Despite seeing the first rains of this monsoon in some pockets of the city, including downtown Yangon for two days in succession, temperatures still rise and Yangonites are feeling sticky and hot. With temperatures soaring beyond tolerable levels, the stagnant air induces sweat under the morning sun. The crowded buses we have to use riding around the city of Yangon are viewed as ovens in the scorching heat. It was pouring with rain (See page 2).

Smiles on Yangon’s circle air-con train

Byline & Photo: Ye Myint

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Vice-President returns unused lands to farmers

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Union Peace-Making Work Committee holds talks with townelders, national race representatives, leaders of christian association, political parties

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Chairman’s Statement of the 24th ASEAN Summit: “Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community” issued on 11 May, 2014 can be browsed at www.asean2014.gov.mm and www.moi.gov.mm.—NLM

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Union ministers meet Mandalay’s CSOs

**MANDALAY, 12 May**—A meeting between Union ministers and responsible persons of civil society organizations in Mandalay district took place at the office of Mandalay Region Government on Sunday.

In meeting with them, Union Ministers at President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint spoke words of praise, stressing the importance of youth participation in social organizations. They also highlighted the role of CSOs in translating the nation into a developed one.

The meeting continued with responsible persons of CSOs talking about their ongoing works and requirements to see more social works in Mandalay.

The Union ministers and the chief minister made clarifications on the reports and coordinated matters related to the needs of the social associations.—MNA

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Relief aid for disaster victims in Myingyan

**MYINGYAN, 12 May**—Relief aid were presented to victims of 250 wind-ravaged Pann Laung river to farm-land in Myittha Township, Mandalay Region, on Sunday.

U Aung Zan, minister for planning and economy, and officials handed over bags of rice and construction materials worth K 1,974,550 and kitchen utensils to the victims of 250 wind-ravaged houses.

Zaw Min Naing—Myingyan

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Kinda spillway benefits farmlands in Myittha Tsp

**MANDALAY, 12 May**—Kinda spillway dam situated near Nwarku village in Myittha Township, Mandalay Region is being used to provide the release of flows from Kinda Dam built on Pann Laung River.

Kinda dam is 236 feet high and 3822 feet long and is benefiting 147,274 acres of farmland in the region and city two times a day, at 8.35 am and 5:20 pm.

“We would like to enjoy a fun train ride,” U Mya said. “It would make my daughters and nieces happy.”

The air-conditioned carriages, he added, are a haven from the summer heat outside.

More than fifty years after its train service began, Myanmar Railways put an exclusive train into its fleet to offer local pilgrims and foreign visitors who want to visit Kyakhtih-yye Pagoda, a popular destination in Kyauktaw in Mon State from Yangon.

The air-conditioned train service started last September with one-way fare at K3,500 for locals and $10 for foreigners.

Two months later, the launch of an air-conditioned train service began on Yangon’s circle route with a five-cabin-train in which each of four cabins has 62 seats while the remaining one with the train driver’s cabin seats 52 passengers. Tickets on the three-hour circle route cost K400 for locals and $2 for foreigners.

“We are from Hlithaya. My children and their close friends asked me to take them for a three-hour train ride. During the train ride around some parts of Yangon, they can enjoy the views they haven’t seen before, including the night scene of Mingaladon Airport,” said a mother-of-four who planned to spend a day by riding an exciting train with sofa seats and air-conditioning.

The train stops at every station along the route, which is 45.9 km long, according to the requirements of passengers, said Ko Saw Myint Wai, one of the five members of the locomotive operating team.

The train is allowed to run at a 15 mph speed limit, he added.

“Three policemen are deployed on the train for the security of passengers,” said Ko Aung Moe Zan who spends his duty hours on the train from dawn to dusk and sometimes has to resolve one passenger’s complaint against another one.

A non-air-conditioned special circular train line with a fare at $1 for a seat is popular among foreigners. Although local middle-class commuters and families seeking fun by taking an air-conditioned train ride on weekends show their satisfaction with circle rail travel, it is not enough for 90,000 passengers taking ordinary and special trains daily.

As the fare is K 100 for a seat in an ordinary cabin, K200 in a special cabin and K300 for a special circular train, K 400 per seat in the air-conditioned carriage is beyond the reach of most working-class Yangonites.

Comic exhibition on life of Buddha opens at Shwedagon Pagoda

**YANGON, 12 May**—To mark the Fullmoon Day of Kason, comics exhibition on the life story of the Buddha opened at the Chan-thagy Hall on the Shwedagon Pagoda this evening.

The exhibition displays 131 paintings by Cartoonist Po Zar. The life story of the Buddha will also be available as a mobile application from Putet World Application free of charge.

The aim of the exhibition is to instigate the interest in Buddhism among youths, said the organizer of the exhibition Managing Director U Aung Chit Khan of Putet Comics. The exhibition opens until 31 May.

Aung Thura

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Smiles on Yangon’s circle air-con train

(from page 1)

for around 30 minutes on Thursday and Friday afternoon, but the oppressive heat is making Yangon dwellers uncomfortable in the extreme. But those in suburban Yangon could leave their stifling rooms and hop on a air-conditioned train on a weekend of hot and humid days.

U Mya found himself at Insein Railway Station with his twin daughters and four other nieces, getting drenched with sweat. His team was in the station one-hour earlier than scheduled as they headed round the city two times a day, at 8.35 am and 5:20 pm.

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A monk enjoying pictures at comics exhibition on the life story of the Buddha.

_AUNG THURA_
11th ASEAN leadership concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—The 11th ASEAN Leadership Forum was held under the motto “The Road Towards 2015—Community Building Towards Regional Prosperity, Resilience and Peace” at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and party post for documentary photo at 11th ASEAN Leadership Forum.—MNA

Amb, Chung Hae Moon of ASEAN-Korea Centre and others participated in the forum.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr. Kan Zaw hosted a luncheon for the participants and discussed business and investment opportunities in Myanmar.

In the evening, the forum successfully culminated with closing remarks by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and ASEAN Leadership Forum Tan Sri Michael Yeoh.

MNA

Tigress gives birth to two cubs in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—Two tigers from China gave birth to two white baby tigress here on 1 May, an officer of Zoological garden said.

The officer said the weight of each tigress is 1.9 kilograms, and both are in good health.

They were born of the male white tiger and the female white tigress from China. They have successfully given birth three times after they have been taken from China in March 2008. Their first baby tigress is placed at the Yangon Zoological Garden and the second baby tiger is kept at the Safari Park in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two tigers from China are now kept at the Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden together with one tiger and one tigress which were taken from South Africa in August 2011.—NLM

Ground broken for Daewoo Amara Lotte Hotel

YANGON, 12 May — With the growing number of businesses, exhibitions, workshops and international conferences in Myanmar, the country needs international standard hotels, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Daewoo Amara Lotte Hotel.

The ceremony was held at the site of the hotel in the former White Elephant Complex in Hline Township today.

The Union Minister said that he believed the hotel would contribute to the infrastructure development of Yangon.

The ceremony was graced by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Ambassador of South Korea to Myanmar H.E. Mr Lee Baek Soon, CEO Mr. Jeon Byeong Eal of Daewoo International Co. Ltd, Managing Director Mr. Han Chan Keon of Daewoo Amara Hotel Co., Ltd, Chairman U Nay Aung of IGE Co., Ltd and officials.

MNA

Two tiger cubs seen with their mother in Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden.—MNA
Yan Myo Aye secures champion in Myanmar Golf Tournament

Yangon, 12 May—Myanmar Golf Tournament continues for the fourth round on Friday at Yangon Golf Club in Insein Township in Yangon. On Saturday matches, Yin Myo Myo stood in the first position with 228 strokes, followed by Khin Mar Nwe with 231 and Pyu Pwint Yati Khang with 243 in women’s armature event while Ye Htet Aung secured first with 297 strokes, Kyaw Thet Oo with 306 and Maung Maung Oo with 306 in men’s armature event. In professional level, Yan Myo Aye seized first with 281 strokes, followed by Zaw Zaw Latt (HAN Golf Academy) with 286 and Zaw Moe with 288.

Officials from Myanmar Golf Federation and Yangon Golf Club awarded the winner golfers.

The tournament was organized by MGF and Myanmar PGA, aimed at emerging professional golfers in Myanmar.

Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt

Chicken price rises but poultry dead rate high in overheated temperature

Amarapura, 12 May—Overheated summer causes loss to poultry farms this year. Consequently, the prices of chicken and egg are rising day by day. Most of the breeders focus on CP and diamond species of broilers. At a time when the temperature is rising, death rate of CP species of chicken is less and Diamond, up. Depending on the poultry farms, instructions are to be given to the owners to vaccinate the poultry to decline death rate, said a veterinarian.

A breeder near Tadabyu Bridge in Amarapura Township of Mandalay said, “I breed 4000 broilers at the farm. Due to high temperature this year, five to six broilers are dead a day. Whenever temperature rises, the farm is to be showered five to seven times a day. Veterinarians of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department made field trips to the farms thrice a day. Although death rate of poultry farm is rising, chicken price is high.”

A feedstuff trader said, “To receive feedstuff, each poultry farm needs to give K2 million for 1000 broilers in advance. The feedstuff trades deliver the feedstuff and animal medicines to the farms. One bag of feedstuff is sold at K 32,800 per bag.

Egg is sold at K 100 to K 160 depending on sizes. Now, chicken price is over K 4000 per viss,” said a house wife.

Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)

New school building handed over to BEPS in Nyaunglebin Tsp

Nyaunglebin, 12 May—A ceremony to hand over new school building was held at Basic Education Primary School in Wingabaw Village of Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on Saturday morning.

U Win Htein of GANO Co., Ltd. of Yangon handed over documents related to the new school building to Headmistress Daw Lwin Lwin Oo.

The school building is 90 feet by 30 feet, built at a cost of over K 27 million.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Literary campaign gaining momentum in Natmauk Tsp

Natmauk, 12 May—Township authorities and departmental officials visited the teaching tables in Natmauk of Magway Region and gave words of encouragement to them.

At present, a total of 2219 illiterates are pursuing education at the teaching tables. Teachers teach them three hours a day.

“We are proud of teaching them. They are eager to learn education,” said Ma Mie Mie Kay Khang, second year English major student of Magway University.

“We thank the teachers and university students for their teachings. Now we are reading and writing,” said a local of Ingon Village.

Hla Win (IPRD)
Local news

Today’s Myanmar News Sites

Income tax, commercial tax clarified to taxpayers in Myawady

Myawady, 12 May—Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance in Myawady Township of Kayin State, sharing border with Thailand, held a clarification on income tax, commercial tax and other taxation laws for the people at the hall of the township administrator’s office on Friday.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)

Scholarship and academic matters for pharmacists discussed

Mandalay, 12 May—Pharmacy University (Mandalay) under Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health and Faculty of Pharmacy, Silpakorn University of Thailand jointly organized the presentation of scholarship and medical education at the university in Mandalay on Friday afternoon.

Deans of the universities explained organizational setup and academic matters of the Pharmacy University (Mandalay) and Faculty of Pharmacy, Silpakorn University of Thailand. Rector Prof Dr Tin Maung Han, Pro-Rector Dr Sein Hla Htwe and party held a talk with Prof Dr Pornsak Srimormsak and party of Thai University on presentation of scholarship award and cooperation in academic matter. Later, they viewed round the Pharmacy University (Mandalay).

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Light truck hits lamp-post

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May—An accident happened on Friday in front of the Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground on Pyinnma-Taungnyo Road in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, and nobody was injured, according to an official.

The driver of a light truck loaded with many containers of purified drinking water ran into the lamp-post due to out of control.

Zeyathiri Township Myoma Police Station filed a lawsuit against the reckless driver.

Ko Pouk (Okka Myay)

Qualified youths recruited for SPEI (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 12 May—A ceremony to recruit new trainees for Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) for 2014-15 academic year was held at Mandalar Thiri modern sports ground in Mandalay on Friday morning.

Local people, participating in gathering of gravels and sand and in masonry works in the respective sectors. They will spend K2 million on construction tasks.

A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the 150 feet long ladder was held at the venue in Hmantha Ward of Thabeikkyin of Mandalay Region on Friday morning.

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On completion, the local people including monks will use the ladder conveniently.—Soe Naung Win (Thabeikkyin)

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Mandalay, 12 May—A ceremony to recruit new trainees for Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) for 2014-15 academic year was held at Mandalar Thiri modern sports ground in Mandalay on Friday morning.

Officials of the institute and coaches selected the qualified new generation trainees for respective sports events. A total of 365 students of basic education schools in district and townships of Mandalay Region joined the recruitment of new trainees for the institute.—Thiha Ko Ko

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Interim Thai PM hopeful he can lead country to new election

BANGKOK, 12 May — Thailand’s interim prime minister expressed hope on Monday that February’s annulled general election could be re-run soon, and said anti-government protesters would not succeed in getting the Senate to impose an alternative premier.

Ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s caretaker government has remained in office since the Constitutional Court ordered her and nine ministers to step down last week in a nepotism case.

That followed six months of political turmoil in Bangkok, the latest phase of a nearly decade-long struggle between former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck’s brother, who was overthrown by the army in 2006, and the royalist establishment.

Before being forced out, Yingluck had agreed with the Election Commission to hold an election on July 20, although the date has not been ratified by the king.

Caretaker Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongphaisan told foreign media the government would meet the commission on Wednesday to decide the best date.

“Hopefully we will have an election soon but it may slip, depending on the meeting,” he said. “I can’t guarantee the election will be successful, but I have high hopes.”

Protesters intend on removing Yingluck, who they viewed as a proxy for her self-exiled brother, disrupted the vote in February and the Constitutional Court later annulled it.

Now Yingluck is gone, the protesters want a “neutral” prime minister to oversee electoral reforms aimed at keeping the Shinawatras out of power, and have said they will scupper any vote that takes place before those changes are brought in.

But Niwatthamrong, who served as deputy prime minister and commerce minister under Yingluck and was previously a senior executive in one of Thaksin’s companies, said the election should take place first.

“We cannot stop the election, that is against the law,” he said. “We can have elections first and then reforms.”

Foreign telecommunication tycoon Thaksin won huge support in the north and northeast with populist policies that favored the rural poor, but was increasingly seen as a challenge to the Bangkok-based royalist establishment.

Derided by his opponents as a corrupt crony capitalist who manipulates elections with his wealth, he has chosen to live abroad to avoid a 2008 jail sentence for graft that he says was politically motivated.

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, a former deputy prime minister in a government run by the pro-establishment Democratic Party, has called on the upper house Senate, the judiciary and Election Commission to step in and appoint a new prime minister.

Niwatthamrong said that would not happen.

Japan backs ASEAN’s call for exercise of restraint

VIENNA, 12 May — The UN nuclear watchdog plans talks with Iran on Monday ahead of a 15 May deadline for the country to implement a series of measures that could allay concern about its nuclear programme that the West fears may have military goals.

News of the meeting came after diplomatic sources told Reuters on Friday that the International Atomic Energy Agency was seeking further clarification from Iran about one of those steps, concerning information about detonators that can help set off a nuclear device and Teheran is believed to have developed.

Iran says it has already implemented the seven steps agreed by the two sides — including access to two uranium sites — but the sources suggested the IAEA still wanted more information about the so-called Explosive Bridge Wire (EBW) detonators.

How Iran responds to questions about its development and need of such type of equipment is seen as an important test of its willingness to cooperate fully with an IAEA investigation into suspected atomic bomb research by the country. Iran says allegations of such work are baseless, but has offered to help clear up the suspicions with the UN agency.

The diplomatic sources said Iran in late April provided an explanation about the detonators, which it says are for non-nuclear uses, and that the IAEA had asked follow-up questions. They said the IAEA also wants to agree with Iran new measures to be taken after 15 May, hoping these will tackle other sensitive issues linked to what the agency calls the possible military dimensions to Iran’s nuclear programme.

IAEA spokesman Gill Tudor said in an email on Sunday that the meeting would take place in Vienna but gave no detail.

“The IAEA and Iranian officials will meet … for further discussions within the Framework for Cooperation,” she said, referring to a transparency pact reached in November on a step-by-step process to shed more light on Iran’s atomic activity.

There are a lot of steps they have to do first. They can try but I don’t believe they will be successful,” he said.

Newly elected Senate Speaker Surachai Liengboonlertchai called a special session on Monday to look at ways out of what he called the country’s biggest crisis.

“We will discuss how to draw up a road map to get Thailand out of this situation,” he said. “A neutral prime minister has not yet been discussed as part of the road map.”

The military, which has intervened frequently in politics in the past, has stayed out this time despite calls from some pro-establishment forces for it to oust the pro-Thaksin gov-
**Ukraine’s Donetsk vote overwhelmingly in favour of independence**

**DONETSK, (Ukraine), 12 May — The breakaway group in Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region says 89.07 percent of voters backed independence in its referendum on Sunday.**

The turnout for the referendum was 74.87 percent, and 10.1 percent voted against independence, head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic’s electoral commission, Roman Lyagin, said late on Sunday.

“These can be considered as the final results,” Lyagin said.

A woman voting in the center of Donetsk city said she was happy to see the referendum was going smoothly.

“I came here to vote in a pleasant mood and with confidence,” she said.

Donetsk was one of two regions holding referenda on independence from Ukraine. The results from the other region, Lugansk, where polls closed slightly later, have not been announced yet.

People were asked on the ballot papers: “Do you support the act of state-rule of the Donetsk (Lugansk) People’s Republic?”

About 3 million ballot boxes were distributed in towns and cities in the two regions, which have a total population of 6.6 million.

Ukrainian authorities and some Western countries denounced the controversial referenda as “illegal.”

“The politicians of this criminal farce have violated the constitution and Ukrainian law,” the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The vote “will have no legal consequences for the territorial integrity of Ukraine,” it said.

The United States on Sunday rejected the referendum, saying it would not recognize the results.

State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki said in a written statement the referenda were “illegal under Ukrainian law and are an attempt to create further division and disorder.”

**“The organizers of this criminal farce have violated the constitution and Ukrainian law,” the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The vote “will have no legal consequences for the territorial integrity of Ukraine,” it said.”**

**WASHINGTON and its European allies are focusing their efforts on the presidential polls in Ukraine slated for 25 May, and have warned Moscow against disrupting the vote.**

“The Russian leadership must know that if it continues to destabilize eastern Ukraine and disrupt this month’s presidential election, we will move quickly to impose greater costs on Russia,” Psaki said.

**“The Russian leadership must know that if it continues to destabilize eastern Ukraine and disrupt this month’s presidential election, we will move quickly to impose greater costs on Russia,” Psaki said.”**

**No explosives found at Russia’s Yekaterinburg**

**VLADIVOSTOK, 12 May — No explosives were found after a bomb threat prompted evacuation of hundreds of people and grounded all flights at Yekaterinburg airport on early Monday, police said.**

After combing the airport and its surroundings, police found no explosives and the airport resumed operation at 6:00 am local time (1900 Sunday GMT).

Some 300 people were evacuated and all flights were grounded after airport workers get a phone call from an unidentified person who said bombs were planted at Russia’s 5th largest airport, local media reported.

**“The Russian government can still choose to implement its Geneva commitments, as well as follow through on (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin’s statement of 7 May,” she said. “We call on them to do so.”**

Donetsk and Lugansk regions became centers of the eastern protests in mid-April, when activists waving Russian flags seized government buildings, declared separatist republics and announced plans to hold referenda on seceding from Ukraine.

The referenda were held after Crimea joined Russia on 18 March following an independence referendum in the southern Ukraine peninsula, which was not recognized by the West. On Wednesday, Putin asked the protesters in Donetsk and Lugansk to postpone their polls and seek dialogue with Ukrainian authorities, but the request was rejected.

**“There is fear of casualties on civilians too. Details will be made public later on the day,” the source said.**

The clash followed a bomb blast near Jalalabad city Fire Department, which injured six people, including four civilians in the city, 120 km east of Kabul.

Earlier on Monday, more than 300 Taleban, including foreign militants, raided army and police security checkpoints in eastern Ghazni Province, leaving three people killed and 10 others wounded. The gunfight was continuing there, a defence ministry official said.—Xinhua

**Nabbed Chinese fishermen to be under Philippine police inquest**

**MANILA, 12 May — The 11 Chinese fishermen detained by Philippine police last Tuesday near China’s Half Moon Shoal in the South China Sea is to undergo an inquest proceedings on Monday at the Puerto Princesa City prosecutor’s office.**

Prosecutor General Claro Arellano, chief of the Department of Justice’s prosecutor’s arm, said the inquest proceedings had been slated for last Friday, but was deferred as the fishermen has no lawyer and interpreter yet.

Arellano said the Chinese detainees refused to be represented by public attorneys being provided to them during the hearing. “So the prosecutor asked them to come back on Monday. But the case was already docketed for inquest,” said the official.

The Chinese fishermen aboard fishing boat Qiongqionghai 09063 were seized by the Philippine police while fishing in waters off China’s Half Moon Shoal on 6 May.

China’s Foreign Ministry on Wednesday urged the Philippines to “immediately” release the detained fishermen and their boat.

However, the Philippine side ignored China’s demand and took the 11 Chinese fishermen to Puerto Princesa in Palawan, claiming they were poaching endangered species in Philippine waters.

The charges areailable.—Xinhua

**Taleban attacks gov’t building in Afghan city, killing two**

**JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 12 May — Taleban gunmen and suicide bombers launched an attack on Monday on a government agency building in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, the source said.**

The coordinated attack took place on the day when Taleban insurgent group started their yearly offensive against security forces and government targets.

“Militants number five to four targeted Nangarhar Directorate of Justice’s office at around 09:45 am (local time). Two policemen were killed at the gate. The fast-reaction forces arrived at the scene and the clash is ongoing,” a security source told Xinhua.

“There is fear of casualties on civilians too. Details will be made public later on the day,” the source said.

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**Soldiers from the Philippine Marines use a fast craft during the Amphibious Landing Training Exercise supervised by the US Marines as part of the US-Philippines military exercise dubbed as Balikatan at the Philippine Marine Base Camp in Cavite Province, the Philippines, on 11 May, 2014. The 30th annual joint military drill dubbed as Balikatan involves 3,000 Filipino soldiers and 2,500 US soldiers.—Xinhua**
Perspectives
Tuesday, 13 May, 2014

Non-extremism: Peerless advice of the Noble One
By Aung Khin

On this day 2638 years ago, a prince who would disseminate practical practices to avoid extremism and follow the middle way for the welfare of humans was born of a royal family in or near what is now Nepal.

When Prince Siddhartha was a few days old, a holy man prophesied the Prince would be either a great military conqueror or a great spiritual teacher.

Although his father King Siddhodana preferred the first possibility and arranged his son accordingly, raising the boy among great luxury items and shielded him from knowledge of religion and human suffering at that time.

Never lost his innate sense of humanistic ideals, he renounced his opulent palaces to seek the Noble Truth of life.

He attained enlightenment at the age of 35, and became the Buddha.

He sacrificed everything, including luxurious surroundings, power, property and family, to share knowledge about the way of practices for the essence of life, the Noble Truth.

Actually, Buddhism addresses itself to all people irrespective of race, nationality, caste, sexuality, or gender.

He revealed the eight factors of Middle Way: right view, right attention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right efforts, right mindfulness and right concentration. These factors are not Buddhist law, but are a set of code of conduct for those who want to find the ultimate peace of life and beyond life. These principles are the common ground, the common platform and the common platform for the good of all mankind like chili has a hot taste to food for everybody regardless of their different background.

Until he reached at the age of 80 years and just before he died, Buddha travelled, preaching the Dhamma (His teachings) in an effort to lead others to along the path of enlightenment.

The most prominent and last advice to his disciples is: All component things in the world are changeable. They are not lasting. Work out your deliverance with earnestiness.

Buddhists pour water in Bodhi trees (ban-yan trees as a symbol of the Buddha’s presence and an object of worship) on this birthday of Buddha wishing ‘All the global community be peaceful and happy without extremism which the Buddha never accepted’.

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

The Buddha’s Day, the Fullmoon of the month of Kason

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Buddha’s Day, the Fullmoon of the month of Kason falls on 13th May 2014.

We all Buddhists across the world always take great awareness and worthy of the Buddha’s Day, the Fullmoon of the month of Kason because over 2558 years ago, our unrivalled Omniscient Buddha was born on the day of the Fullmoon of the month of Kason, upon which He attained the Enlightenment at the age of thirty-five and also upon which He attained Parinibbana (passed away) at the age of eighty.

In commemoration of these three significant and holy events associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples celebrate the Buddha’s Day, the Fullmoon of the month of Kason.

The month of Kason mostly falls on one of the days of the last week of the month of April or on one of the days of the first or the second week of the month of May every year according to calendar.

All Buddhists throughout the world also know that the most important of the Buddhist festivals is Vesakha or Vesakha festival. Vesakha is the name of an Indian month, the month of May, We all Buddhist communities all over the world Heartily comprehend that our Omniscient Gotta-ma Buddha attained the Enlightenment under the sacred Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya in India early in the morning on the Fullmoon Day of Kason (Vesakha), unaided and unguided by any supernatural agency but solely relying on his own efforts, the consciousness of true insight possessed Him. Having attained the Enlightenment or Buddhahood, the supreme state of perfection, He devoted the remainder of His precious life to serving humanity.

The Sacred Bodhi Tree (Bo Tree)

All of Buddhist peoples know that the sacred Bodhi Tree (Bo Tree) is a sacred tree having comprehensive and significant associations with our unrivalled Omniscient Buddha.

The Buddha-to-be, Prince Siddhaththa fully attained the Enlightenment or the Buddhahood under the shade of the Bodhi Tree, which is said to have been “born” simultaneously with Him.

Thus the sacred Bodhi Tree is a significant image of worship as a worthy Paribhogi cetiya or shrine in Buddhist countries. Therefore, Buddhist peoples across the world pay respect to the sacred Bodhi Tree that has sacred associations with the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha.

Auspicious Celebration of the Buddha’s Day or Vesakha Festival

It is learnt that all Buddhist peoples in Buddhist countries throughout the world respectfully celebrate the Buddha’s Day or Vesakha Festival in accordance with their culture and traditions every year. The generous Buddhist people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar pay respectful visit to pagodas, shrines and monasteries in the evening of the Buddha’s Day, Fullmoon of the month of Kason to perform pouring clean water on the sacred Bodhi Trees existed there.

Core Values

It is said that “Man Does Not Live By Bread Alone”. It means man also lives for some ideals, some values, and some beliefs. So, we have got to think about why and how we live and move and have our beings. The questions we should ask ourselves are:

• What do we believe in?
• What do we stand for?
• What are the values we cherish most?

The Nature of Our Beliefs & Values

Whatever we believe in and whatever our core values are, our beliefs and our core values should have the qualities of depth, passion and utmost devotion. Our beliefs and our values come out of the innermost depth of our hearts. Beliefs and values should be measured in quality and depth rather than in quantity and fashion.

Personal Beliefs and Values

I’ve a few personal beliefs and core values, such as:

• Health is the Greatest Gain,
• Contentment is the Greatest Wealth,
• Friendly Attachment is the Best Relative, and
• Purity of Heart & Mind is the Noblest Peace.

The most prominent and last advice to his disciples is: All component things in the world are changeable. They are not lasting. Work out your deliverance with earnestness.

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• Health is the Greatest Gain,
• Contentment is the Greatest Wealth,
• Friendly Attachment is the Best Relative, and
• Purity of Heart & Mind is the Noblest Peace.

I also stand for such beliefs as:

• Mind is the key to life.
• You can elevate your life with your mind, and
• You can degrade your life with your mind, as the Bhagavad Gita says.

My Core Values are:

• Diligence and Frugality
• Plain Living and Hard Struggle, and
• Love All, Serve All, Hurt Never, Help Ever

Organizational Beliefs and Values

Some of the most common beliefs and Values are:

• Action, Audacity and Altruism
• Character, Competence, Commitment, Courage & Caring
• Faith, Focus, Fairness, Far Sightedness & Future-Ori-entation
• People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace
• Live to Learn, Learn to Love and Love to Live, Respect, Responsibility, Rapport, Results & Renewal.

Some Examples of Business Beliefs & Values

• Respect for Individual, Excellence and Service (IBM Corp)
• Quality, Service, Cleanliness and Value – QSCV (Mac Donald’s)
• Integrity, Excellent Performance, Innovation, Learning and Synergy (UBO)
• Quality, Uniqueness, Innovation, Value, Excellence, Relationship and Service “QUIVER’S” (NAING Group Construction)

Vision and Values

The value of a vision is its core values. Without the core values, a vision and its attendant chain of wealth creation such as Mission, Goal, Objective, Strategy & Tactics cannot be meaningful and desirable. So, it can be said that the essence of a vision is its core values. Some solid values must be enshrined in a meaningful Vision.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.
The Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills

By Sayar Mya

The Jivitadana Sangha Hospital sounds very much Pali or Sanskrit in the olden days, but now it is a buzzword all over Myanmar and also in some foreign countries. “Jivitadana” means act of sparing or saving of life and “Sangha” stands out for “member of Buddhist order.”

One might have interest and wanted to know the Sagaing Hills. The green and lush hills are religious retreat and scattered around with many pagodas. There have 6000 monks, nuns who lived at 500 monasteries and nunneries on a green hillsides overlooking the mighty Ayeyawaddy River. The Ayeyawaddy River (formerly known as the Irawaddy River) flows through the center of Myanmar. It is Myanmar’s most important commercial waterway.

The hill is not only abode for pagodas but also many of Buddhist seminaries, edifice for Myanmar people. The most impressive “Soon Oo Pon Nya Shin Pagoda” was constructed in Myanmar Era 1312 at top of Sagaing Hills. The view of Sagaing City from Soon Oo Pon Nya Shin and its approach is amazingly panoramic.

For many decades, despite rural development and primary health care to the rural and remote communities, the health needs of many communities in the Sagaing Hills were not adequately fulfilled. Residents of rural and remote communities continue to show poorer health outcomes than residents in metropolitan centers. Therefore, the health of rural communities remains poor.

Many rural and remote communities face challenges in accessing medical services due to a lack of medical infrastructure, poor transportation, and financial constraints. This is particularly evident in rural and remote areas where the provision of medical care is limited. The Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills was established with the aim of improving access to quality medical care in these communities.

The Jivitadana Sangha Hospital was established in 1984 and is run by the Jivitadana Sangha, a Buddhist lay organization. The hospital is located at Sagaing Hills and provides healthcare services to the local community. The hospital has a range of medical facilities and services, including an emergency department, inpatient and outpatient services, and specialized departments.

The Jivitadana Sangha Hospital has a number of notable features:

1. The hospital is a nonprofit organization that is supported by donations from the public and other organizations.
2. The hospital is staffed by volunteers who provide healthcare services.
3. The hospital is equipped with modern medical equipment.
4. The hospital offers a wide range of medical services, including surgery and specialized care.
5. The hospital provides healthcare services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills is an admirable example of how a community can come together to provide quality healthcare services to those in need. The hospital is a testament to the power of volunteering and community involvement in addressing healthcare challenges.

Furthermore, the hospital is supported by the Jivitadana Sangha, a Buddhist lay organization that is dedicated to providing healthcare services to the local community. The Jivitadana Sangha has a long history of providing healthcare services in Myanmar and is committed to improving access to quality medical care in rural and remote areas.

In conclusion, the Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills is an impressive example of how a community can come together to provide quality healthcare services to those in need. The hospital is well-equipped and staffed by volunteers who provide healthcare services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. The Jivitadana Sangha is committed to improving access to quality medical care in rural and remote areas, and the hospital is a testament to their dedication.

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank the Jivitadana Sangha Hospital and its staff for their cooperation in providing information for this article. The author also wishes to thank the Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports for their support in providing medical data.

References


Overall, the Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills is a remarkable example of how a community can come together to provide quality healthcare services to those in need. The hospital is well-equipped and staffed by volunteers who provide healthcare services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. The Jivitadana Sangha is committed to improving access to quality medical care in rural and remote areas, and the hospital is a testament to their dedication.
Beijing sends 150 armed patrol vehicles to streets

BEIJING, 12 May — Beijing police deployed 150 armed patrol vehicles to city streets on Monday as part of its efforts to fight terrorism and maintain stability in the capital city.

The armed vehicles will become the “principal forces” in countering street terrorism and fighting severe violence in Beijing as the country fights violent attacks on civilians.

Sources with the Beijing Public Security Bureau said the patrol forces will mainly be responsible for incidents involving guns, bombs as well as mass violence or terrorism.

The vehicles will also function as a deterring force for any possible attackers or terrorists, the sources said.

The vehicles will be stationed at main intersections with heavy traffic.

Each vehicle will be deployed with nine police and four assistants as a team, the sources said.

The patrol forces will fully cover the main streets in Beijing, with each vehicle covering no more than three kilometers.

The police are required to reach the scene within three minutes after receiving a report, the sources said.—Xinhua

Four detained in China after radioactive material goes missing

BEIJING, 12 May — Police in China have detained four people after radioactive material being used in a construction project went missing, state media reported on Monday.

A tiny piece of irradiium-192, used to locate flaws in pieces of metal, vanished on Wednesday from a construction site in the eastern city of Nanjing and was not recovered until Saturday afternoon, the official China Daily reported.

It was found in bushes 1km from the construction site wrapped in a plastic bag, put in a lead container and then taken away, the newspaper said.

Police have detained four people deemed responsible for its loss from an engineering company, the paper added.

Nobody is reported to have become sick because of the incident, it said.

However, the newspaper added that Nanjing authorities only announced the material had gone missing on Saturday, even though information about the incident began leaking onto the Internet the previous night.

The Global Times, an influential tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party’s official People’s Daily, said the delay in releasing information had been to prevent mass panic, though added this could be considered dereliction of duty.

China has become increasingly sensitive to environmental issues, due to anxiety over worsening pollution among its increasingly well-educated and affluent population.—Reuters

Man arrested for hijacking bus with scissors

MIYAZAKI, 12 May — A man wielding a pair of scissors hijacked a bus on Sunday night on an expressway in southwestern Japan and was arrested on early Monday about three hours later, police said.

The suspect, identified as Seiichi Sato, 45, was caught around 1am at a convenience store off the Kyushu Expressway where the bus had stopped, they said.

He was charged with committing the three passengers and the driver, as well as threatening the driver with the scissors.

Sato was quoted as telling the police he wanted to die and that he thought he would not be arrested unless he did something serious.—Kyodo News

Book about US whistleblower Snowden reveals spying on Japan


A Japanese edition of the book titled “No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the US Surveillance State” and written by Glenn Greenwald, former columnist with The Guardian newspaper, will hit bookstores in Japan on Wednesday after its worldwide release on Tuesday.

According to the book, the NSA conducted surveillance on entities including the permanent mission of Japan to the United Nations in 2010 before the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on sanctions against Iran.

The United States used various methods, including hacking computers to obtain information from Japan’s UN mission, according to the book. Japan was a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council at the time.

The book also says that the NSA placed bugs and hacked more than 50,000 computers in Japan and other countries, enabling it to see what words users typed and messages on their computer screens.

Greenwald wrote that Snowden was sent to Japan as an employee of a major US computer manufacturer from 2009 to 2011 and underwent intensive training on cyberespionage which would enable him to hack into foreign military and civilian computer systems.

Japan’s Foreign Ministry declined to comment in detail on the book due to the sensitivity of the matter. The Guardian newspaper reported in June last year that US intelligence services were spying on embassies and diplomatic missions in the United States including those of Japan.

Greenwald broke the shocking revelations about the NSA’s secret surveillance programmes based on documents obtained from Snowden, a former Central Intelligence Agency worker and NSA contractor who is being sought by US authorities for leaking classified national security information.

Snowden was granted a one-year asylum by Russia in July last year.—Kyodo News

Iran, Pakistan team up in fight against terrorism

TEHERAN, 12 May — Iran and its southeastern neighbour Pakistan are teaming up in their fight against terrorism, local media reported on Sunday.

Terrorism is a “big and serious” problem in the region, Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani said in a meeting with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who arrived in Iran’s capital Tehran on Sunday for an official visit.

“Iran and Pakistan can uproot terrorism and violence in the region by inviting other regional states to enhance intelligence, security and operational cooperation,” he said, emphasizing the need to secure the border regions.

Nawaz Sharif said terrorism has severely hit Pakistan’s economy, reiterating Rouhani’s calls to control the border regions, Press TV reported.

The border regions are a particular concern for both countries as reports of attacks continue to surface. Last week, Iran arrested a number of “armed terrorists” in the southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province near the border with Pakistan, Press TV reported.

Police said the suspects intended to carry out acts of “sabotage.”—Xinhua

Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wave party flags as they attend an anti-government protest rally in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan on 11 May, 2014. A senior opposition leader in Pakistan on Sunday demanded a new election chief to ensure transparent and fair election in the country.—Xinhua
Nigeria president optimistic over finding abducted schoolgirls

ABUA, 12 May — Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said on Sunday international military and intelligence assistance made him optimistic about finding 200 schoolgirls abducted last month by Islamic militants in an attack condemned globally.

Israel became the latest country to offer help to Nigeria since 14 April when militants from Boko Haram stormed a secondary school in the northeastern village of Chibok and seized 276 girls who were taking exams. Some managed to escape but around 200 remain missing.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office gave no details of its proposed assistance but Jonathan said Netanyahu offered during a phone conversation to send a team of counter-terrorism experts.

At least 15 killed in Congo football stadium stampede

KINSHASA, 12 May — At least 15 people were killed after police fired tear gas in a crowded football stadium in Democratic Republic of Congo, provoking a stampede, according to a police source and a local official.

Fans in Kinshasa grew angry on Sunday evening after their local team was defeated 1-0 by a team from the eastern town of Lubumbashi in a heated final, according to Emmanuel Akweti, local minister for the capital’s inner city.

“Four policemen were harassed by supporters. When they fired tear gas, the stampede began, causing the deaths,” he told Reuters on Sunday.

Images on a local television station showed plumes of smoke rising from the stadium’s bleachers. Supporters, blinded by the gas, ran in different directions, sometimes falling over, the footage showed.

Akweti said 15 people died of suffocation and 24 were injured. A police source who declined to be named put the death toll higher, at 18.

A Reuters witness counted 14 bodies lying on benches outside the main hospital in Kinshasa.

At least 40 die after migrant boat sinks off Libya

TRIPOLI, 12 May — At least 40 people died and 31 others were rescued after a boat carrying mostly sub-Saharan African migrants sank off Libya’s coast east of Tripoli, the Libyan government said on Sunday.

The vessel appeared to have got into difficulty around 37 miles (60 km) east of Tripoli, Rami Kaal, a spokesman for the Libyan ministry of interior said.

Libya’s porous borders with its sub-Saharan neighbours and its proximity to Italy and Malta across the Mediterranean have made the North African country a common transit route for migrants trying to reach Europe.

With their coast guard, navy and armed forces ill-equipped and still in training, Libyan officials want more help from Western partners to stem the flow of illegal migrants trying to cross through Libya to Europe.

In March, Italy’s navy rescued more than 4,000 migrants from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast.

Many migrants pay more than $1,000 to criminal gangs for the sea journey from Libya, where the government struggles to control a country still full of weapons and brigades of former rebels since the civil war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Suicide bomber kills 11 people in latest Yemen violence

ADEN, 12 May — A suicide car bomber killed 10 Yemeni soldiers and one civilian and wounded many others on Sunday after targeting a military police building in the southern coastal city of Mukallah, state news agency Saba said.

The blast appeared to be a revenge attack by al-Qaeda over the Yemeni army’s campaign to crush Islamist insurgents in two large southern provinces.

This has ousted many militants from towns they first seized during mass unrest in 2011 that jeopardized national security and posed a serious threat to major oil producer Saudi Arabia next door.

Rescuers picked through the rubble of the two-storey building to search for survivors from the blast, which hit the complex as the soldiers were having lunch, a local security official told Reuters.

“We cannot tell the wounded from the dead,” the official said. Saba cited a security source as saying that 15 soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Residents said ambulances had been evacuating the wounded from the scene of the blast which had sent shrapnel flying into nearby residential buildings.

“It was a strong explosion and it shook Mukalla,” resident Salah al-Hamawi told Reuters by telephone.

In a separate assault in the Yemeni capital on Sunday, three Yemeni were killed after they tried to attack a security checkpoint, the Interior Ministry said, the second such incident close to Sanaa’s presidential palace in as many days.

The checkpoint attack also appeared to be retaliation for the army offensive, which state news agency Saba said had killed or wounded hundreds of al-Qaeda members.
Chinese premier urges China, Africa to enhance media cooperation

Nairobi, 12 May — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang called on China and Africa to enhance media cooperation on Sunday.

Chinese and African media outlets should report the developing world in an objective and just manner, and make the voices of the developing countries heard in the world, Li said when visiting the China Central Television (CCTV) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 11 May, 2014.—Xinhua

13 killed in Iraq's insurgent attacks

Baghdad, 12 May — A total of 13 people were killed and 11 others injured on Sunday evening across Iraq in separate insurgent attacks that mainly targeted security forces, police and medical sources said.

Six policemen were killed and three others wounded on Sunday evening in an attack by an armed group at a police headquarter in the town of Baaj, 390 km northwest of the capital Baghdad, in Iraq’s northern province of Nineveh, a local police source said. Two soldiers were killed and four other soldiers and three civilians wounded when a suicide bomber launched a car bomb attack on the headquarters of Nineveh operation command in the provincial capital of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, the source said.

In south of Mosul, unidentified gunman stormed the house of a brother of Najim Abdullah, a member of the Nineveh provincial council, killing him before they fled the scene.

Meanwhile, four soldiers were killed and another winger on Sunday night when gunman attacked a checkpoint in south of Kirkuk, 250 km north Baghdad, police said. These evening attacks came after a total of 41 people were killed and 30 others injured in separate violent attacks across the country earlier in the day.—Xinhua

Israel offers help to Nigeria

Jerusalem, 12 May — Israel offered Nigeria help on Sunday in locating 200 schoolgirls abducted last month by Islamist rebel group Boko Haram in an attack that has drawn global condemnation and prompted some Western powers to provide assistance.

"Israel expresses deep shock at the crime against the girls," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office quoted him as telling Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan by phone. "We are ready to help in finding the girls and fighting the cruel terrorism inflicted on you."

The statement did not elaborate on how Israel might enlist in the search, with which British and US experts are also helping. A spokesman for Israel’s Foreign Ministry said he knew of no cooperation efforts under way.

Israel has defense ties with Nigeria, and has provided it in the past with surveillance drones. Last September, Israel was among several countries that sent advisers to Kenya to assist in a stand-off with Islamist gunmen who attacked a mall in Nairobi.—Reuters

Iran leader slams West’s ‘stupid’ missile stance before talks

Dubai, 11 May — Iran’s Supreme Leader described as “stupid and idi- otic” Western expectations for his country to curb its missile development, striking a defiant tone ahead of a fresh round of nuclear talks.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Iran’s Revolutionary Guards to mass produce missiles and said the nuclear negotiations were not the place to discuss Teheran’s defence programme or to solve the problem of sanctions damaging the Iranian economy.

"They expect us to limit our missile programme while they constantly threaten Iran with military action," Khamenei was quoted as telling the IRNA news agency while on a visit to an aeronautics fair held by the Revolutionary Guards.

"So this is a stupid, idiotic expectation ... The revolutionary guards should definitely carry out their programme and not be satisfied with the present level. They should mass produce. This is a main duty of all military officials."

Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia will reconvene in Vienna on Tuesday to try to iron out differences over how to end a long standoff over suspicions that Teheran has sought the means to develop nuclear weapons.

While missiles are not at the heart of the talks over Iran’s nuclear work, which centre on the production of missile material usable in atomic bombs, Western countries would like them discussed at the nuclear discussions.

Iran has one of the biggest missile programmes in the Middle East, viewing it as an essential precautionary defence against the United States and other adversaries such as Israel.

The United States and its allies fret that such missiles could potentially carry nuclear warheads.

The Islamic Republic denies accusations that it is seeking a capability to make nuclear weapons. It insists that the missiles are part of its conventional armed forces and rules out including them on the agenda of the nuclear discussions. Khamenei’s comments appeared at odds with more conciliatory remarks earlier by President Hassan Rouhani, who said he wanted Iran to do a better job of explaining its nuclear programme to prevent “evil-minded” people misleading world opinion.—Reuters

Insurgents launch multiple attacks in Thai south, one dead

Bangkok, 12 May — Suspected Muslim separatists in southern Thailand launched a wave of more than 30 attacks on Monday including shootings, bombings and arson, police said, killing one person and injuring more than 10.

Thailand is predominantly Buddhist but parts of the south, in particular the three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, are majority Muslim and decades-old resistance to central government rule resurfaced violently in 2004.

Paradorn Pattanathabutr, a security adviser to the prime minister, said the targets included a shopping mall, which was set on fire, and electricity pylons. "One woman has died and more than ten others were injured. We believe the perpetrators are rebel Muslim groups trying to recruit more people for their cause," Paradorn told Reuters.

Police in Narathiwat Province, close to Thailand’s border with Malaysia, said bomb attacks were carried out at more than 10 locations and a Muslim woman was killed in one blast. More than 5,700 people have been killed in the south since January 2004 and more than 40 have been killed this year. There are various shadowy rebel factions and their main demand is for greater autonomy for their long-neglected region.—Reuters
Man shot dead at Houston motel

HOUSTON, 12 May — A man was shot dead at a motel parking lot in the US city of Houston on Sunday, local media reported.

An exchange of gunfire took place on early Sunday morning, shortly after a group of men followed the victim and his companion into a motel parking lot in north Houston, the Houston Chronicle reported. The man died at the scene.

Police said the suspects ran away with the victim’s gun and possibly other property. The man’s companion escaped unharmed. Several guests staying overnight at the motel reported hearing more than 10 gunshots. One man found a bullet hole in his van later in the morning.

Police have not arrested any suspects and the motive of the shooting remains unclear. No further details have been released.

Head-on crash kills four, injures eight in E Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 12 May — A cargo truck crashed into a band van early Monday in eastern Cambodia’s Kampong Cham Province, leaving at least four people dead and eight others injured, a local police officer said.

“Four people died and eight others were injured as the two vehicles drove in an opposite direction and hit head-on,” Lim Sothy, deputy traffic police chief of Kampong Cham Province’s Chomkrk Leu district, where the accident happened, told Xinhua, adding that three of the dead were female. “They (victims) were musicians,” he said, blaming the accident on high-speed driving and darkness at night.

Death toll from road accidents remains high in Cambodia. Last year, some 1,950 people died of the accidents as 5,670 others seriously injured, according to the report of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

One dead, three missing after canoe overturns in Canada

VANCOUVER, 12 May— 19-year-old woman died and three other people were missing after their canoe overturned on Slocan Lake in western Canada on Saturday, local media said.

Police and local rescue teams continued to search on Sunday for the three missing young men at the lake north of Nelson in British Columbia Province.

The woman who died in hospital in New Denver was identified as Lily Harmer-Taylor. The three men are Hayden Kyle, 21, Skye Donnet, 18, and Jule Witshire-Parfield, 15.

The LSO Open Air Classics concert is presented by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Trafalgar Square in London, Britain, on 11 May, 2014. The concert conducted by renowned Russian conductor Valery Gergiev was interrupted by protesters on Sunday, who accused him of supporting Russian President Vladimir Putin’s policy on the Ukraine crisis.

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Xinhua

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Police and local rescue teams continued to search on Sunday for the three missing young men at the lake north of Nelson in British Columbia Province.

The woman who died in hospital in New Denver was identified as Lily Harmer-Taylor. The three men are Hayden Kyle, 21, Skye Donnet, 18, and Jule Witshire-Parfield, 15.

The LSO Open Air Classics concert is presented by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Trafalgar Square in London, Britain, on 11 May, 2014. The concert conducted by renowned Russian conductor Valery Gergiev was interrupted by protesters on Sunday, who accused him of supporting Russian President Vladimir Putin’s policy on the Ukraine crisis.

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Tiger Shroff: It will be a father-son competition on 23 May

Newly-crowned 2014 Miss Philippines Earth Jamie Herrell (C) waves during the 2014 Miss Philippines Earth Coronation Night in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 11 May, 2014. 49 candidates vied for the crown that will represent the country in the annual 2014 Miss Earth beauty pageant.—AP

Los Angeles / New York, 12 May — Raunchy comedy “Neighbors”, starring Seth Rogen as a family man who moves next to a frat house, kicked superhero movie “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” off the top spot on US and Canadian box office charts over the weekend. “Neighbors” earned $51.1 million ($30.3 million pounds) in ticket sales to lead all movies from Friday through Sunday, according to estimates from tracking firm Rentrak. “Spider-Man 2”, last weekend’s box office winner, took in $37.2 million to finish second, ahead of comedy “The Other Woman” with $9.3 million.

Rogen stars in “Neighbors” as a married former party guy transitioning into suburban parenthood with his wife, played by Rose Byrne. Rogen’s character wages war with the neighboring frat house and its obnoxious president, played by “High School Musical” star Zac Efron. “Neighbors” far exceeded pre-weekend forecasts for a debut of $35 million to $40 million. The movie cost $18 million to make, according to the Box Office Mojo website.

Its success follows other adult comedy hits such as “Bridesmaids”, “Ted” and last summer’s “This Is the End”, also starring Rogen. “This was the little engine that could,” said Nikki Rocco, president for domestic distribution at Universal Pictures, the unit of Comcast Corp that distributed “Neighbors”. The film got a boost by playing especially well with female and older audiences, she said. The opening was among the best-ever for an R-rated comedy, according to Rentrak.

The take for “Spider-Man 2”, one of a string of big-budget superhero and monster movies Hollywood is releasing in the coming weeks, dropped nearly 60 percent from its opening weekend, bringing its domestic haul to $148 million. The franchise’s previous film in 2012 reached $262 million, according to Boxofficemojo. The global total for the sequel stands at just over $550 million, through Sunday, distributor Sony Corp said.

The film stars Andrew Garfield as the web-slinging superhero and Emma Stone as Gwen Stacy, the girlfriend of Spider-Man’s alter-ego Peter Parker, in a follow-up to a 2012 blockbuster. “The drop we had is right in the realm of what we would expect it to be,” said Rory Brue, president of worldwide distribution for Sony Pictures Entertainment. “We’re as well on our way toward meeting and exceeding our goals.”—Reuters

George Clooney’s pet pig was his baby, says ex-girlfriend Elizabeth Daily

Los Angeles, 12 May — Actor George Clooney was “so close” to his pet pig that he didn’t want to have children, says his ex-girlfriend Elizabeth Daily.

The actor-filmmaker recently got engaged to Amal Alamuddin. Elizabeth believes his change of heart with regards to love and marriage has come after he finally got over the death of his pig named Max, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“He didn’t need children, Max was his baby. He loved that pig like nothing else. It got in that bed at times. When he finally got over the death of his pig named Max, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“I have worked with people whom I have worked with actually want to work with me again. I see it as a good thing. I’ve never had any problem with my co-stars whether it’s male or female,” said the Avon India brand ambassador, who has worked with actors like Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan more than once.

George recently got engaged to Amal Alamuddin.—AP

Asin Thottumkal in Shimla for “All Is Well”

Shimla, 12 May — Actress Asin Thottumkal, whose last Hindi movie Khoi Khoi came out in 2012, is currently shooting for upcoming film All Is Well in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

When asked about her visit to Shimla, she told IANS, “Yes, early in the morning. It is for All Is Well. It’s little early to talk about the film as the schedule is on right now.” The film is directed by Umesh Shukla. Asin, who acted as Abhishek Bachchan’s sister in Bol Bachchan, will again share screen space with the actor and she doesn’t mind working with the same people again.

“I am happy that people whom I have worked with actually want to work with me again. I see it as a good thing. I’ve never had any problem with my co-stars whether it’s male or female,” said the Avon India brand ambassador, who has worked with actors like Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan more than once.

Asin, who acted as Abhishek Bachchan’s sister in Bol Bachchan, will again share screen space with the actor in her upcoming movie All Is Well.—PTI

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“He didn’t need children, Max was his baby. He loved that pig like nothing else. It was the size of a table, absolutely huge,” The Sun newspaper quoted Elizabeth as saying. She further said that he never needed or wanted to have children until his pig had Max.

“I would just be hanging out round George’s with giant pig chilling out beside us. It had its own special pen and at night it would sleep on the floor right besides George’s bed. It got into that bed at times.”

“They were so close it was like father and son. When Max died in 2006 he was really torn up. Maybe now there’s no Max he’ll start to feel the pangs of parenthood. That would be great for him,” she said.—PTI
Cost rows overshadow safety response to Malaysia jet disappearance

PARIS, May 12 — The United Nations is leading a high-level effort this week to improve the way aircraft are tracked to address public concerns over the disappearance of a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet.

But the official response to missing Flight MH370 and a similar event in 2009 has already been clouded by rows between aviation regulators and pilot groups about the cost and surveillance, new documents show, raising questions about how fast regulators can act. Papers issued as a European agency toughened guidelines for black-box flight recorders last week show disputes about the economic and safety benefits, as manufacturer urged delay and pilots resisted pressure for more cockpit monitoring.

The European Consultation process on black-box design is the latest case study of the conflicting interests that can arise when aviation safety is discussed internationally.

Experts say some of the same issues will be on regulators’ minds when the UN’s International Civil Aviation Organization meets this week to discuss black-box recovery - an issue which has seen limited progress since the loss of Air France Flight 447 in 2009.

The United Nations is leading a four-day meeting of experts to address public concerns over the disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines flight, MH370, near the Indian Ocean.

The European Aviation Safety Agency’s proposal last week to increase the maximum amount of recording time on cockpit voice recorders to 20 hours from two hours.

Flight MH370 is suspected of crashing in the Indian Ocean up to seven hours after it went missing on 8 March, meaning it may never be possible to hear what happened at a crucial point.

According to the documents, Airbus questioned why Europe should go out on a limb after the United States reaffirmed the two-hour rule four years earlier.

It urged EASA to postpone until regulators could agree a common plan, expected in 2015/16. Rival Boeing raised concerns that disjointed regulations could impose “significant cost” for manufacturers and airlines.

EASA responded its job was to uphold safety in Europe, not necessarily to fit in with decisions taken elsewhere. — Reuters

Colombian army says 12 rebels killed

BOGOTA, May 12 — Twelve rebels were killed last week in operations against the FARC and ELN guerrilla groups in several Colombian regions, according to Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon.

Referring to the large number of rebels who were demobilized, Pinzon said the army also prevented a FARC attack in the country’s southern Huila department, where rebels are said to have detonated several explosives along local roads.

London, 12 May — Experienced left back Ashley Cole has been left out of the England squad for next month’s World Cup in Brazil and the Chelsea defender has announced his international retirement. Cole, 33, who won 107 caps, was told by Roy Hodgson he will not be included in his provision- al 23-man squad or among the standby players to be named on Monday, with the England manager saying it was one of the hardest decisions of his career.

“Got the call from Roy and agree England team should be about the young players,” Cole tweeted on Sunday. “I think it best I retire from England team now.” We have a great manager and team and I wish them only success. I will be supporting them like a true fan. Thanks to everyone for everything,” Hodgson told The FA.com. “There are few players who can be considered among the very best in the world, but Ashley in his prime was the best left back without question.” “Of course I must respect his decision to retire, he has been one of England’s finest players, but I want to look to the future. It has been one of the hardest decisions of my career.”

The most capped England player of all time, has been first-choice left back since making his debut against Albania in 2001. He has started every tournament match since his first appearance at the 2002 World Cup against Sweden.

But he has struggled to get into the Chelsea team this term under Jose Mourinho and was used once off the bench in a three-month period from late January before recent starts at

England left out of England World Cup squad, quits internationals

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Liverpool and in the Champions League semi-final against Atlético Madrid.” Among many difficult de- cisions I’ve had to make for my squad not selecting Ash- ley was one of the hardest,” said Hodgson. “He’s been an incredible competitor for England, to amass over a century of caps is a truly staggering achievement and he deserves enormous credit for the desire and brilliance which has shone through over the years he has represented his coun- try.” — Reuters

A Royal Malaysia Air Force C-130 takes off from RAAF Base Pearce to help search for wreckage and debris of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, near Perth on 3 April, 2014. — Reuters

England’s Ashley Cole gestures during their international friendly soccer match against Ireland at Wembley stadium in London on 29 May, 2013. — Reuters
The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 13 May, 2014

OS/OCA regional forum held in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May — Olympic Solidarity and Asia Olympic Council Regional Forum for East and Southeast Asian NOCs was held at the Hotel Royal Ace in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Members of International Olympic Solidarity, Asia Olympic Committees and national Olympic committees from 9 Asian countries and 10 Southeast Asian countries participated in the forum and discussed arrangements for 17th Incheon Asian Sports Competition, 4th Pukhet Beach Sport Competition and Nanjing Youth Olympic Games. The forum successfully concluded in the afternoon.

MNA

Myanmar team leaves for AFC Women’s Asian Cup

Yangon, 12 May — The selected Myanmar women soccer team left for Ho Chi Minh City this afternoon to participate in the 2014 AFC Women’s Asian Cup from 15 to 25 May.

The Myanmar team is to play against China, South Korea and Thai teams in Group B. The team plays against South Korea at 5:15 on 15 May, against China at 5:15 on 17 May and against Thailand at 7:15 on 19 May.

The Myanmar women team will have a chance to participate in 2015 FIFA Women’s Cup (Canada) if it can manage to secure top five positions in the Asian Cup.

If the team gets the third place in the group match, it will have to play against the team in the third place in the Group-A for the FIFA Women’s World Cup. — Po Thaw Zin

Nervy Kaymer triumphs by one shot at the Players Championship

Ponte Vedra Beach (Florida), 12 May — Martin Kaymer withstood a nervy one-shot victory at the Players Championship.

The German, who managed to clinch his second PGA Tour title with a nervy one-shot victory at the Players Championship on Sunday, the German, co-leader overnight with American playing partner Spith, produced rock-solid golf to move briefly four strokes clear, then survived a double-bogey on 15 as he closed with a one-under-par 71 at the challenging Dusseldorf lined up a par putt from just under four feet on the 18th green, stroked the ball into the cup and then looked heavily in relief before pumping his right fist in celebration. — Reuters

Maria Sharapova claimed her second consecutive title as she defeated Romania’s Simona Halep 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a match which saw an amazing turnaround in fortunes after losing the first set.

Halep had ended her semi-final with a 6-3, 6-2 defeat of the Czech Petra Kvitkova on Saturday, but the Russian legend bounced back from a 6-3, 6-2 loss in the first set to win the deciding set 6-3 to add the Madrid title to the one she won recently in Stuttgart.

Sharapova was only number 8 seed in Madrid, but is recovering her best form ominously as the French Open, the second grand slam of the year, looms on the horizon.

Local Sports

Myanmar Soccer players to participate in Bayern Youth Cup

Nadelfielin (Germany), 12 May — Five Myanmar U-16 soccer players selected to form a team with five Thai counterparts for Bayern Munich Youth Cup left for Thailand this morning.

The Myanmar-Thai team represents Southeast Asia.

Eight teams including the host German team and teams from Brazil, Italy, Australia, Japan, China, India and Myanmar-Thailand were invited for Bayern Munich Youth Cup to be held in youth training camp of Bayern Munich from 18 to 12 May.

The tournament is Round Robin Tournament with 7 players (6 players+1 goalkeeper). The first and second parts of the matches are 35 minutes with a 15 minutes interval.

Youth soccer players selected for the tournament will have an opportunity to learn basic soccer techniques from former soccer players and coaches of the club and to study International Sports Training Center and training of the club while those who can show their talent will be trained with the youth team of the club. Five members Myanmar U-16 players were selected from a total of 98 youths between the age of 14 and 16 from Mandalay Myanmar Soccer Academy, Youth Soccer Academies of MNL Clubs, Yangon and Mandalay Sports Institute and other soccer players.

Five Myanmar soccer players include Aung Phyo Tha, Phone Thitsar Min (Goal) of Nay Pyi Taw FC Soccer Academy, Kyaw Lin Mo, Zar Nga Pya Tha (Myanmar Soccer Academy- Mandalay), Maung Maung (Sports Institute- Mandalay), U Khin Maung Htwe was chosen as the team manager.

They are leaving Thailand for Germany on 17 May.

Po Thaw Zin

Nadal wins in Madrid as Nishikori pulls out injured in 3rd set

Madrid, 12 May — Rafael Nadal won his fourth title at the Madrid Open on Sunday as he defeated Japan’s Kei Nishikori 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a match which saw an amazing turnaround in fortunes after losing the first set.

It was tough on the number 10 seed, who took the game to the home favorite and despite a partisan crowd cheering in Nadal’s favor and blitzed his way to the first set with some wonderful aggressive tennis.

He was also a service break up in the second set but it was clear that he was suffering physically and Nadal was able to fight back to level the game.

Finally Nishikori was unable to continue and his retirement gave Nadal his 30th win of the season and shows he is back on track after recent disappointments in Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

Maria Sharapova (C) of Spain poses with the ball kids during the awarding ceremony of the 2014 Madrid Tennis Open after claiming the champion of the men’s singles match against Kei Nishikori of Japan in Madrid, Spain, on 11 May, 2014. —Xinhua

MNA

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