Myanmar immigration, Interpol enhance security cooperation prior to ASEAN Summit

By Ye Myint

Myanmar Immigration officers are working together with a team of experts from the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) at Yangon International Airport as of 3 May, as Assistant Director Aung Th tha of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, who is also the Head of Airport Immigration, confirmed the deployment of ICPO officers at the airport ahead of the ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw while giving a brief interview to The New Light of Myanmar on Monday.

The team is comprised of three Interpol officials—two male and one female officer from the Republic of Korea, Canada and Slovenia. Their main responsibility is to screen for suspects as part of the counter-terrorism activities in cooperation with the Airport Immigration, said the assistant director who has led Airport Immigration since four years ago.

According to Air- database and passport readers being used in screening arriving foreign passengers at each immigration counter, said Aung Ththa.

He elaborated on the past cooperation with Interpol that an Interpol Major Event Support Team (MEST) was deployed for taking security measures ahead of and during the 27th SEA Games. Interpol gave eight Myanmar Immigration officials including me a course to use the passport screening system that offer a network to have access to Interpol’s database last year, he told The NLM.

Myanmar will host XXIV ASEAN Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 and 11 May. Interpol headquartered in Lyon, France is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations. It is facilitating global police cooperation with an annual budget of around £70 million contributed by its membership of 190 countries.

The INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) for Myanmar is housed at the Myanmar Police Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw, concentrating its activities on the fight against drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering and terrorism.

Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition on 12-14 May

Myanmar on 12-14 May—The Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition on 12-14 May at Mani Yadana Jade Hall (Jade Sales Hall), in Nay Pyi Taw, will be staged from 12 to 14 May.

Textile and silkware made in Amarapura of Mandalay Region, the textile made of lotus thread in Inlay of Shan State, traditional textiles of national people, tapestry wares, silverware and lacquerware, various sizes of umbrellas made in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region and jade and various items of jewellery will be displayed for sales at the exhibition.

The exhibition will be kept open from 9 am to 8 pm daily. Admission is free.—MNA

MPT to sell new stamps to mark ASEAN chairmanship of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—In commemoration of the ASEAN chairmanship of Myanmar in 2014, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology will sell two new stamps worth K100 each at region/state/district and township communication stations (post offices) at 9.30 am on 8 May.

As a special programme, the new stamps bought on 8 May will be sealed at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon and Mandalay post offices.—MNA

Moderate earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Thailand) about 290 miles southeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 17 hrs 41 min 28 sec MST on Monday, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA
Low-cost housing project under implementation in Myitkyina

Myitkyina, 5 May—Under the supervision of Kachin State government, Rural Development Department is taking responsibility for construction of the low-cost housing project at the foot of Inkhaibum Hill in Myitkyina.

During the inspection tour, Kachin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U B Htaw Zoung, Development Affairs Minister U Alay Pa and Social Affairs Minister Daw Bauk Ja instructed officials to build education, health and religious buildings and sports ground and parks in the project.

Under the project 200 houses are to be built in 2012-13 fiscal year and 68 houses in 2013-14 fiscal year. The housing is named Ngwepyaw Model Village.

Pyawbwe residents enjoy sufficient water from newly built dams, lakes

Pyawbwe, 5 May—Under the supervision of Mandalay Region government, Irrigation Department has already dredged 12 lakes in Pyawbwe Township of Mandalay Region before the rainy season.

The construction of the irrigation facilities started on 1 January 2014. Bon Lake, Uyiin Lake, Kyaung Lake, Kyar Lake, Thayet-tan Lake, Thebin Lake, Kyaungbanpin Lake, Mi-

phaya Lake, Kantha Lake, Thanathkhataw Lake, Set-tawya lake and Thebok Lake in the township are now supplying potable water to the residents sufficiently. The Irrigation Department has built conduits and spillways.

The department continues construction of 13 village lakes, conduits, spillways, sluice gates and canals. Spending K 40 million of rural development fund of the Mandalay Region, Bawdipin Dam is under construction in Phettaw Village of Pyawbwe Town-

ship. The dam is located at the confluence of Bawdipin Creek and Pinnganpin Creek near Phettaw Village. On completion, the dam will benefit 541 acres of farmlands and 403 acres of croplands from surrounding villages.

Farmers demand compensation for croplands where natural gas pipeline passes

Ngaphe, 5 May—Myan-

mar-China natural gas pipeline passes Bonbaw Village of Ngaphe Town-

ship, Magway Region.

Croplands of local farmers on which the pipelines are to be laid are cleared.

About 180 local farmers led by U Thein Naing Oo of Linte Village marched along Minbubu-An Road from Bonbaw Village junction to the football ground of Gokkyi Village, expressing their wishes to get compensations for the croplands. They also highlighted environmental conservation.

Bogale, 5 May—Most of the fish in both fresh water and seawater can be caught inland and offshore the nation all the year round.

Now is time to catch a giant sea fish (Kathabaung) identified Lates calcarifer since January of fishery season. Although the fish can be caught to some extent, its price is higher than the previous year. So, fishery work of catching a giant sea fish (Kathabaung) identified Lates calcarifer is cost effectiveness, said U Aung Wai Lin, a fishery entrepreneur of Kadonkani Village in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Now, Kathabaung, the species of sea fish, can be caught at the sea of delta area. Price of fish depends on its weight. Kathabaung fish is categorized to four levels of price. Fishermen sell above 3.5 viss fish per K 7000, 3 viss fish per K 6000, 2.50 viss fish per K 5000 and the fish weighing 2.5 viss to 70 ticals per K 4000. One viss is equal to 16 kg.

Local farmers expect to catch a large amount of fish at the end of May in early monsoon. If they catch the fish in large amount as they expected in the early monsoon and price of fish is stable, the fisheremn will fetch higher benefit in fishery industry this season, said entrepreneur U Aung Wai Lin.

Giant fish Lates calcarifer fetches high price in market

Kyaw Zayya (Magway)

Shwe Don Thar
President U Thein Sein felicitates President of the State of Israel

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 6 May 2014.—MNA

Senior General urges BGF members to keep alive genuine patriotism

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Senior General Min Aung Hlaing urged members of Border Guard Forces to work in the interest of the state and the Tatmadaw. He was speaking at the ceremony to commission the members of the central advisory and supervisory committee of the BGF as honorary officers at the Bayint Naung Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

The senior general said, “Our country is a union which is made up of over one hundred national races. The soul of unitary states is non-disintegration of the union and the national solidarity. All our national brethren are to protect our country that was inherited as a union from our ancestral leaders of national races so that it can stand as long as the world exists. Genuine patriotism means keeping alive of the union spirit no matter wherever one lives in the union. Only the union spirit is the genuine patriotism all the national races must preserve forever. Let’s all work in the interest of the state and the Tatmadaw. “It is stipulated in section 338 of the State Constitution that all the armed forces in the Union shall be under the command of the Defence Services. In accordance with the state constitution, armed national race organizations have been formed into 23 BGF troops and 84 people’s militia groups since 28 April 2009. Such endeavours are the practical implementation of the internal peace,” he explained. High ranking military officers read out the appointment orders for honorary officers and the honorary officers of the BGF expressed their thanks. —MNA

Media accreditation cards to be issued on 9 May

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—The media accreditation cards will be issued to local and foreign correspondents who have registered through on line to cover the news of the 24th ASEAN Summit to be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 and 11 May. The cards are available at the assembly hall of the Office 7 of the Ministry of Information from 10 am to 5 pm on 9 May (Friday). Arrangements have been made for local and foreign media to take accommodation at Mannmyanmar Hotel and Sky Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. For further information, those wishing to make reservation may contact afom@skypalace.asia and 067-422122–129 of Sky Palace Hotel and mannmyanmarhotel@gmail.com and 067-422131–134 of Mannmyanmar Hotel.—MNA

Vice-President flies to northern Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmone pose for documentary photo with cleft tip and palate children in Lashio.—MNA

Yangon Region Advocate-General meets Japanese guest

YANGON, 5 May—Yangon Region Advocate-General U Kyaw Moe Naing met Senior Vice Minister of Justice of Japan Shinsuke Okuno on 2 May and discussed judicial system of Myanmar.—MNA

Media registration for ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—The ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) of Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www.asean2014.gov.mm to fill in the Media Registration Form. The registration must be made not later than 15 May. The media accreditation cards will be issued at MICC on 19 May. Foreign correspondents are to apply for visas to cover the Summit news at the respective Myanmar embassies. Please dial 067-404425 of the Ministry of Defence for further information about the summit and 067-412126 at the News and Periodicals Enterprise for news coverage of locally based foreign news agencies and local media.—MNA
**Sinn Fein’s Gerry Adams urges calm after release**

**BELFAST, 5 May — Northern Ireland police released Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams from custody on Sunday and the Sinn Fein leader sought to calm fears that his four-day detention could destabilize the British province by pledging his support to the peace process.**

Police arrested Adams on Wednesday over the 1972 murder of Jean McConville, an Irish republican. I want to live in a peaceful Ireland. I’ve never dissociated myself from the IRA and I never will, but I am glad that I and others have created a peaceful and democratic way forward for everyone. The IRA is gone, finished.”

Adams’ arrest over the killing of McConville was among the most significant in Northern Ireland since a 1998 peace deal ended decades of tit-for-tat killings by Irish Catholic nationalists and mostly Protestant loyalists. In the predominant- ly Protestant Sandy Row area of Belfast, police said they had dealt with one disorder when a number of petrol bombs and stones were thrown. Nobody was believed to have been injured, a police spokesman said.

The Sinn Fein leader, who is a member of parliament in the Irish republic, has been dogged throughout his career by accusations from former IRA fighters that he was involved in its campaign of killings, a charge he has repeatedly denied. McConville, who was accused by the IRA of being an informer for the British, an allegation her family has always denied, was dragged away in front of her children, one of 15 people living in strongly republican areas who were spirited away by the IRA and dumped in unmarked graves.

The killing has haunted Adams and has been raised repeatedly in interviews during his transformation from the face of Irish militant nationalism to mild-mannered politi- cian. Police said it would now send a file to the public prosecutor. Under the 1998 Good Friday agreement, which drew a line under 30 years of sectarian strife in the British province, those convicted of paramilitary murders during the conflict would have life sentences reduced to two years.

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**Ukraine moving special forces to control Odessa**

**ODessa, (Ukraine) 5 May — Ukraine’s Interior Minister said on Monday he had drafted a new special forces unit into the southern port city of Odessa after the “outrageous” failure of police to tackle pro-Russian separatists in a weekend of violence that killed dozens.**

Fighting continued near the eastern city of Slaviansk where Ukrainian troops have been, somewhat tentatively, pressing a campaign to end pro-Russian rebellion. A Reuters correspondent said gunfire seemed to be coming closer to the city centre.

The violence in Odessa, a southwestern port with a broad ethnic mix from Ukrainians and Georgians to Georgians and Tatars, is seen as something as a turning point in Kiev; a warn- ing of dangers if rebellion spreads beyond the Rus- sian-speaking east.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said the new Odessa force was based on “civil activists who wanted to help the Black Sea city “in these difficult days”. The entire leadership of the local police had been sacked and could face criminal action. The Odessa violence was the deadliest since Moscow-oriented presi- dent Viktor Yanukovich fled to Russia in February and pro-Russian militant launched uprisings in the industrial east.

“The police in Odessa acted outrageously, possi- bly in a criminal fashion,” Avakov said on his Facebook page. The ‘honour of the uniform’ will offer no cover.” Ukrainian leaders have made it clear they see the police force across wide areas of the country as unreliable in the face of rebellion they say is backed by Mos- cow and led on the ground by Russian special forces. The units Avakov referred to emerged partly from the uprising against Yanuk- ovich early this year.

That could fuel anger among the government’s opponents, who accuse it of promoting “fascist” mil- itant groups, such as Right Sector, which took part in the Kiev uprising over the winter.

Loss of control of Odessa would be a huge economic and political blow for Kiev, which accuses Moscow of scheming to dis- member Ukraine, a country the size of France.

Odessa, a city of a mil- lion people, with a grand history as the cosmopolitan gateway for the tsars’ empire, has two ports, including an oil terminal, and is a key transport hub.

It would also height- en Western concern that Ukraine, already culturally divided between an indus- trial, Russian-speaking east and a more westward look- ing west, could disintegrate. As well as humanitarian problems that could entail, neighboring NATO and EU coun- tries would face a deep crisis in relations with Mos- cow, which supplies much of Western countries’ ener- gy via Ukraine.— Reuters

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**Putin, Merkel discuss Ukraine, gas supply in telephone call**

**MOSCOW, 5 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ger- man Chancellor Ange- la Merkel discussed the Ukraine crisis in a tele- phone call and stressed the importance of “effective international action” to re- duce tension, the Kremlin said on Sunday. The leaders also dis- cussed the supply of Rus- sian gas and its transit, based on the results of a recent meeting in Warsaw. In Warsaw on Friday, Rus- sia threatened to cut natural gas supplies to Ukraine in June if it receives no pre- payment in an escalating row between Moscow, Ukraine and the European Union over energy sup- plies.— Reuters

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** IMF praises Portugal’s fiscal, economic reform**

**WASHINGTON, 5 May — International Mone- tary Fund (IMF) Man- aging Director Christine Lagarde spoke highly of Portuguese govern- ment’s efforts to con- solidate fiscal order and implement structural re- forms on Sunday, as the country has decided to end the bailout program by the international lender. “The Portuguese au- thorities have established a strong track record of policy implementation to address the country’s long-standing structural problems. This bodes well as Portugal exits its EU/ IMF-supported pro- gramme,” Lagarde said in a statement.—Xinhua
India's Modi reiterates his strong stance against illegal immigrants

KOLKATA/ NAYA NAGAR (India), 5 May — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the prime ministerial front-runner in India's state assembly elections from Diva, in suburban Mumbai on Sunday reiterated his strong stance against illegal immigrants, just days after a wave of sectarian killings in the north-eastern state of Assam. India is in the home stretch of a five-week election, which has heightened ethnic and religious tensions in many parts of the country and in which Modi’s opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) looks set to emerge as the biggest group.

India deployed troops in Assam on Saturday after more than 30 Muslims were gunned down in three days of what police said were attacks by Bodo tribal militants, who resist the presence of settlers they claim are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Modi has repeatedly called for tighter border controls and last week said illegal immigrants from Bangladesh living in Assam is making the state of West Bengal should have their “bags packed” in case he came to power. At a rally on Sunday he accused the West Bengal state government of being soft on illegal immigrants because it was looking to secure votes from ethnic and religious minorities.

“You are concerned about infiltrators and not your own people ... they must go back, they are robbing the youths of India of their livelihood,” Modi told the rally in the state, which borders Assam.

Police on Sunday said the death toll from the As-sam attacks now stood at 34 after they found the bodies of two 30-year-old women floating in the Beki River near Naryanguri village, where the worst of the att-acks took place. A man’s body was found elsewhere in the same district. All of the victims were Muslims.

Fifteen people have been arrested in connection with the attacks, including 10 forest guards employed by the state government and five former militants, police said. Bodo tribesmen have long argued many of the Muslims in their part of Assam state are illegal immigrants encroaching on ancestral lands.

In 2012, clashes erupted in which dozens of peo-ple were killed and 400,000 fled their homes. Assam also has a history of armed groups fighting for greater autonomy or secession from India. On Saturday, Prime Minis-ter Mammanho Sin-gh of the ruling Congress party condemned the latest attacks in Assam. Law Min-ister Kapil Sibal accused Modi of making divisive comments.

“This violence has a long history,” BJP spokes-person MJ Akbar said on Sunday. “This knee-jerk reaction of blaming Nar-endra Modi for everything is absurd.” Bangladesh’s Information Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Modi’s latest speech.

UN Security Council slams deadly terrorist attack in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, 5 May — The UN Security Council on Sunday strongly condemned a deadly bomb explosion in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, calling it a terrorist attack, and reiterated its support for the peace and reconcili-cation process in the coun-try.

“The members of the Security Council condemn in the strongest terms yester-day’s terrorist attack in Mogadishu, Somalia, for which Al Qaeda has claimed responsibility and has caused numerous deaths and inju ries,” said a statement issued to the press here by the 15-nation UN body. According to re-por ts, a roadside bomb ex-plo ded in a busy conjunc-tion in the Somali capital on Saturday, killing at least six people and wounding more than seven others.

Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab said it carried out the attack, targeting the vehicle of a prominent for-mer government official, who was killed.

The number of att-acks in Mogadishu has increased in recent months. Many have been blamed on the al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Shabaab, which seeks to impose its version of Is-lamic law, was driven out of bases in the capital more than two years ago, but has continued to control swathes of countryside and smaller towns.

In its statement, the Security Council members ex-pressed their condole-nces to the families of the vic-tims as well as the people and government of Somala-ia, and wished a swift re-cover to those injured.

The members of the Security Council re-affirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifes-tations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and se-curity, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifyable regardless of their motivation, where-ever and whenever and by whomsoever committed,” said the statement.

The Council also re-iterated its determination to combat all forms of ter-rorism and underlined “the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice.”

It further “urged all states, in accordance with their obligations under in-ternational law and relevant resolu-tions, to cooperate actively with the Somali authorities in this regard,” the state-ment said.—Xinhua

At least 19 killed, over 130 injured in Maharashtra train accident

NEW DELHI, 5 May — At least 19 people were killed and more than 130 injured when a passenger train was detailed in Mah-areshtra on Sunday, police said. The accident took place in Raigad District, around 100 km (60 miles) south of Mumbai, when the engine and some of the coaches of the train came off the tracks on Sunday morning.

The train was travelling from Diva, in suburban Mumbai, to Sawantwadi, close to the beach resort state of Goa. The exact cause of the accident was not yet known.

Police in Raigad said on Sunday night that 19 people had been killed and 132 injured.

The Konkan Railway Corporation, the govern-ment-owned company that operates the railway line, said five people died and 13 other people were injured. The accident occurred when a train struck a doctor who was travelling on the track, police said.

The train, which was carrying about 200 passengers, was travelling between Wadgaon and Khed villages. The track was closed for about an hour and a half, police said.

Rescuers and police stand next to damaged coaches of a passenger train after it derailed near Nadi village in Maharashtra on 4 May. — Reuters
South Africa’s ANC vows to extend rule, rivals promise election ‘shock’

JOHANNESBURG, 5 May — South Africa’s ruling ANC predicted it would sweep national elections this week on promises to build more houses, create jobs and eradicate inequality, but opponents warned of a shock for a party they said was arrogant after 20 years in power.

An Ipsos poll in the Sunday Times newspaper suggested the ANC would win 63.9 percent of the vote, down from 65.9 percent five years ago and short of the two-thirds majority needed in parliament to push through changes to the constitution.

Analysts and critics say Nelson Mandela’s movement has lost support due to rising anger among its mainly black supporters over the slow delivery of adequate housing, sanitation, quality education and jobs.

“The ANC lives, the ANC leads. We will be victorious on 7 May,” President Jacob Zuma told tens of thousands of supporters at the African National Congress’s final rally ahead of Wednesday’s vote, where it should gain another five-year mandate to govern. “The ANC has the history, experience, political will, capacity and the determination to ... take South Africa forward,” said Zuma, dressed in yellow, green and black party regalia.

He told a packed Johannesburg stadium that the party would focus the next five years on improving education and health, developing rural areas, pressing on with land reform, fighting crime, creating jobs and transforming an economy still saddled with racial inequalities.

The Ipsos poll suggested the main opposition Democratic Alliance would increase its share of the vote to 23.7 percent from 16.7 percent. The Economic Freedom Fighters, a radical leftist party led by former ANC youth leader Julius Malema, was expected to garner 4.7 percent in its election debut.

Malema on Sunday reiterated his party’s intent to nationalize the country’s mines, provide free education and enforce a minimum wage, messages that have resonated with poor blacks resentful that whites still control the bulk of the economy two decades after the end of white-minority rule.

At a Democratic Alliance rally on Saturday, party chiefs said Zuma’s administration, dogged by charges of rampant corruption, had veered off track and failed to build on progress made under Mandela, South Africa’s first black president, and his successor Thabo Mbeki.

“The ANC has become arrogant because they believe that the voters will carry on voting for them, whatever they do. Well, they are in for a big shock on Wednesday,” party leader Helen Zille told supporters.

Zuma’s personal approval rating ahead of the vote has been dented by a report by South Africa’s top anti-corruption watchdog that he benefited unduly from a $21 million state-funded security upgrade to his private home.

Yemeni army in heavy fighting; six soldiers die in suicide blast

SANAA, (Yemen), 5 May — Yemeni army soldiers fire rockets at mountainous positions of al-Qaeda militants on 4 May, 2014. Picture taken on 2 May, 2014. —Reuters

Yemen said at least 37 al-Qaeda militants were killed in the southern province of Shabwa on Sunday as the army intensified an offensive to root out foreign and local Islamist fighters holed up in some of the country’s most penetrable areas.

The report by state news agency Saba came shortly after a military source told Reuters a suicide bomber killed six soldiers by their outpost in Shabwa, one of two provinces where the army has been fighting al-Qaeda and its allies.

The source, speaking from the battlefield, also told Reuters that 20 soldiers were wounded in the bombing.

The number of attacks against the army and security forces in the south has risen sharply since Yemen’s US-backed army launched its anti-al-Qaeda offensive last week.

Western countries fear further destabilization in Yemen, which also faces separatists in the south and unrest in the north, could give more space to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the local branch of the global Islamist militant movement, to plot attacks on international targets.

Washington has used drones for several years to kill members and leaders of the group. In April, air strikes — presumed to have been carried out chiefly by US drones — were launched on central and southern provinces of Yemen, which Yemeni authorities said killed some 65 al-Qaeda militants.

Saba quoted a military source as saying that most of the militants killed in Sunday’s fighting were Saudis, Afghans, Somalis and Chechens, as well as other nationalities.

The source also said the army destroyed a number of vehicles and weapons belonging to the militants.

President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi said in a speech last week that 70 percent of al-Qaeda fighters in Yemen were foreigners, although AQAP later denied this.

Separately the defence ministry website said security forces had destroyed a vehicle carrying several “terrorists”, killing two of them and wounding four in Shabwa.

Thousands flee Syria rebel infighting

BEIRUT, 5 May — Fighting between al-Qaeda’s Syrian branch and a splinter group in eastern Syria has forced more than 60,000 people to flee their homes, emptied villages and killed scores of fighters, a monitoring group said.

Fighting from the al-Qaeda branch, the Nusra Front, also arrested a rebel commander from a more moderate group and several other insurgent leaders in a southern province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Infighting among insurgents has undermined the three-year-old rebellion against President Bashar al-Assad and killed thousands of people since the start of the year.

The conflict has pitted hardline Islamists against more moderate insurgents, but disputes over turf and resources have also turned radical factions against one another, most recently in the oil-producing eastern province of Deir al-Zor.

The British-based Observatory said the Nusra Front had taken over control of the town of Abbeesa from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a former al-Qaeda affiliate formally disowned by the group this year.—Reuters

Supporters of South Africa’s President Jacob Zuma’s ruling African National Congress (ANC) cheer during their party’s final election rally in Soweto, on 4 May, 2014.—REUTERS

A resident walks past damaged buildings in the Damascus suburb of Zamalka on 2 May, 2014. Picture taken on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS
Panama leader’s deputy-turned-rival wins presidency

Panama City, 5 May — Panama’s vice-president, running as an opposition candidate, won the presidential election on Sunday after a campaign in which he took credit for outgoing leader Ricardo Martinelli’s successful economic policies while promising a cleaner government.

Juan Carlos Varela of the centre-right Panamenista Party (PP) helped Martinelli get elected as president in 2009 but later fell out with him. He has vowed to tackle corruption, lower inflation and reduce poverty.

Varela had 39 percent support with about 80 percent of votes counted, enough for a comfortable victory over his two main rivals, Jose Domingo Arias or the ruling Democratic Change party (CD) and left-leaning former Panama City mayor Juan Carlos Navarro of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD).

“Better times are on the way. There will be an honest, humane government of national unity, a government of social peace,” Varela told Reuters at a Panama City hotel after the election tribunal declared him the winner.

Varela ran a campaign largely based around claiming credit for Martinelli’s successes, including a popular programme to give $120 a month to people over the age of 70 and outside the social security system, and infrastructure projects such as the Panama City metro.

Under Panamanian law, Martinelli was unable to seek re-election but his wife was Arias’ vice presidential running mate and critics accused the outgoing president of trying to maintain control of Panama behind the scenes.

He blamed the media for his protégée’s defeat, accusing them of spreading lies. He was also unable to contain his scorn for Martinelli, a supermarket magnate, who died in an apparent suicide bombing at a train station last week, a state-run newspaper said on Saturday.

China hunting family members of Xinjiang bombers: paper says

Beijing, 5 May — Police in China’s restive far western region of Xinjiang are looking for the family members of one of the men who died in an apparent suicide bombing at a train station last week, a state-run newspaper said on Monday.

The Chinese government has blamed religious extremists for carrying out a bomb and knife attack at a train station in Urumqi, regional capital of Xinjiang, on Wednesday evening that killed one bystander and wounded 79.

Both attackers were killed in the blast, according to the government. In an embarrassing security lapse, the attack happened just as President Xi Jinping was wrapping up his first visit to Xinjiang since becoming president last year.

The newspaper identified one of the attackers as Sedirdin Sawut, a 39-year-old man from Xayar county in Xinjiang’s Aksu region. The man is a member of the Muslim Uighur minority, judging by his name.

The Global Times, an influential tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party’s official People’s Daily, said police are now looking for Sawut’s wife, father, two cousins and his father-in-law, who seem to have gone missing after the attack.

They are all suspected of helping Sawut in the attack, the newspaper said, citing anonymous Xinjiang police officers.

Police are also looking for two other men who may have been involved in making the bombs, both of whom knew Sawut and also come from the same county, the report added.

Amari denies Japan-US accord on TPP

Tokyo, 5 May — Japan and the United States have yet to reach a broad agreement in bilateral talks on the envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, Japan’s TPP minister Akira Amari said on Monday.

Echoing weekend remarks by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Amari said the two countries “have yet to agree on final figures” in the bilateral TPP talks.

Abe spoke to reporters at Haneda airport before leaving for Paris to attend a two-day ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development from Tuesday.

Abe, who is on a six-nation tour of Europe, said on Saturday, “Whatever the definitions of words are, we (Japan and the United States) have yet to reach a broad agreement” on the TPP.

Abe and US President Barack Obama did not announce a TPP agreement after recent summit in Tokyo, although they said in a joint statement that the two sides “identified a path forward” on important issues, marking “a key milestone” in the TPP negotiations.

Iran says successfully test-fires air defence system

Tehran, 5 May — Iran said it successfully test-fired on Sunday an air defence system capable of destroying different types of modern fighter jets and drones, local media reported. During the test, conducted at the Khuzam al-Anbya Air Defence Base, the mid-altitude missile system successfully targeted an unmanned aerial vehicle with an indigenous missile, the semi-official Fars news agency reported, quoting the base’s commander, Brig Gen Farzad Emami.

China has already successfully test-fired an air defence system. This one is capable of destroying different types of modern fighter jets and drones.
Manin beauty stars to perform traditional dance

Nang Khin Zay Yar, the winner of Miss Myanmar 2012 beauty pageant, comedian Kyaw Htoo and Miss Supranational Myanmar Wint Wah.—PHOTO: KTL

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Nang Khin Zay Yar, the winner of Miss Myanmar 2012 beauty pageant, and Miss Supranational Myanmar Wint Wah will perform traditional dance at the People’s Park and People’s Square here on 1 June.

The two celebrities will take part in the entertainment programme titled ‘Miss Myanmar Internet Traditional Dance Troupe’, the organizers said on Monday during a press release.

The event will be organized by the Zillion Business Services Limited and broadcast live on MRTV-4 channel.

This free-show is aimed at introducing the two Miss Myanmar to the audience and enabling the fans to enjoy traditional dance, according to an organizer.

The dances of two beauty contest winners will be supported by famous comedians: Tain Nyunt, Kyaw Htoo, Kin Kaung, Ngwe Taung and Chit Nyunt.

A responsible person of the Zillion Business Services Limited said the company has a plan to organize the ‘Miss Myanmar Internet Traditional Dance Troupe’ abroad if this show received rapturous applause from the audiences.

During the press release held in Central Hotel, head comedian Kyaw Htoo, said: “We have made rehearals for jokes. We will not make jokes with personal affairs of others and we hope a great cheer will go up from the audiences.”

Nang Khin Zay Yar said: “I have learnt Myanmar dance with a dance trainer for one month. Some dancing styles are not easy for me, but I will try the best for my fans.”

Wint Wah said: “It is a very exciting opportunity for me. I feel happy to perform the show and welcome any suggestions from the fans.”

Nang Khin Zay Yar won Miss Myanmar Title in 2012 and the Missosology’s Miss International 2012 People’s Choice Award. Pageantology.net Miss International 2012 People’s Choice Award and Miss Internet Award in the Miss International 2012, Okinawa.

Youngstar Kyaw Htoo, who won the Miss Myanmar Supranational 2013 in August, also took home the People’s Choice and the Miss Supranational Internet awards during the Miss Supranational competition in Belarus last year.

The two celebrities are actively taking part in the social welfare services. They are helping their hands to needy people by taking part in the Free Funeral Services Society and social works.

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Union FM sends felicitations to Israeli counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—On the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 6 May 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Avigdor Lieberman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

Free Medical Service for Eye Patients

YANGON, 5 May—Under the aegis of Groupnar San Ye Health Foundation from Mawlamyine District, Mon State, an Eye Specialist Team led by Retired Eye Surgeons Prof. Kan Nyunt and Prof. Thein Aung comprising five eye specialists and seven nurses gave free medical and surgical treatment to patients with eye diseases at Christian Skin Specialist Hospital, Taungwai, Mawlamyine from 2nd to 4th May. 1200 patients were given medical treatment and 131 patients with cataract received surgical treatment.

The patients were from nearby townships such as Chaungdon, Pauk, Kyakmaraw, Mudon, Thanbyuzayat and Kyakhami townships.

The authorized persons from Mon State Social Welfare Minister Dr. U Hla Oo, Mon State Health Director Dr. U Than Tun Aung, Mon State General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. U Kyaw Zeya, Christian Skin Specialist Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. U Chan Lwin and staffs, members of Groupnar San Ye Health Foundation attended to the needs.

The Groupnar San Ye Foundation provided free medical treatment to patients.
Mandalarians hold tug-of-war in traditional belief anticipating rain showers

Mandalay, 5 May—A tug-of-war was held in front of Baungdawkya Pagoda on 81st street between 21st and 22nd streets in Pale Ngweyaung Ward of Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region, on Sunday.

With a view to ensuring falls of showers, Baungdawkya Pagoda Board of Trustees and Pale Ngweyaung Ward Administer jointly organized the tug-of-war in Myanmar traditional belief, said a member of the organizing committee.

At first, the official recited the order to ensure showers and then ushered Moe Khang Kyaw Swa nat (spirit) in the ceremony. Afterwards, the tug-of-war ceremony kicked off, he continued.

Govt newspapers start early home delivery in Thaton, Mon State

Thaton, 5 May—Myanmar Alinn, Kyemon and Anma Alinn, Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar dailies are being delivered to the readers earlier than the past in Thaton Township of Mon State.

“In my 20 years experience, it was the earliest delivery of newspapers to the readers. In the past, my circulation started at about 4.30 pm and sometimes, at night. On 1 May, I delivered newspapers at 10.30 am. Such activity can attract more readers,” said an agent of newspapers.

Public digital library services to serve readers with publications

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 May—Information and Public Relations Department under Ministry of Information plans to install six devices of public digital library services in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area soon.

Thanks to the devices of public digital library services, the people will have the opportunities to enjoy literatures through laptop, ipad, tablet, android phones and netbook. The machine can serve the readers in 650 kilometre radius area through Wifi system.

The machines will be allotted to the library of Pyinmana Township IPRD Office, Pyinmana General Hospital (200-bed) and Lewe Township Hospital (100-bed) in Dekkhina District of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Nay Pyi Taw Railways Station, Kanbawza Bank and Tatkon Township Hospital (100-bed).

Letkhokkon beach to contribute to tourism industry development

Yangon, 5 May—Letkhokkon beach in Kungyangon Township, two hours-drive from Yangon, attracts flocks of globetrotters.

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism opens Letkhokkon Hotel at the beach. It comprises three double rooms, six bungalows and a lobby. Coconut plants with bunches of coconuts are ready to be served for the guests.

Those wishing to systematically provide hotel services and those wishing to pay visit to the beach should contact tourism agencies, said Dr Tin Shwe, deputy minister for Hotels and Tourism on his inspection tour on 4 May.

Visitors could enjoy the beauties of the sea before the Nargis-hit period but they missed the chance to enjoy the scenic beauty of the sea with the cover of three-mile mangrove forest on the sandbank.

As tourism industry is booming across the nation, Letkhokkon beach should be improved as a recreation centre for attracting larger number of visitors at home and from abroad.

Maintenance of retaining walls completed in Myinmu

Myinmu, 5 May—The gravel-filled retaining walls saw cracks along Strand Road in Athawka Ward of Myinmu at a time when the Ayeyawady River rose water level.

To be able to prevent landslides on the Strand Road and floods from the river, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye funded K5 million and Myinmu Township Development Affairs Committee K9.13 million for maintenance of the retaining walls as of 27 November 2013.

The maintenance of the 125 feet long, four feet wide and eight feet high retaining wall was completed on 5 March 2014.—Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)
Ukraine tensions, Chinese data sour sentiment

LONDON, 5 May — European stocks slipped in thin trade on Monday after soft Chinese manufacturing data, while simmering tensions in Ukraine underpinned safe-haven government bonds and gold.

Portuguese bond yields edged to eight-year lows after Lisbon said on Sunday the country was mulling a clean exit from its bailout later this month.

Volumes were thinned by the closure of markets in London and Tokyo for public holidays. At 0848 GMT (4.48 a.m. EDT), the euro zone’s blue-chip Euro STOXX 50 .STXSEX50 index was down 1.36 percent at 3,134.55 points, after a survey showed activity in China’s manufacturing sector edged to a fresh four-month low in May.

The smartphone market is likely to grow 19 percent this year from 39 percent in 2013, showed data from researcher IDC.

On buying into Asia Pacific Telecom, which has a market value of $49.88 billion, Hon Hai would gain access to 2.1 million subscribers and 3,000 wireless base stations, the Commercial Times reported.

A motorcyclist rides past the entrance of the headquarters of Hon Hai, which is also known by its trading name Foxconn, in Tucheng, New Taipei city, on 24 December, 2013. — Reuters

Bahrain on alert to fend off MERS virus amid regional concerns

M A N A M A , 5 May — Bahrain’s Health Ministry announced on Sunday it plans to launch a nationwide awareness campaign on the latest outbreak of the deadly Middle Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the region.

It follows similar education initiatives taken by neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia, which has reported 371 confirmed infections of the killer virus and a death toll of 107 people in the past two years.

“The Bahrain government will launch a campaign to educate citizens and foreign workers about preventive measures. The campaign will soon be launched to educate citizens and foreign workers about precautionary measures,” Bahrain’s Health Minister Sadig al-Shehabi said in a statement.

The minister called his Saudi counterpart Adel Fakih on Sunday and discussed plans and strategies to rein in the virus and deal with new infections.

Shehabi stressed on a “common roadmap,” in both countries that cover all stake holders, including health care workers, to control the spread of the virus. He said the World Health Organization (WHO) accredited public health lab staff will also work round the clock to deal with any emergency.

In addition, a national campaign will soon be launched to educate citizens and foreign workers about precautionary measures.

Novartis says Signifor LAR drug helps control acromegaly disease

ZURICH, 5 May — Swiss drugmaker Novartis said on Monday that a study showed its LAR drug Signifor could help control a condition known as acromegaly.

Acromegaly is caused by a benign tumor in the pituitary gland that secretes excess growth hormone, and can lead to the enlargement of body parts, including the hands, feet and facial features. Worldwide regulatory filings for pasireotide LAR in acromegaly are currently underway based on these results, Novartis said.

Study finds environment as important as genes in autism

LONDON, 5 May — Environmental factors are more important than previously thought in leading to autism, as big a factor as genes, according to the latest analysis to date to look at how the brain disorder runs in families.

Sven Sandin, who worked on the study at King’s College London and Sweden’s Karolinska institute, said it was prompted “by a very basic question which parents often ask: ‘If I have a child with autism, what is the risk my next child will too?’” The findings, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), suggest heritability is only half the story, with the other 50 percent explained by environmental factors such as birth complications, socio-economic status, or parental health and lifestyle.

The study also found that children with a brother or sister with autism are 10 times more likely to develop the condition, three times if they have a half-brother or sister with autism, and twice as likely if they have a cousin with autism.

“At an individual level, the risk of autism increases according to how close you are genetically to other relatives with autism,” said Sandin.

“We can now provide accurate information about autism risk which can comfort and guide parents and clinicians in their decisions.”

People with autism have varying levels of impairment across three common areas: social interaction and understanding, repetitive behavior and interests, and language and communication.

The exact causes of the neurodevelopmental disorder are unknown, but evidence has shown it is likely to include a range of genetic and environmental risk factors.

As many as one in 50 school-age children in the United States are diagnosed with autism, although some of these will be milder cases that have been diagnosed partly because of better recognition of autism symptoms by carers and doctors.

In Europe, experts say the rate is around one in 100 children.

For this latest study, researchers used Swedish national health registers and analyzed anonymous data from all 2 million children born in Sweden in between 1982 and 2006, 14,516 of whom had a diagnosis of autism. The researchers analyzed pairs of family members, identical and non-identical twins, siblings, maternal and paternal half-siblings and cousins.
SAP’s Vishal Sikka steps down, two new board members named

BERLIN, 5 May — German business software maker SAP AG said Vishal Sikka, head of products and innovation, has stepped down and that it had named two new members to its executive board. Sikka is leaving SAP for personal reasons with immediate effect, the company said in a statement on Sunday.

A computer scientist by training, Sikka was key in developing SAP’s flagship product, Hana, which helps firms analyze large amounts of data quickly, and bringing it to market. "I would like to personally thank Vishal for his contribution to take SAP to this stage," said Has- so Plattner, chairman of SAP’s supervisory board. "We will remain friends as he pursues the next step in his journey."

Sikka joined the company in 2002 as head of its technology group and was appointed Chief Technology Officer in 2007.

He has been a member of the executive board since 2010. SAP, based in Walldorf, southern Germany, said it named Robert Enslin and Bernd Leukert to its executive board.

Enslin will continue to lead global customer operations and Leukert will assume responsibility for the global development organization, the company said.

SAP also appointed Helen Arnold, who will assume the role of Chief Information Officer, and Stefan Ries, who will lead human resources, to its global managing board.

Twitter stock overpriced despite recent price drop

NEW YORK, 5 May — US micro-blogging company Twitter Inc still looks overpriced even after a 47 percent drop from its late December high of $74, according to an article in the New York, said Twitter trades at a “big premium” to other Internet stocks based on its price/sales ratio, but its user growth is slowing.

The company “appears to be a long way from profitability, based on conserva tive accounting that probably treats as an expense its massive stock-based compensation to employees,” the article said.

Shares of Twitter, which ended on Friday at $39.02, could drop toward $30, which would still leave it trading at a premium to Facebook Inc on a price/sales ratio, Barron’s said.

The number of US users at 57 million appears to be plateauing despite efforts to make Twitter more appealing, Barron’s said, warning that “Twitter’s quirky format may make it tough for it to become popular to one of the brain papers. In a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Enslin and Bernd Leukert will assume responsibility for the global development organization, the company said.

SAP also appointed Helen Arnold, who will assume the role of Chief Information Officer, and Stefan Ries, who will lead human resources, to its global managing board.

Twitter stock overpriced despite recent price drop

WASHINGTON, 5 May—When Noah Minskoff’s mother died of lung cancer in 2000, e-cigarettes were just entering the US market.

Minskoff, who had just started medical school in Utah, wondered whether the devices might have saved his mother’s life by helping her quit smoking. Later, he sent some samples to his boyhood friend Nathan Terry, a mechanical engineer, and asked for his opinion.

Terry, who was working in Germany for the French industrial firm Are va, took apart the products to see how they were made. What he found disturbed him: at the heart of the devices were granules of unknown quality wrapped around bundles of glass fibers and surrounded by steel wool, silicon, plastic, tape and adhesives.

"There were red flags everywhere," Terry said. Still, he liked the concept and decided to design a version of his own, avoiding the use of fiberglass, plastic and solder and sourcing his materials entirely in the United States.

In 2009 he reunited with Minskoff in California and formed a company, Thermo-Essence Technologies, to sell the product. At $300 a piece, the e-cigarette serves a niche market, albeit one with a loyal following among medical marijuana patients and smokers looking for a high-end e-cigarette.

As many as 30,000 have been sold. But what began as a quest to develop a better e-cigarette has broadened into an ambitious effort to design a new medical device: an inhaler that delivers measured doses of nicotine to help people quit smoking.

The technology could also eventually be used as an abuse-resistant delivery device for other drugs, including opioid painkillers.

If successful, the inhaler could become the first new smoking-cessation product to emerge from the e-cigarette field and would compete with products such as GlaxoSmithKline Plc’s nicotine gum and Pfizer Inc’s antidepressing drug, Chantix.

To develop the inhaler, Terry formed a second company, Minusa LLC, which is based in Newtown, Connecticut. Minskoff left Thermo-Essence for family reasons and is not involved in Minusa. Terry himself is leaving Thermo-Essence, which is currently being sold, to concentrate on Minusa.

Young blood rejuvenates brains and muscles of old mice

NEW YORK, 5 May—If three discoveries in mice reported on Sunday are applicable to people, making old brains and old muscles perform like young ones may require simply a blood transfusion.

In two of the studies, giving the blood of young mice to old ones undid age-related impairments in the brain, reversing declines in learning and memory and boosting the creation of new neurons and the ability of the brain to change its structure in response to experience. The third study found that a protein in the blood of young mice improved the ability of old ones (comparable to a 70-year-old person) to exercise. "I think the study is quite wonderful," said neuroscientist Eric Kandel of Columbia University, who shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in medicine for his studies on the molecular basis of memory, referring to one of the brain papers. "It suggests there may be diffusible factors in the blood that are age-dependent, and if you can isolate these substances you might be able to give them as dietary supplements," added Kandel, who was not involved in the studies and at 84 continues to conduct research. Previous studies had shown that giving young mice blood from old mice impaired their cognitive function. But these discoveries are the first to show the opposite: young blood can reverse age-related impairments.

In a paper published in Nature Medicine, biologists led by Tony Wyss-Coray of Stanford University and Saul Villeda of the University of California San Francisco described two ways of exposing old mice to young blood. They either injected plasma from 3-month-old mice (young adults) into 18-month olds, which are near the end of their lifespan, or surgically connected the circulatory systems of a young mouse to that of an old one.

Old codgers exposed to young blood improved markedly on two standard tests of learning and memory. They made fewer errors navigating a “water maze” and they learned that a specific environment was associated with an electric shock. Examining the brains of aged mice exposed to young blood, the scientists found both structural and molecular differences from regular old brains.

The treated brains had more “dendritic spines,” structures on neurons through which one communicates with another. In addition, the rejuvenated brains produced more of a molecule whose levels rise during learning. And they showed a greater ability to strengthen connections between neurons, the cellular basis for learning and memory.

US e-cigarette experiment inspires new medical device

Brown-headed gulls are seen in the scenic spot of Qinghai Lake in northwest China’s Qinghai Province, on 4 May, 2014. A birds protection activity was launched here on Sunday, by which the organizers called on people to cherish the birds.—XINHUA
Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej attends Coronation Anniversary Ceremony

Bangkok, 5 May — Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej on Monday attended a ceremony commemorating the 64th anniversary of Royal Coronation Day, but did not deliver his traditional address for this occasion.

Broadcast live on TV nationwide, the ceremony was held at the Rajapracha Samakom Pavilion of Klai Kangwon Palace in the resort city of Hua Hin in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

The royal motorcade started to move slowly towards the pavilion at around 10:15 a.m. local time. The king waved to tens of thousands of people who were waiting along the road and chanting “Long Live the King.” Many of the well-wishers had been waiting since Sunday.

The ceremony was attended by members of the royal family, caretaker cabinet members and senior government officials, including caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Privy Council president Prem Tinsulanonda. It ended at about 11 a.m.

The 86-year-old king was crowned on 5 May, 1950 at the Royal Palace in Bangkok.

Iran elite group suspected of keeping secret funds in Asia

WASHINGTON, 5 May — An Iranian elite group is suspected of keeping secret funds in various parts of the world including South Korea and Malaysia, dodging internationally coordinated economic sanctions, people familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The US Treasury Department is believed to be probing details of what it sees as a possible case of money laundering by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, with a view to sanctioning another of the group’s affiliated companies, they said.

Petrosina Arya, a Tehran-based company under the IRGC, allegedly has savings worth more than $1 billion in an account at a major South Korean bank, a diplomatic source told Kyodo News.

Six people killed, two dozen injured in a bus accident in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 5 May — Six people were killed and more than two dozen others injured in a fatal bus accident in eastern Nepal early on Monday morning, police said.

“The injured people are receiving treatment in a local hospital,” police officer Pancha Man Wabha told Xinhua over the telephone.

Police attributed the accident to speeding and careless driving.

This was the second fatal bus accident in a week.

Last week, 19 people were killed and two dozen others injured in a similar accident in western Nepal.

Nepal has witnessed a series of bus accidents over the past few months due to the low quality of road and passenger buses.

Philippines, US hold annual military exercises

MANILA, 5 May — Almost 6,000 troops from the United States and the Philippines on Monday began a series of joint military exercises aimed at enhancing security collaboration between the two countries.

The Balikatan drills will “develop our collective capacity to meet any threat that would undermine mine peace and security,” Gen Emmanuel Bautista, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said at a ceremony marking the start of the annual joint exercises.

Philippine military officials said this year’s drills will focus on maritime security, as well as staff exercises, field training, and humanitarian and disaster response.

The US military has sent fighter jets, surveillance aircraft, cargo planes and helicopter gunships for the drills.

US Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and US Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) told reporters that they have both written to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to express their concern about the United States’ continued military presence in the Philippines.

Japan lawmakers visiting China to convey Abe’s wish for Xi talks

BEIJING, 5 May — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s willingness to hold talks for the first time with Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year will likely be conveyed on Monday to Zhang Dejiang, ranked third in the Communist Party of China, by a group of senior lawmakers from Tokyo.

The head of the delegation, Masahiko Komura, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, told reporters that he already relayed Abe’s hope to meet with Xi on the sidelines of this year’s summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which the Japanese prime minister plans to attend.

During their talks, Komura is expected to discuss how the two countries can further improve relations, an official from the Japanese foreign ministry said.

At the talks, Abe and Xi have yet to hold official talks since they each came to office more than a year ago, an official said.

In their talks, the two leaders are expected to discuss how to deal with the territorial disputes over the Senkaku Islands and the Diaoyu Islands.

Abe and Xi have had no official contact since they each came to office, making it difficult to hold talks.

The Chinese side also thinks that the situation should not remain as it is. So I believe that it has set a meeting for us with Nation- al People’s Congress chairman Zhang Dejiang,” Komura said. —Kyodo News
Advertisement & general

New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 6 May, 2014

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(9/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

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<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-006(14-15)</td>
<td>100kW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set</td>
<td>USS</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-007(14-15)</td>
<td>185kW, 3.3kV Induction Motor</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time - 2-6-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6th May, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Ph: +95 67-411097/411206

Arkansas gunman released from hospital before killing three

WASHINGTON, 5 May — A gunman in Arkansas who killed three people, including a 12-year-old girl, and wounded four others before taking his own life had been released recently from a mental health treatment hospital, police said on Sunday.

The suspect in the shooting rampage on Saturday afternoon, identified as Porfirio Hernandez, 40, was acquainted with his victims, Jonesboro Police Chief Mike Yates said at a press conference.

Hernandez entered a home near Jonesboro, about 130 miles (209 km) northeast of Little Rock, armed with a .357 magnum handgun and opened fire, killing a 38-year-old man and a 12-year-old girl, Yates said.

The girl’s age was originally thought to be 13.

Four other people in the home were wounded, including boys aged 10 and 8 and two adults aged 43 and 36.

Reuters

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MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

U Khin Maung Myint and Daw Tin Tin Hlaing of Yangon, Myanmar, announce the marriage of their youngest daughter, Ms. Pann Nu Wah to Mr. Yelin Htwar, son of Dr. Set Htwar and Dr. Daw Aye Myint of Maryland, USA. Ms. Pann Nu Wah and Mr. Yelin Htwar were married on Tuesday, February 18th, 2014 at The Circuit Court, in Westminster, Maryland, USA.

Accompanying the bride and the groom were Mr. Thiha Htwar (Yelin’s older brother), and Mr. Mark Zaw Win and Ms. May Thu Maung (wife of Mark and good friends of the bride and groom). Ms. Pann Nu Wah and Mr. Yelin Htwar now reside in Sykesville, Maryland, USA.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Kanbawza Bank Ltd., U Aung Ko Win, who has been awarded the “Special Honorary President’s State Excellence Award” (the Highest Tax Payer Entrepreneur Award) once again for the Tax Assessment Year of 2012-2013, at the President’s State Excellence Award Presentation Ceremony, at Nay Pyi Taw on 3.5.2014.

We hope that you continue to be the highest tax payer in the upcoming years and continue to contribute toward the betterment of society and development of the country.

Chairman and Working Committee
The Myanmar Banks Association

U Khin Maung Myint and Daw Tin Tin Hlaing of Yangon, Myanmar, announce the marriage of their youngest daughter, Ms. Pann Nu Wah to Mr. Yelin Htwar, son of Dr. Set Htwar and Dr. Daw Aye Myint of Maryland, USA. Ms. Pann Nu Wah and Mr. Yelin Htwar were married on Tuesday, February 18th, 2014 at The Circuit Court, in Westminster, Maryland, USA. Accompanying the bride and the groom were Mr. Thiha Htwar (Yelin’s older brother), and Mr. Mark Zaw Win and Ms. May Thu Maung (wife of Mark and good friends of the bride and groom). Ms. Pann Nu Wah and Mr. Yelin Htwar now reside in Sykesville, Maryland, USA.
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Morotai Voy No (YP263R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YP263R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent For:** M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Kuo Hsiung Voy No (1015W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSUUNG VOY NO (1015W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent For: M/S China Shipping Lines**

Phone No: 2301185

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Kuota Rajin Voy No (RJN855)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN 855) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of P.S.W (4) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent For: M/S Advance Container Lines**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

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**Los Angeles / New York, 5 May: “The Amazing Spider-Man 2,” a sequel about the web-slinging superhero, snared $92 million in US and Canadian ticket sales over the weekend, taking the top spot on movie box office charts at the start of Hollywood’s lucrative summer blockbuster season.

The big-budget, effects-filled movie starring Andrew Garfield is expected to rank as one of the year’s highest-grossing films. With international sales, it has run up nearly $370 million around the globe through Sunday, distributor Sony Corp. said.

“The Other Woman,” a comedy about three women out for revenge on a cheating husband, finished a distant second on domestic charts with $14.2 million, according to estimates from tracking firm Rentrak.

“Captain America: The Winter Soldier,” another superhero sequel and previous box office champ, landed in the No 4 slot with $7.8 million from Friday through Sunday, bumping “Heaven Is for Real,” a faith-based drama and Sony release which grabbed third place with $8.7 million for a $65 million box office total in just its third week of release.

The performance of “Spider-Man 2” could not quite match the strong domestic opening for “Captain America” in April, when the Marvel Studios film took in $95 million over its first three days. Ahead of the weekend, box office forecasters projected “Spider-Man 2” would collect $85 million to $95 million.

In the “Spider-Man” sequel, Garfield returns as the masked hero who swings through the streets and skyscrapers of New York, battling new villains including the formidable Elektra. His co-played by Jamie Foxx.

Garfield’s real-life girlfriend, Emma Stone, plays Gwen Stacy, the on-screen love interest of Spidey alter ego Peter Parker.

“This was a really fantastic result,” said Rory Bruer, president of worldwide distribution for Sony Pictures Entertainment, adding that the opening bodes well for Sony “not only meeting our goals, but exceeding them.”

The superhero series is Sony’s biggest bet this year, with a production cost of roughly $200 million, according to movie website IMDb. Last summer, the studio suffered a parade of action-packed movies that will reach summer, the studio suffered from two major bombs, “The Other Woman,” starring Chris Evans as the patriotic superhero, got a head start on the summer releases and generated $321 million worldwide according to the website boxofficecomojo, and Bruer said the studio hoped to equal or exceed that total.

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Five killed as boulder crushes house in Sierra Leone capital

FREETOWN, 5 May—Five people, including two children, were killed on Sunday when a boulder dislodged by heavy rains crushed a house in a poor area of Sierra Leone’s capital Freetown, witnesses said.

Residents of the Grey Bush neighbourhood of the hilly, coastal city said the incident happened around 8 a.m. (0800 GMT) during a seasonal downpour.

Among the dead were a 10-year-old girl and a 17-year-old citizen of neighbouring Guinea, who was visiting Freetown on holiday.

Local residents began digging out the victims as emergency personnel were slow to arrive.

“We had to make do with our bare hands and the shovels and pick axes we could lay hands on,” youth organiser Yusufu Bendu told Reuters. “We brought out alive one of the people, but he died because it took us long to get any assistance.”

The West African nation is entering its annual rainy season and landslides are commonplace in Freetown, where roads and infrastructure are often poorly maintained.

Eight homeless people were killed in August when the bridge they were sleeping under collapsed in a landslide caused by heavy rains.—Reuters

Magnitude 6.0 quake strikes off Tokyo, 17 people injured

TOKYO, 5 May — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.0 struck off the coast of Tokyo early Monday morning, jolting central districts in the Japanese capital, but no tsunami alert was issued, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

According to local police and firefighters, 17 people suffered injuries in Tokyo, Kanagawa and other prefectures in the Tokyo metropolitan area due to the 5:18 a.m. quake, which originated around 162 kilometers underground near Izu Oshima Island in the Pacific Ocean some 120 km south of Tokyo.

In Tokyo’s Otemachi business district, the quake registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7, the first time that level of intensity was recorded in central Tokyo since the devastating earthquake in March 2011. It marked intensity 4 at Haneda international airport and other central areas in Tokyo such as Shinjuku and Shibuya.

Tokyo Electric Power Co reported no abnormalities at its nuclear plants in Fukushima and Niigata prefectures, Japan Atomic Power Co said no abnormalities occurred at a deep location, and Central Japan Railway Co also had some delays, operating the Joetsu and Nagano lines, both linking central Tokyo and suburban areas, with some delays of around 15 minutes. Shinjuku and Shibuya stations showed.

No. 2 nuclear power plant operators East Japan Railway Co and Japan Railway East Japan Railway Co said no abnormalities were reported.

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• Eight homeless people were killed in August when the bridge they were sleeping under collapsed in a landslide caused by heavy rains.

Hungarian wins men’s title at Pentathlon World Cup

KECSKEMET, 5 May — Hungarians took first and third places on Sunday at the men’s competition at the 2014 Modern Pentathlon World Cup in Kecskemet, about 75 kilometers southeast of Budapest.

Adam Marosi came in first with 1,482 points. He received 238 points in fencing for fourth place, 337 in swimming for third, 279 in riding for 27th and 628 points in the combined event (running and shooting) for seventh. Marosi won the 2009 World Championship and was the bronze medalist at the 2012 Olympics.

Russia’s Aleksander Lesun, 2010 World Cup winner and 2012 world champion, took second place with 1,477 points overall. Hungarian Robert Kastaz was third with 1,468 points, beating Pavlo Tyshchuchenko of Ukraine into fourth by six points.

Christopher Patte of France was fifth with 1,460 points in all, followed by compatriot Valentin Prades, Nocola Benedetti of Italy and Chinese Guo Jiali.

The World Cup continues on Monday with the mixed event.—Xinhua
Serena past Swiss qualifier in Madrid

Madrid, 5 May — Top seed and defending champion Serena Williams cruised past teenage qualifier Belinda Bencic into the Madrid Open second round on Sunday as the world number one began her quest for a 60th career title.

American Williams, chasing a third consecutive triumph at the premier clay event in the Spanish capital, dispatched the 17-year-old Swiss, ranked 98th, 6-2, 6-1 to set up a meeting with unseeded Chinese Peng Shuai.

Bencic, the youngest player in the top 100, broke the Williams serve once in the opening set but crumbled thereafter and lost her own five times.

Williams was looking fresh after a month off, following her second-round defeat in Charleston and sealed victory with her 11th ace of the match for her 13th consecutive win in the Spanish capital.

“I was playing such a young player and she had nothing to lose and she has such a bright future so it wasn’t very easy going out there,” Williams said in an interview made available by the WTA.

“But it feels good to get a win under my belt on clay,” added the 32-year-old, a 17-times grand slam singles champion.

“I think I played well. I went for a lot of winners and they actually went in so I was like wow,” she added.

“I love the crowd here. I love the Spanish. They just have so much life.”

Williams was joined in the second round by Czech fifth seed Petra Kvitova, who had a tough test against unseeded Romanian Sorana Cirstea before cruising past teenage qualifier Madison Keys respectively.

Marina Sharapova of Russia, the eighth seed, and 11th-seeded Serb Ana Ivanovic also went through, seeing off Czech Ktara Koukalova and American Madison Keys respectively.

Murray ponders hiring McEnroe as coach

London, 5 May — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray would consider hiring seven-times grand slam winner John McEnroe as his coach, saying the controversial American would have plenty to offer his game.

“World number eight Murray, playing this week at the Madrid Masters, has been without a coach since he split from Ivan Lendl in March after a successful two-year spell during which he won two grand slam titles and gold at the 2012 Olympics.

“Every player would consider someone with his credentials,” the 26-year-old Scot told the BBC on Sunday.

“If I like to listen to him commentate and he has a lot to offer as well. It’s interesting but if anything comes from it, who knows?”

“When you are very competitive as a player, you are likely to be the same as a coach and that’s also a benefit.”

“He was a great player and he’s always kept an interest in the game, which is important. He has a great knowledge of the sport.”

American McEnroe, 55, indicated this week he would be willing to help Murray, despite having a number of media commitments and a lack of professional coaching experience.

Murray, however, is in no rush to make an appointment.

“It depends how I do in the next couple of weeks,” he said. “If I do well, I’m not going to have that much time. If I don’t do so well, I’ll have a little bit more time to think about it and chat to people.

“I need to have the right person in place. I don’t want to be some long person in place by the French Open. I’d rather wait a few weeks and get the right person a few weeks after Wimbeldon.”

The French Open begins on 25 May and Wimbeldon just over a month later. — Reuters