklin, who won four golds at the London Games last year, was the star attraction on the opening night of the event, which serves as the US trials for the 19 July - 4 August World Championships. The 18-year-old set a

personal best, and championship record, time of 53.43 to win her race. "Coming home, (my coach) Todd (Schmitz)

told me to look at the field coming

off the 50 wall and just put my head down and swim it my own way," Franklin told reporters. "That's what I did." Shannon Vreeland finished second in 53.83, followed by Simone Manuel and Megan Romano, who all booked their ticket to Spain.

On the men's side,



Missy Franklin

Reuters

GENERAL



The homepage of China's Renmin University website featured graduation photos of a beautiful girl on 23 June, 2013, winning praises from the netizens who said it creatively showed the atmosphere of the graduation season.—XINHUA

Canada's housing starts to decline this year

OTTAWA, 26 June—Canada's national housing agency, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), said on Tuesday that it expects the country's housing starts to decline in 2013, mostly due to moderation observed in the first half of the year. At the meantime, the agency also expected the pace of home construction to trend slightly higher next year, as employment, economic growth and net migration are forecast to gain momentum later in 2013 and in 2014.

In a news release, CMHC said that Canada's total housing starts are expected to decline from 214,827 units in 2012 to 182,900 in 2013, and then slightly rise to 188,900 in 2014. The agency also said that existing home sales are expected to be at 443,400

units in 2013, lower than 453,372 in 2012, but will rise along with economic conditions to 468,600 in 2014. On the price side, CMHC is expecting a 1.6-percent gain in the country's average housing price to 369,700 Canadian dollars (about 353,565 US dollars) in 2013, and a further 2.1-percent gain to 377,300 Canadian dollars in 2014.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (27-6-13 09:30 am ~ 28-6-13 09:30 am) MST
* Local News
* Welcome to the Southernmost part of Myanmar
* World News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-1)
* Local News
* Those who never give up (In pursuit of...A dream)
* Myanmar Sport Special Canoeing
* Local News
* Food Trip (Episode-2)
* School for the Blind
* Local News
* Myanmar Movie Impact "Yes Boss"
* World News
* A Flower of Music (Win Lei Thu-Vocalist)
* Local News
* A Diary of a Fisherman
* World News
* Wonderful Myanmar Handicrafts from Inlay Lake
* Creator of Imagination
* World News
* Awesome Myanmar Sculptures
* Life In Night...Art In Life (Episode-2)
* Buddha Image Build of Bamboo Strips
* Local News
* A Tea Business: Pankwan
* World News
* Myanmar Traditional Identity (Myanma Chinthe)

Myanmar TV

(27-6-2013, Thursday)

- 6:00 am 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:25 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
6:35 am 3. Dance & Song of National Races
7:00 am 4. News/ Weather Report
7:20 am 5. Teleplay
8:00 am 6. News/International News
8:25 am 7. My Mind Game My SEA Games
9:20 am 8. Mono Classical Songs
10:00 am 9. News
10:15 am 10. Documentary
11:10 am 11. Sing & Enjoy
12:00 am 12. News/International News/Weather Report
12:25 pm 13. Myanmar Video
2:15 pm 14. Musical Programmes
3:00 pm 15. News
3:15 pm 16. Teleplay
4:00 pm 17. News
4:15 pm 18. Dance of National Races
4:40 pm 19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Phlosophy)
5:00 pm 20. News
5:15 pm 21. Road to 27th SEA Games (Billiards & Snooker)
5:30 pm 22. India Drama Series
6:00 pm 23. News/ Weather Report
6:20 pm 24. Documentary
7:00 pm 25. News
7:15 pm 26. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm 27. News/International News/Weather Report
8:35 pm 28. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
8:45 pm 29. Hit Songs of Stars
9:00 pm 30. News
31. CLEVER
32. Coiffure & Attire of Myanmar Ladies (Yadanabon Period)
33. TV Drama Series

Serena and Djokovic avoid doing a Rafa

LONDON, 26 June—Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic proved shock-proof as a sense of order was restored on Tuesday after the tremors that rumbled around Wimbledon on opening night following Rafa Nadal's defeat. The top seeds limbered up on a sunny Centre Court with easy first-round wins to get their challenges underway, with Williams overpowering Luxembourg's Mandy Minella 6-1, 6-3, before Djokovic dispatched German Florian Mayer in straight sets.

A day that began with Belgium's Steve Darcis waking up as the sport's latest giant-slayer after his shock first round defeat of 12-times major champion Nadal on Monday, continued in far less dramatic fashion at the All England club. The 31-year-old Williams pocketed the first set in 19 minutes against Minella and despite a slight hiccup in the second when she double-faulted to drop serve, her 32nd consecutive victory was as straightforward as they come.

Likewise, Djokovic as he outmaneuvered Mayer, a player just outside the top 32 seeds and who he faced in the quarter-finals last year, for a 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 victory. Nadal's fourth-seeded compatriot David Ferrer, who he beat to win an eighth French Open, completed a far-from-memorable Centre Court programme with a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 win against Argentina's Martin Alund despite several tumbles. Other men's seeds also flourished with Czech 2010 runner-up Tomas Berdych, Argentine 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, Germany's Tommy Haas and talented Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov all enjoying straight sets wins. In the women's draw, last year's runner-up Agnieszka Radwanska, Li Na, Samantha Stosur and Angelique Kerber all progressed but 10th seed Maria Kirilenko's form in reaching the French Open last eight vanished as she suffered a surprise 6-3, 6-4 defeat by Britain's Laura Robson. Robson's win

stanch a flow of defeats for home players which had threatened to leave Andy Murray as the only surviving Briton in the second round. Big-serving American Sam Querrey, the 21st seed, also suffered a first-round exit, losing in five sets to Australian Bernard Tomic, having battled back from two sets down. Williams said she had been "really sad" at Nadal's exit, something she put down to the quick change from the claycourts of Paris to Wimbledon's slick lawns, a transition she said had left her feeling a bit rusty on Ladies Day. "I played a lot of matches on clay this year, more than I've played I think ever," she said. Djokovic had not played a competitive match since losing an epic French Open semi-final to Nadal earlier this month and was clearly relieved to have avoided any early stress. The Serb did not drop a single service game as he clicked effortlessly through the gears but said Nadal's defeat served as a warning that nothing can be taken for granted. "In the opening rounds it's very dangerous for top players who haven't been playing on grasscourt matches this year before Wimbledon," Djokovic said. "You know, the sport is evolving, like everything in life. Everybody is getting better, getting more professional. "Especially at grand slams there are a lot of quality players who have nothing to lose really coming on Centre Court or Court One playing in front of 10,000 or more people."—Reuters



No plan to hold by-elections for constituencies with few vacant seats*Hluttaw representatives seen at seventh regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—Two urgent proposals were approved at seventh regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw today.

U Thien Lwin of Chauk Constituency submitted an urgent proposal praising the Union government, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives, respective departments and organizations and persons by Pyithu Hluttaw for successful holding of World Economic Forum on East Asia-2013 for the first time in Myanmar.

U Myo Swe of Tanai Constituency submitted an urgent proposal urging the Union government to choose telecommunication operators only after Telecommunications Law has been promulgated.

With regard to the question of U Ko Gyi of Aungmyethazan Constituency on harmful effects to palm oil (Cloud Point 8) imported through normal trade, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint replied that the ministry has allowed

the importation of oil (minimum Iodine value 58) and (maximum cloud point 8 °C). Oil consumption depends on consumers' private choices.

"Saturated fat is same as palm oil. According to the experts, it can be harmful to health. So, it needs to make tests in detail," U Ko Gyi said.

Regarding the questions on if there is no plan to hold free and fair by-elections in vacant constituencies and to designate a specific time

period for by-elections, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye replied that the commission has planned to hold by-elections occasionally at appropriate vacant constituencies. The UEC is carrying out main preparation works for holding the free and fair 2015-Elections in cooperation with political parties, CSOs and departments. There is no any plan to hold free and fair by-elections for the constituencies with few

vacant seats.

By-elections will be held at a designated period when Pyidaungsu Hluttaw prescribed laws for specific time period for by-elections.

The number of vacant seats after the first by-elections is 15—six Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, four Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and five

Region/State representatives.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint submitted Bill amending The Eye Donation Law. And Bill Committee member Dr Soe Moe Aung read out committee's report. The third day meeting will continue tomorrow.

MNA

U Kyaw Tin presents Credentials to Cuban Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 27 June—U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Cuba, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Ms. Gladys Maria Bejerano Portela, Vice President of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, on 20 June 2013 in Havana.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Monsoon Cup Invitational Golf Tournament on 4-7 July

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—Men and Women (Amateur) Nay Pyi Taw Monsoon Cup Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at Royal Myanmar Golf Course here from 4 to 7 July. Food and accommodation of golfers will be arranged with special prices.

Those wishing to compete in the tournament are to register at Gold Camp of the Ministry of Sports (Ph-067-422136), Myanmar Golf Federation (Ph-01-9669526 and 09-43095678), Royal Myanmar Golf Course (Ph-067-414045) along with K 20,000 entrance fee, not later than 10 am on 1 July.—Aye Than

Proposal on free medical services discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 June—Seventh Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for second day. Hluttaw decided to approve the formation of friendship associations with parliaments of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, Australia and France and name lists of presidents, secretaries and members of the associations.

With regard to the question on quality and specification of Union Highways and regional development roads, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied that the ministry has built sections of Union Highways in accord with designated loads and technical specification. Use of designated axial loads and regular maintenance of roads would be 10-year life span for surface of tar roads

and 20-year for concrete roads.

The ministry also built tar roads and gravel roads across the country in line with designated pavement designs and geometric designs. Engineers Incharge are carrying out maintenances of roads under the supervision of the quality control group. He called for mindsets change for maintenance of roads and bridges.

Hluttaw decided to discuss a proposal on Early Child Care and Development Bill submitted by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe.

Eleven representatives discussed the proposal on urging the Union government to offer free medical services as part of poverty alleviation tasks

*Seventh Regular Session of First Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.—MNA*

which is submitted by Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.5.

After that, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay discussed the

proposal.

Hluttaw decided to put the proposal on record. The

3rd day meeting will go on tomorrow.

MNA