Community Driven Development Projects underway with $80 million World Bank grant

By Ye Myint

The $86.3-million Myanmar National Community Development project has begun with work on three townships, financed with the $80 million IDA grant from the World Bank’s fund for the poorest countries approved in November 2012 and the remaining money provided by the government.

The 6-year project, the first World Bank project in 25 years in Myanmar, started in March and will be — in its first year — covering 400 villages in three rural townships, including remote areas in Shan State.

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Cooperation sought between Election Commission and social organizations

YANGON, 16 May—A coordination meeting between the Union Election Commission and social organizations took place at Summit Park View Hotel here on Friday morning, sources said.

At the meeting, the commission briefed on the compilation of voter lists, its rules and regulations, and preparatory measures.

The commission then dealt with queries raised by social organizations.

The meeting drew 40 social organizations and seven INGOs. —MNA

Vice-President of NPC holds talks with Deputy Speaker of Lower House

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Mme Yan Junji, Vice-President of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and party met Deputy Speaker of the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa on Friday at the parliament’s building in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two Hluttaws based on the comprehensive strategic cooperation.

World Bank’s senior economist discusses poverty alleviation plan

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The meeting entitled ‘Consultation Meeting on Systematic Country Diagnostics: Priorities for Ending Poverty and Boosting Shared Prosperity in Myanmar’ was held here on Friday.

Khwima Nithara, a senior economist of the World Bank, made a discussion at the meeting which was attended by Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein and Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific.

Survey shows 7 pc boom in Myanmar automobile market in six years

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Myanmar sees seven per cent rise in automobile market in six years with the influx of various brands of cars into the domestic market, according to an online survey.

During the press release at the 50th Street Cafe Restaurant and Bar in Yangon on Friday, Erwin Sikma, the Founder and MD of Rocket Internet Myanmar Classified, from the www.motors.com.mm website said: “The development of Myanmar car market has increased seven per cent in six years, and the various brands of new cars are entering the domestic market daily.”

He said, “Myanmar has many investment opportunities in Asia. We are planning to extend online market to fulfill the needs for buyers and sellers.

As Myanmar has liberalized restrictions on regulations of automobile imports under the new government, demand on luxury cars has also increased in the country, attracting many automobile companies to invest in Myanmar.

Myanmar researchers said more than 200 showrooms have been opened in major cities of the country. At present, it is estimated that over 200,000 vehicles are driving on the country’s roads.

The research shows that most of local customers prefer Toyota’s products to other brands. The www.motors.com.mm is now mainly focusing on Yangon automobile market.

Erwin Sikma said their online services will be extended to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi and Magway so as to meet the demand of Myanmar automobile market, and to help the customers find the cars. Many interested users are now browsing www.motors.com.mm for detailed information and 60 per cent of them are using mobile devices.

Up to now, a few numbers of websites can only provide online services to users on Myanmar online car market. An expert has estimated that Myanmar automobile industry will meet more development in the future.

Erwin said that more than 7,000 people are getting information of automotives each month from www.motors.com.mm website where 70 per cent of showrooms and facts about over 5,000 vehicles have been posted.

The website is part of Carmudi.com under the World’s Largest Internet Incubator Rocket Internet Co., and it allotted more than US$ 10 million investment for Carmudi website in Asia recently.
President meets Vice-Chairperson of NPC of China

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—President U Thein Sein paid homage to the Mahamuni Buddha Image in Mandalay and donated gold foil to the image on Friday morning.

He also held talks with a Chinese delegation led by Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), on the same day at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they discussed implementation of comprehensive strategic cooperation between the two countries, promotion of relations between the two peoples, peace and stability and rule of law in the region.

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and party.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets WB delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met a delegation headed by Mr Axel Van Trotsenburg, World Bank Regional Vice-Chairman for East-Asia and Pacific.—MNA

Upper House Speaker leaves for New Zealand

YANGON, 16 May—Speaker of Upper House U Khin Aung Myint left Yangon International Airport on Friday morning to pay a visit to New Zealand.

The speaker was accompanied by chairmen of the Upper House affairs committees U Nay Win and Daw Mya Mya Than and Daw Htar Htar Oo, U Than Myint and Daw Mya Mya Than, U Maung Maung Galay, Dr. Tin Mi Mi and U Than Chit and Daw Khin Khin Win.

Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received a Chinese delegation led by Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, at Zabuthiri Hall of the parliament building in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning, sources said.

Also present on the Myanmar side were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, committee chairpersons from both houses, and officials. The Chinese vice-chairman was accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Norwegian King, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and His Excellency Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2014.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and of Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received a Chinese delegation led by Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, at Zabuthiri Hall of the parliament building in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning, sources said.

Medical instruments and medicines were donated by U Nay Win and Daw Khin Thin Lwin, U Kyin Pain and Daw Tin Kyi, U Thein Win and Daw Thi da Sein, U San Nyein and Daw Khin Thet Tin, U Aye tun and Daw Htar Htar Oo, U Than Myint and Daw Mya Mya Than, U Maung Maung Galay, Dr. Tin Mi Mi and U Than Chit and Daw Khin Khin Win.

Donors for renovation and medical supplies honoured

YANGON, 16 May—The ceremony to mark the completion of the renovation of the eye surgical theatre in Yangon Western General Hospital and to honour the donors of instruments and medicines required for eye surgery was held at the hospital on Friday morning. Patron of Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Hlay made an opening speech at the ceremony.

Donors for renovation of the theatre were Mother Trading Co., Ltd, Mon Mon Ye Ye Construction and Ponnya Thahara well-wisher Youths Association...
Yadana Lake at Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda in Land of Unity to be renovated

Panglong, 16 May—Panglong is a famous region not only in Shan State but in the nation because the Panglong Monument was erected in the town in commemoration of the Union solidarity before regaining the Independence of the nation.

A coordination meeting on renovation of Yadana Lake at the Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda located in Panglong Sub-Township of Loilem District was held at the religious building in the precinct of the pagoda on Thursday.

Township authorities, the chairman of pagoda board of trustees and officials discussed renovation plans at the meeting.

Volunteer university students in literacy campaign honoured in Kawthoung

Kawthoung, 16 May—A ceremony to mark successful completion of basic literacy campaign 2014 was held at the hall in Kawthoung, the southern tip of nation in Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

Assistant Lecturer U Tun Oo of Chemistry Department of Myeik University, leader of the literacy campaign in the region, reported on success in learning and teaching tasks at the teaching tables and handed over a certificate of honour given by the Union Minister for Education, to Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko.

The chief minister also presented certificates of honour and gifts to faculty members and students from Dawei and Myeik universities who participated in the literacy movement.

Later, the chief minister hosted a dinner to the faculty members and volunteer students.

Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

Myanmar Insurance clarifies services for travellers

Monywa, 16 May—A talk on insurance services being given by Myanma Insurance under the Ministry of Finance was held at the hall of private bus lines control committee in Monywa, the city of Sagaing Region, on Wednesday morning.

The in-charge of Sagaing Region of Myanma Insurance explained disciplines and benefits of special travel insurance, third party liability insurance and comprehensive vehicle insurance distributed by Myanma Insurance for reducing loss of travellers in traffic accidents.

Officials replied to queries raised by the chairman, secretary and member of the control committee, highway bus owners and in-charges.

Po Chan (Monywa)

IPRD’s mini book corners raise public reading habits

Khamaukkyi, 16 May—Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information has opened mini book corners in all townships of the nation as of July 2013.

Staff members of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township IPRD changed books in the book corners four times at eight mini book corners at the public places on Wednesday.

The book corners become good reading facilities for the people at grass root level in the township.

Khamaukkyi (IPRD)

Public Works of Kyaukkyi Township starts construction of gravel road in Okphyat-Mone section of Toungoo-Sittoung-Moppalin Road and maintenance of bridges in Mone region of Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region, on 1 May.

Artist Than Win (Kyaukkyi Media)
**Local News**

**Myanmar U-16 to play against Lao Toyota on 17 May**

The Asian Champions Trophy to be organized by the football academy of Frenz United of Malaysia will be held in Malaysia on 17 May.

A total of 12 football teams will take part in the two groups in fixtures.

Myanmar U-16 team is in the group (B) together with Lao Toyota FC, Guangdong youth (China), Chonburi (Thailand), Phnom Penh Crown FC (Cambodia) and Frenz United (Malaysia).

The home and away matches will be held for the cup from the group matches to the final. Myanmar youth will play the home matches at Aung San Stadium. In the debut, Myanmar will meet Lao Toyota FC on 17 May.

Myanmar youth team comprises managers U Soe Win, U Win Thu Moe and U Aung Aung Tun, secretary U Kyaw Min Htoo, Head Coach Minkovski (Bulgaria), Assistant Coaches U Khin Maung Htoo, U Tin Maung Win and U Aung Kyaw Zan, Goal Coach U Maung Maung Myint, players Po Min Khan, Hein Phyo Win, Ye Yint Ko, Pyae Maung Maung, Moe Moe Tun, Kyaw Lwin Moe, Zwe Thet Paing, Moe Min Zaw, Okkar Bo, Aung Pyae Ko, Shwe Ko, Min Thu, Zin Myo Htet, Thiha Tun Kyaw, Ye Min Thu, Nay Oo Lwin, Hsan Htet Naing, Wai Yan, Aung Thet Soe, Aung Moe Thu, Saw Phaw La Lay, Aung Phyo Thu, Ye Yint Aung, Lwin Moe Aung, Phone Thitsar Min, Saw Htay, Zarnayya Thu, Kyaw Zin Soe and Myat Tun Thu.—Soe Nyunt

**Players of Myanmar U-16 team pose for group photo in the pitch.**—Soe Nyunt

A total of 238 candidates joined the personal test for the posts of daily wage primary assistant teachers to be assigned in Twantay of Yangon South District, at No 1 Basic Education High School on Thursday.

Myo Hlaing (Twantay)

**District Election Sub-commission chairman submits resignation**

Myo Hlaing, 16 May—U Di Sim Ram, Chairman of Mohinny District Election Sub-Commission, has recently submitted his resignation letter to the authorities after joining a political party in Kachin State.

U Di Sim Ram who took retirement from the post of Deputy Director of Mohinny District Law Office had discharged duty of the district sub-election commission chairman as of 2010 multiparty general elections. In an interview, he expressed his opinion that as governments and Hut-taws have been established in regions and states, their administrative mechanisms depict the nature of the Union. However, today’s region and state governments have a few authority for their machinery. They have no authority to appoint any person at the post of security personnel or peon. It should hand over the authority to supervise the township level departments and organizations to the region and state governments. Indeed, power sharing should be implemented clearly and the table 1 and 2 of the constitution should be amended, he added.—NLM-001

**Village committees formed for green village project**

Myingyan, 16 May—The election for members of the Green Village Project implementation committee was held in villages of Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on Thursday morning.

The clarification on process of election was held in Taungon and Tebin villages. Officials of Rural Development Department explained mission and vision of the project, the ways to operate K30 capital fund for the village, disbursement, fund-raising plans and tasks of the supervisory committee and procedures of election for the committee members.

**Stone inscription works on high demand in Pakokku**

Pakokku, 16 May—Stone inscription making works are being carried out on a manageable scale in the open season, and these stone inscriptions are to be kept at construction and renovation of monasteries and pagodas in Pakokku, Magway Region, said Ko Kyaw Naing (Kyaw Thha) of Pakokku who is engaged in curving the stone inscriptions.

The prices for the stone inscriptions are set as K4000 per 1 foot by six inches size stone plaque, K200,000 per 4x3 feet size, K500,000 per 4x8 feet size.

One square foot stone inscription decorated with terrazzo costs K7000. These works are ordered from Mandalay. The stone sculptors use marble stones produced from Madaya region. They do not like the marble from Loikaw because the plaque is grey.

At present, marble stones from Madaya region is high demand in China, so its price is hiking day by day.

Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

**Authorities fulfill requirements of locals in Meiktila**

Meiktila, 16 May—Township authorities made field trips to wards and villages of Meiktila Township recently to check development tasks and to fulfill the requirements of the local people.

They coordinated with local people in undertaking development of health, education and social sectors in the wards and villages. Their trips will last up to 25 May.

The authorities fulfilled development tasks and water and power supply tasks for the people after coordinating the departmental officials. NLM-018
**Kerry says he’s seen raw data suggesting Syria used chlorine in attacks**

Recent months.

“I have seen the raw data that suggests that there may have been, as France has suggested, a number of instances in which chlorine has been used in the conduct of war,” Kerry told reporters in London.

“If it has, and it could be proven, then that would be against the agreements of the chemical weapons treaty and against the weapons convention that Syria has signed up to,”

Kerry, who earlier met foreign ministers from European Union and Gulf Arab countries that are opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, said the data had not been verified.

“It has been made clear by President Obama and others that use would result in consequences,” Kerry said, adding: “We’re not going to pin ourselves down to a precise time, date, manner of action, but there will be consequences.”

France is pressing the United Nations to refer the three-year-old civil war in Syria to the International Criminal Court for possible prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Syria has promised to hand over or destroy its entire chemical weapons arsenal although it still possesses roughly 7.5 percent of declared chemicals and has not yet destroyed a dozen production and storage facilities.— Reuters

**World**

**Wildfires menace southern California, thousands evacuated**

SAN DIEGO, 16 May — Wildfires were raging in southern California on Thursday, keeping thousands of residents and students away from their homes after San Diego county officials maintained evacuation advisories.

Whipped by the wind, flames swept over the parched land close to homes and roads in nine fires across the county, with black smoke filling the sky as California entered the height of wildfire season in the midst of one of the state’s worst droughts.

No major injuries were reported.

California Governor Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency to free up resources.

A blaze in San Marcos that erupted on Wednesday prompted official to issue evacuation notices for thousands of residents and students at a California State University campus.— Reuters

**UN warns half of Yemen’s population in need of humanitarian assistance**

UNITED NATIONS, 16 May — More than half of Yemen’s population is in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance, a UN spokesman told reporters here on Thursday.

“Ten and a half million Yemenis are food insecure, 13 million have no access to clean water or adequate sanitation and 8.6 million have no health assistance, including reproductive health services,” said Stephanie Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at the daily briefing.

The Middle Eastern country continues to work towards building a federal state and forge ahead with democratic reform, according to the UN.

Thousands of people have been displaced in Yemen as government forces launched operations against al-Qaeda strongholds.

Of the 14.7 million Yemeni people that in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance, there are 7.6 million who have been identified as “the most needy” by the UN and for whom it has developed a response plan.

At the daily briefing, Dujarric quoted Johannes Van der Klauw, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen and the Representative of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as saying on Thursday that “the international community needs to come forward with substantial funding to implement the 2014 response plan for Yemen, which remains alarmingly under-funded.”

According to the spokesperson, only 18 percent of the 591.6 million USD funds needed for executing the response plan this year has been secured.— Xinhua

**Internet helps veteran reunite with son after 72 years**

KUMMING, 16 May — “I knew it was really you!” Seeing the broken middle finger of his son’s left hand, veteran Yang Youfu, 96, immediately recognized him.

On Thursday, the family held a grand banquet in Bangeshan Village, Lincang County in the southwestern province of Yunnan, to celebrate the reunion, which came after 72 years of separation.

Yang, a native of Leshan City, Sichuan Province, joined the army and left his hometown for Yunnan to fight Japanese invaders in 1942, when his son Yang Yunqing was only one year old.

When the war ended, Yang stayed in Yunnan with some other soldiers and got married there. Yang had three sons and three daughters in his new family.

He wrote to his family in Sichuan in 1977, but then totally lost contact with them.

Wu Siqi, a volunteer in Yunnan, offered to help Yang to look for his son. Wu posted the information on Sina Weibo, Chinese Twitter-like microblogging service, on 3 May. The elderly person misses his relatives very much and wishes to find and see his son,” read the post. Netizens showed great interest in the post and began to search for the son.

Volunteers in Sichuan Province found Yang Yunqing the next day and the two had a telephone conversation.

**Five dead as worst floods in 120 years hit Serbia, Bosnia**

SARAJEVO/BELGRADE, 16 May — The heaviest rains and floods in 120 years have hit Bosnia and Serbia, killing five people, forcing hundreds out of their homes and cutting off entire towns.

The five casualties, one of them a firefighter on a rescue mission, drowned in Serbia. Bosnia and Serbia declared a state of emergency, while the Serbian Orthodox church said it would hold special prayers in Belgrade for the rain to stop.

“This is the greatest flooding disaster ever. Not only in the past 100 years; this has never happened in Serbia’s history,” Serbia’s Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic told a news conference. “More rain fell in one day than in four months.” In Bosnia, army helicopters evacuated dozens of people stranded on the top floors of their flooded homes in the central town of Maglaj, where the Bosna river swelled to record levels and swept away the main bridge. Rescuers used boats to reach stranded victims. Doctors said one man in eastern Bosnia died of a heart attack while trying to save his cattle from drowning.

Special police were trying to reach the northern Bosnian town of Doboj, which was cut off from the rest of the country after all major roads out were flooded.

The Bosnian government ordered the defence ministry to use troops to help thousands of civilians whose homes were engulfed by water, particularly in the central and eastern regions. “This is the worst rainfall in Bosnia since 1894, when weather measurements started to be recorded,” said Zeljko Mostovic, a Sarajevo meteorologist. He said the rain, which began on Sunday, would continue until the end of the week.

Many roads were deluged and towns and villages completely cut off. Schools were closed across both countries.

Serbian Energy Minister Aleksandar Antic said power supplies were cut to around 100,000 households, mostly in central Serbia.

Serbia’s power utility Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) said that high water levels on the Morava river had forced it to halt two hydro power plants there.— Reuters

**A man walks through a flooded main street in the central Bosnian town of Nemila, on 15 May, 2014.—REUTERS**
Global life expectancy rises again, but new challenges loom

**Tokyo, 16 May** — Asian shares were under pressure on Friday, with Japanese stocks skidding as the yen rose against the dollar, which has struggled in recent days on the back of lower US Treasury yields.

A second day of losses on Wall Street pulled MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS down 0.4 percent. The index has gained about 2.5 percent on the week during which Wall Street set the tone by climbing to record highs.

Tokyo’s Nikkei stock average .N225 dropped 1.6 percent, dragged lower by the yen’s gains against the dollar, which could put pressure on the earnings of Japanese exporters. The Nikkei has shed 0.9 percent so far this week.

The dollar traded little different from what they thought we were a few years ago,” said Michael Sprague, Kia’s US executive vice president for sales and marketing.

Sprague spoke at an Automotive Press Association event in Detroit on Thursday.

Kia’s next most expensive model is the Cadenza sedan, at about $36,000. Sprague said Kia positioned the K900 between the BMW (BMW.DE) 5-Series, which costs just over $50,000, and the BMW 7-Series at about $75,000.

Jack Nerad, executive market analyst for industry consultant Kelley Blue Book, said he is not sure the K900 makes as much sense in the US market as it does in its corporate home.

“It’s a good luxury car,” said Nerad, who noted that at the K900’s price, “people are buying as much for the prestige of the brand as they are for the actual hardware, and I think that’s where Kia will have some difficulty versus Mercedes-Benz or BMW or Audi.”

**New York, 16 May** — No matter what age a man is, cardiovascular fitness may buy him more years of life, according to a new US study.

Researchers said: “The population is dramatically ageing, so it’s important that we ask questions about patients who are older,” said Charles Faselis, lead author of the study and an internist at the Washington, DC, Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

In the study, published in the journal Hypertension, Faselis and his team looked at exercise tests previously performed for 2,153 men who were patients at the Washington, DC, and Palo Alto, California VA Medical Centers. All participants were at least 70 years of age and underwent the test that achieved 4.1 to six METs; and “moderate-fit” was between 6.1 and eight METs. The men in the best shape could achieve more than eight METs and were considered “high-fit.”

Faselis and his team took into account other factors that could affect the results, such as body mass index, heart disease and medications for heart disease. Researchers followed the men for an average of nine years to evaluate their risk of dying. During that time, about 1,000 of the participants passed away.

**Detroit, 16 May** — Kia Motors Corp (005380.KS) is out to change its image among Americans as a low-priced value brand with the recently launched $66,000 luxury K900 sedan, but analysts said it should expect an uphill climb.

Kia, the South Korean automaker with the same corporate parent as Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS), has been asking US consumers to “challenge the luxury you know” since its February Super Bowl ad featuring Laurence Fishburne who reprised his role in the futuristic “The Matrix” movie trilogy. “What we hope this trilogy...”

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**Global life expectancy rises again, but new challenges loom**

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A Brief Rakhine History with Special References to Traditional Chronicles

T he Rakhines are one of the earliest settlers in Myanmar. They are traditionally believed to have made intermittent incursions into Rakhine region from Majjhimadesa of India long before the advent of the Christian Era, first inhabited the southern Rakhine region by founding Dvaravati City near Thandwe and then moved on to the northern Rakhine and settled down there by establishing city-states such as Dhanavati, Vesali, Panca, Parin, Laungkret, Cambhawat and MraukU in the Kaladan and Laymyo River Valleys. Due to its antiquity, modern scholars, foreign and local, cast doubt on the long Rakhine history, sometimes ostracizing it and sometimes labeling Rakhine historians as obstinate, fanatical ones. But we should be aware of the fact that a legend may turn into a history after investigation just like the case of King Aoka who became a historical figure from a legendary hero only after James Prinsep had deciphered stone inscriptions by him in 1837. So far, except the Third Dhanavati and the Second Vesali, many ancient Rakhine cities have still remained uncategorized and unexplored. Only the ancient Rakhine history is interpreted in the Arakan Chronicles, an interpretation of the artifacts and objects excavated from these untouched cities, we should confirm or object to the claims of Rakhine traditional chronicles. It is, especially, found that in dating different periods of Rakhine history, the claim of the Rakhine chronicles hardly tally with those of modern historians. To be candid, the writer, not being a historian nor an archaeologist, cannot decide how valid the Rakhine traditional chronicles are held in bringing Rakhine history to light. The following is just the Rakhine history outlined by employing the materials culled from the traditional chronicles and works of a few modern scholars.

Long before the appearance of the Gotama Buddha, ten brothers such as Vasudeva, Baladeva, etc and their sister named “Anandaevi”, who were grand children of Kamsa King of Northern Majjhimadesa, entered the ancient Rakhinandesha and established Dvaravati City in the area which is today known as Thandwe in the southern part of Rakhine State. One day, while reveling in a water-throwing celebration, they fell into a discord and fought with one another. All, except Princes Vasudeva and Baladeva and Princess Anandadevi, died during the fight. So the two princes, the princess and their wise Brahman left Dvaravati and went north to Vesali City in the Valley of the Gacchapanadi River. On the way, the two princes died. So Anandadevi and the wise Brahman continued on the journey until they reached Vesali City. On their arrival at Vesali City, the people handed over the throne to them. The wise Brahmin under the regnal title of Brahmanarja ascended the throne of Vesali City together with Anandadevi as his queen. Then they shifted the city to the eastern bank of the Gacchapanadi River and named it Ngakwethantoung City. Again, after a line of six kings had ruled in it, a king named Sarabhan transferred it back to the site of Vesali City. It came to a total end at the time of King Brahmabuddhidh, the sixteenth descendant of King Sarabhan. The traditional chronicles mention that the kings from Vesali reached their peak under Anandacnadayo. After a long lapse of time, King Ajumma of Kapilavatthu in Majjhimevideo, fed up with worldly pleasures, handed over his throne to his son Dhammasuciya. He was succeeded by his son Abhiraja, king of Tagung, having having the western Yoma, established a town at the top of the Kyaukpyadawung Mountain. Then, he founded the Second Dhanavati at the site of the First Dhanavati and ruled over it, installing two daughters of King Min Nge Pyaw Hla Sithu as queens. King Kam Rajaygi, the elder son of King Abhiraja, king of Tagung, having the western Yoma, established a town at the top of the Kyaukpyadawung Mountain. Then, he founded the Second Dhanavati at the site of the First Dhanavati and ruled over it, installing two daughters of King Min Nge Pyaw Hla Sithu as queens. King Kam Rajaygi passed away at the age of 73 years. His son Suriyadhipati succeeded to his throne. The Third Dhanavati came to an end at the time of King Suriyakuta. The chronicles say that a long line of 25 kings ruled in the Third Dhanavati. Modern scholars accept that the Third Dhanavati ended in the 326 A.D.

Regarding the end of the Third Dhanavati, the chronicles explain that soon after the accession of King Maha Taing Candra, son of King Suryakuta, his chief queen “Subhadevi” and his white elephant died, that, at the advice of his astrologers, he moved the city to another place and founded a city called “Kan-thone-sint” (City of Three-stepped Lake) on the bank of the Sare Creek three miles south of Dhamnavati and that, as many people, however, died of an epidemic within seven months, he again abandoned the Kan-thone-sint City and proceeded southwards and established the Second Vesali City by the Ram Creek called “Randha Nadi”. As it had stone terraces leading to the pier on the bank of the Ram Creek where sailing boats were docked, it was better known as “Vesali City with Stone Stairs”. Modern scholars including Dr. Johnston, Dr. Sircar, Myanmar archaeologists who excavated Vesali City date founding of this Vesali City to 4th century A.D. Traditionally, it is held that a succession of twelve kings such as Maha Taing Candra, Rajacandra, Malacandra, Polacandra, Hulacandra, etc. reigned in the ancient Vesali. But in the light of the Anandacnana Stone inscription, it is learnt that a line of 22 kings (to be continued)
Longlasting old capital Inwa, Part I
Chequered career of Inwa

Amongst Myanmar old capitals, Inwa lasted longest. But its existence as a capital was not continuous but intermitted. It was founded, abandoned, refounded and extended by three dynasties. It was first founded in 1364 A.D. by King Thado Minbya who thus set up the first Inwa dynasty of 19 rulers, of whom the last was King Sithu Kyaw Htin who was overthrown by King Bayint Naung in 1555 A.D. Inwa was abandoned in 1565 A.D. During the interregnum of 80 years it was Pegu that became Capital renamed Hanthawaddy (Hum Saved). After 1635 A.D. when King Tha Lun (1629-1643 A.D.) of Nyaung Yan dynasty refounded Inwa by moving his capital there in 1635 A.D., once again Inwa was revived and lasted 198 years till 1823 A.D. when his grandson and successor King Bagyidaw returned to Pegu as capital till 1837 A.D. In that year 1837 A.D. successor King Thayawaddy moved back to Amarapura, Inwa was abandoned for good. Since then Inwa fell into heaps of archaeological ruins.

Reasons and motives of shifting capital

It is interesting to examine the changes of capital by Myanmar Kings. Archaeologists like Mr. Taw Sein Kho and Mr. Charles Douroiselle, on the ground of the ethnic origin of Mongoloid race of Myanmar Kings, explained that menomadic racial instinct prompted Myanmar Kings to keep moving their capitals.

Influence of Hindu-Buddhist culture

There is yet another opinion formed on the strength of the influence of Hindu-Buddhist cosmography and astrology. Hindu-Buddhist cosmography says that all universes have one type of design based upon “Mandala” design. Each universe is composed of one highest mountain at its centre. This Mountain is called Mt.Meru, which is the centre (Mandala or main pillar) of the entire structure of the Universe. Around this mountain Meru are located four continents at the four cardinal points—Paravada, the Easternmost, the Westernmost, the Southernmost where the sun rises, Arapagoyana, the westernmost where the sun sets in, Utara, the North continent where the great star “Ukka” shines to guide humans at dark night, and Phekhtyn the south continent where Jabu Thabyey Trees (Eugenia arbara) grow, under which all Buddhas, past and present, and future become enlightened. Therefore, the south continent is commonly known and called as “Jabudipa”—the continent of Jabu Thabyey trees.

At the centre of the Universe as the main pole (man daring) all systems of the Universe move clockwise (Letryar yit) around its seven mountain ranges, seven rivers and seven oceans move clockwise around central pillar Mt. Meru. The biggest of all living beings—terrestrial wise (Letyar yit) around its seven mountain ranges, seven rivers, and seven oceans move clockwise around central pillar Mt. Meru. Jabu Thabyey trees drop their ripen fruits into the water producing seven sounds forming seven tones of Myanmar diatonic musical scale. Similarly the big fish Ananta swallows up the ripen Jabu Thabyey fruits thus producing seven sounds to form seven tones scale of Myanmar music.

This cosmography established Myanmar traditional design of Mandal. Similar Mandal concept is noticed in some old capital cities of other South-East Asian Countries. We find the concept of Mandal design in all media of Myanmar art, architecture, sculpture, capital founding, urbanization, palace building, religious monuments, road construction, irrigation work, formation of armed forces, military strategy and tactics, as well as procession of royal pageant. The seven tone musical scale (diatonic scale) is also faithfully adhered to in all media of Myanmar performing arts.

Besides, astrology and Vedic culture have long-lastingly impacted upon Myanmar people from all walks of life till to the day. Hindu Brahmin priests as raja guru played a major role in the conduct of state affairs—from court ceremonies, religious rites and festivities to daily life of administration, domestic and foreign relations, matters of war and peace. Hindu Brahmin priests were consulted and their advice and instructions were faithfully followed. Every Myanmar King and commoner keeps a horoscope recorded on a palm leaf—a birth certificate recording with a circular diagram inscribed on the palm leaf the positions of stars, planets and constellations at the time of birth. This astrological influence explains largely the shifting of capitals, building new palace and capital city, assuming new name or new title by Myanmar Kings. Myanmar chronicles recorded full account of astrological reasons of capital shifting, founding new city, building new palace. Influence of Buddhism’s teachings.

There are specific teachings of Lord Buddha that for your good physical and mental health, longevity, progress and prosperity you must choose “Patirupa desa”—most suitable place for you to inhabit. It is one of the 38 states of Mangala Sutta (Discourse of the Lord Buddha) change to a better place is mingala—or auspicious.

King Tha Lun’s practical reasons

Aside from the above-mentioned influences, King Tha Lun had practical reasons for returning to old Inwa. He learnt the lesson of Portuguese intrusion from overseas, in the time of Kings Nanda Bayin and Anauk Lun Pegu. Hanthawaddy (Pegu) was too near to the sea and too exposed to naval attack. Inland location was far better for security. Surrounded by natural barriers of Shan mountain ranges, forests and aquatic bodies in the forms of lakes, In flooded waters) rivers and streams, Inwa offered him the choice for safer and more secure capital. He was reviewing the past and present and was short lived. His new capital is a prescription to the followed—dos and don’ts—to do and to avoid in your daily life right now and in future such as to move out to a new place, to build a new house, to change your career or profession, even to change your love partner.

The founding of the first Inwa

The founding of the first Inwa was Thado Min Tara (1364-1368 A.D.) a descendant of Bagan dynasty, he was a Shan-Myanmar like Princes Attin Khaya, Yazathyaning and Thihathu of Sagaing, Myint Saing and Pinya city states respectively.

Every Myanmar chronicles, stone inscriptions and literature the founding of Inwa was graphically recorded.

“Inwa” or “Avva” literally means “at the mouth of lakes or “In”. Ins are water bodies formed by rain water and flood. “Avva” is “Inwa” meaning at the confluence of rivers. Inwa never recovered, through it continued to remain till today as the centre of Myanmar Buddhist culture and civilization Bagan ceased to be a political power house. Disintegration of Bagan of the time of Kings Nanda Bayin and Anaukpet Lun. Hanthawaddy was a problem and a distraction to the new generation of kings.

Fate of Inwa

Again in Konbaung dynasty set up by King Alaung Pinya (1585 to 1767 A.D. under King Hsinbyu Shin and King Bodawpaya. Then Inwa was abandoned when King Bodawpaya founded a new capital city named Amarapura in 1783 A.D. Then again in 1823 A.D. when his grandson and successor King Bagyidaw returned to Inwa as capital till 1837 A.D. It is said in its legend that original name was In-nawa meaning “at the mouths of nine lakes”. Nine lakes can be traced till to-day. They are (1) Yey Kyar In (2) Sa Ni In (3) Nyaung Saak In (4) Wet Chey In (5) U Hne In (6) Lin San In (7) In Ma In (8) Mei Min In and (9) Wun Bei In. So In-nawa comes according to the results of his calculations and reviewing, he advised him to found a new capital by draining off four lakes (named only (1) In Bu In (2) kyauck Maw In (3) Nga Gyi In and (4) Ok Hne In and land filling them around Inwa on them. Thus began foundation of Inwa Capital and Palace on the 6th Waxing moon of Tabaua (March) in Myanmar sankar year 726 (1364 A.D.). The first Inwa dynasty of 19 rulers lasted nearly two centuries (191 years) until King Bayint Naung defeated and over threw the last ruler Sithu Kyaw Htin in 1555 A.D.

During that long period of 191 years, Inwa enjoyed all benefits of its geographical, strategic and economic locations. Five rivers (1) the Ayeyawaddy (2) the Samone (3) the Kyaingawaddy (4) the Panlong (5) the Panlong converge at Inwa, bringing rain and flood water, and alvalial soil to fertilize vast extent of lands around Inwa. Besides its proximity to the Eleventh Economic Zones of Bagan’s time with a well maintained network of irrigations—wells, dams, canals and reservoirs assured Inwa’s food security at any time of natural calamities or political emergencies. Built on the design of “Mandala” concept, Inwa commanded pivotal point from where its administrative and defensive networks could be spread out to reach the remotest corners of its domains. Foreign visitors and envos in their writings witnessed the worthiness of great labour involved in the draining off of the lakes, land filling them and building Inwa on them. The rivers and valleys provided natural communications for the outflow of Inwa’s products and the inflow of imports from other regions.

This founding of first Inwa is vividly sung in one hit song named “Siwe Inwa” by a famous film actress and vocalist May Shin. The following is the first stanza.

In the time of Kaukka sanda Gotama, it was Ratanapura Sunaparanta. In ME 726 Golden Inwa was built. At the confluence of the five rivers, the Ayeyawaddy, the Samone, the Duthawaddy, the Zawgyi and the Pan Long (on the triangle shaped place where five lakes were drained and land filled Golden Inwa was built on it by King Thado Min Tara. He overthrew bad ruler King Uza- na and raised Princess Saw Ohn Ma his queen and ruled as the first Inwa King.

(Maha Saddharmma Jotika dhaga Sthu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt)
Europe’s anti-EU protest vote leaves business cold

Brussels, 16 May — Industry lobbyists fear the rise of protest parties and anti-EU rebels in European elections threatens to leave them out in the cold. Europeans frustrated by economic hardship are likely to vote for parties that represent the interests of center-right and liberal trade. To compound the problem, many of these new groups will take their place at the expense of center-right and liberal pro-business lawmakers.

“Europeans are anti-globalization. It’s contagious. This will be implanted in parliament. The end effect of this is anti-business,” he said. Although around 70 percent of parliament’s seats are expected to go to mainstream groups — the centre-right European People’s Party, centre-left Social Democrats, Liberals and Greens — protest groups could gain a decisive edge. A far-left group could gain critical mass, possibly winning positions on the more than 20 committees that forge the parliament’s position on legislation or trade. To compound the problem, many of these new groups will take their place at the expense of center-right and liberal pro-business lawmakers.

Costas Chrysogonas, a candidate for Greece’s leftist party Syriza who is campaigning against what he describes as “economic genocide” enforced by international lenders on his country, is typical of the new generation. “The European Union is being transformed into a new kind of Europe for the capital markets,” he told Reuters. Reuters

Philippines may offer US naval base on western Palawan island

MANILA, 16 May — The Philippines, aiming to boost its ability to defend offshore areas, wants to ensure US warships are closer to the disputed South China Sea by offering the United States an underdeveloped naval base on a western island, its military chief has said.

China has stepped up its activities to assert its extensive claim over the energy-rich South China Sea, which China claims to have sovereignty over. The United States has been watched by China ever since it stepped up its activities to assert its extensive claim over the energy-rich South China Sea, which China claims to have sovereignty over. The United States has been watched by China ever since it stepped up its activities to assert its extensive claim over the energy-rich South China Sea, which China claims to have sovereignty over.

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Mexican cave skeleton reveals secrets of New World’s first people

WASHINGTON, 16 May — A horrible day for a teenage girl perhaps 13,000 years ago — death in a Mexican cave — has turned into a wonderful day for scientists who have managed to coax important secrets out of the oldest genetically intact human skeleton in the New World. Scientists said on Thursday genetic tests on her superbly preserved remains found by cave divers have answered questions about the origins of the Western Hemisphere’s first people and their relationship to today’s Native American populations. These findings determined that the Ice Age humans who first crossed into the Americas over a land bridge that formerly linked Siberia to Alaska did in fact give rise to modern Native American populations rather than hypothesized later entrants into the hemisphere.

Scientists exploring deep beneath the jungles of Mexico’s eastern Yucatan peninsula discovered the girl’s remains under water alongside bones of more than two dozen beasts including saber-toothed tigers, cave bears, giant ground sloths and an elephant relative called a gomphotherium. The girl — with her intact cranium and preserved DNA — was entombed for eons in a deeply submerged cave chamber before discovered in 2007. The petite, slightly built girl — about 4 feet, 10 inches tall (1.47 meters) — is thought to have been 15 or 16 years old when she died. She may have ventured into dark passages of a cave to find freshwater and fall from death into what archeologist James Chatters of the firm of Applied Paleoscience, one of the leaders of the study, called an “inescapable trap” 100 feet (30 meters) deep — a bell-shaped pit dubbed Hoyo Negro, “black hole” in Spanish.

Chatters said the chamber — more than 135 feet (40 meters) below sea level — was “a time capsule of the environment and human life” at the end of the Ice Age. The divers named her “Naia,” a water nymph from Greek mythology. One of the divers, Alberto Nava, recalled the moment Naia was spotted — her skull resting atop a small ledge. “It was a small cranium laying upside down with a perfect set of teeth and dark eye sockets looking back at us,” he said.

The pit was dry when she fell but Ice Age glaciers melted about 10,000 years ago, inundating the caves with water. Tests determined she lived between 13,000 and 12,000 years ago. Scientists long have debated the origins of the first people of the Americas. Many scientists think these hunter-gatherers crossed the former land bridge between 26,000 and 18,000 years ago and subsequently pushed into North and South America starting perhaps 17,000 years ago.

But the most ancient New World human remains have confused scientists because, like Naia, they have narrower skulls and other features different from today’s Native Americans. This led to speculation that these earliest New World people might represent an earlier migration from a different part of the world than the true ancestors of modern Native Americans.

But mitochondrial DNA — passed down from mother to child — extracted from the girl’s wisdom tooth showed she belonged to an Asian-derived genetic lineage shared only by today’s Native Americans.

This indicates cranial and other differences between the earliest New World human remains and today’s Native Americans are due to evolutionary changes that unfolded after the first migrants crossed onto the land bridge, the researchers said.

The study, led by the Mexican government’s National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and supported by the National Geographic Society, appears in the journal Science.—Reuters

Jupiter’s giant red spot shrinking, Hubble images show

Cape Canaveral (FLA.), 16 May — Jupiter’s most distinctive feature — a giant red spot bigger than Earth — is shrinking, images from the Hubble Space Telescope released on Thursday showed.

The so-called “Great Red Spot” is a violent storm, which in the late 1800s was estimated to be about 25,000 miles (about 40,000 km) in diameter — wide enough for three Earths to fit side by side. The storm, which is the biggest in the solar system, appears as a deep red orb surrounded by layers of pale yellow, orange and white. Winds inside the storm have been measured at several hundreds of miles per hour, NASA astronomers said.

By the time NASA’s Voyager space probes flew by in 1979 and 1980, the spot was down to about 14,500 miles (22,500 km) across.

Now, new pictures taken by the Earth-orbiting Hubble space telescope show Jupiter’s red spot is smaller than it has ever been, measuring just under 10,250 miles (16,100 kilometers) in diameter. It also appears more circular in shape. Scientists aren’t sure why the Great Red Spot is shrinking by about 621 miles (1,000 km) a year.

“It is apparent that very small eddies are feeding into the storm ... These may be responsible for the accelerated change by altering the (storm’s) internal dynamics,” Amy Simon, an astronomer with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, said in a statement. Simon and colleagues plan follow-up studies to try to figure out what is happening in Jupiter’s atmosphere that is draining the storm of energy and causing it to shrink.

Microsoft CEO touts new Surface tablets

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks at a Microsoft event in San Francisco, California on 27 March, 2014. Reuters

NEW YORK, 16 May — Satya Nadella has enjoyed a fairly smooth ride in his first 100 days as Microsoft Corp chief executive, but he risks hitting a rough patch next week when he unveils the latest models of the tepidly received Surface tablet.

Investors have lapped up Nadella’s “mobile first, cloud first” strategy to recast the venerable software maker as a “devices and services” company, sending its shares up 9 percent since he took the helm.

So far he has stressed the services side of the business, making the momentous move to put Microsoft’s Office suite on Apple Inc’s iPad. This was popular with Wall Street and more importantly with consumers, who performed 27 million downloads in a matter of weeks.

But Microsoft is expected to unveil the third generation of its Surface devices at an event on Tuesday, laying hints that it will also introduce a smaller tablet, to address the fast-selling lower end of the market dominated by Apple’s iPad mini, Amazon.com Inc’s Kindle Fire, Google Inc’s Nexus and Samsung’s Galaxy range.

The devices side of the strategy has been a challenge. Microsoft’s Surface, launched in October 2012, has about 2 percent of the market and has not made a dent on Apple’s iPad. That fits with Microsoft’s 3 percent global share in smartphones.

Given that tiny market, some investors believe Microsoft should not waste time and money on the low-margin hardware business. ValuaAct Capital, which led the shareholder revolt last year which culminated in previous CEO Steve Ballmer’s retirement, has lobbied against Microsoft’s hardware effort, including its costly acquisition of Nokia’s handset business.

“Nadella is off to a gold- en start as CEO, although turning around the tablet and mobile business over the next 12 to 18 months remains his two key Herculean tasks,” said Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets. “If the turbulence gets too rough on the tablet and/or mobile segment, we can potentially see some strategic changes on the horizon around the hardware business.”—Reuters

Divers Alberto Nava and Susan Bird transport a skull to an underwater turntable so that it can be photographed in order to create a 3-D model at the bottom of the underwater cave on Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula on 15 June, 2013 in this handout photo provided by National Geographic on 15 May, 2014. REUTERS

Adobe’s Creative Cloud down; says working to restore site

NEW YORK, 16 May — Adobe Systems Inc said late Thursday it was working to fix login issues for its Creative Cloud suite, more than 24 hours after users said they were unable to access some of its products.

The maker of Photoshop and Acrobat software said in a blog post that it had identified the cause of the disruption, but did not specify what caused the outage, or how soon it expects its services to be back to normal. Adobe spokeswoman Vanessa Rios declined to elaborate about the outage.

Last year, hackers caused a data breach that resulted in the theft of millions of customer email addresses and passwords as well as the source code to some of Adobe’s stop-selling products. But Rios declined to comment when asked if the service disruption might be connected. As of Thursday, users around the world were not able to access the Creative Cloud website, the desktop app or make purchases or upgrades.—Reuters
Kenya fumes as Western security warnings drive tourists out

The warnings and departures by tourists from hotels along the popular coast are further harming Kenya’s tourism sector, which President Uhuru Kenyatta has said is “on its knees” following the deadly attacks.

Pro-Morsi alliance urges Egyptian expats to boycott presidential polls

More than 53 million Egyptians out of the country’s 94 million population are eligible to vote in the first post-Morsi presidential elections. Of some 600,000 eligible Egyptian expatriate voters, a large proportion is expected to cast their ballots in Arab countries, especially those in the Gulf region.

International education fair kicks off in Mozambique’s capital

University representatives from Zimbabwe, Brazil, Portugal, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden and Angola are since Thursday in the Mozambican capital Maputo, participating in the international education fair to exchange experience between students and educators attending the event.

This year the event is celebrated under the theme Quality Education for Sustainable Development (CADE), in partnership with the Ministry of Education, aiming to create conditions of interactions between different education institutions attending the event.

This is the 6th edition of the event and it is supported by different institutions among them banks and mobile operators.

“Year we will continue with our lectures, and the subject will be on finance education, because we want to teach students how to save and invest their capital,” said Helia Campos, Human Resources Director from the Standard Bank in Mozambique.
Fishermen catch crayfish at Longquan Lake in Xuyi County, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 15 May, 2014.

Fishermen of Xuyi County started to harvest crayfish on Thursday. Crayfish is an important industry in Xuyi, a traditional sailing vessel, found the heroin hidden in bags on a dhow, a traditional sailing vessel, that was intercepted while patrolling the Indian Ocean some 40 nautical miles off Somalia’s east coast.

Defence Minister David Johnston congratulated the ship’s 232 crewmembers on their interception, saying it helps ensure that the profits from drug trafficking are not fed into extremist and terrorist organizations. Australia is participating in the Combined Maritime Forces, a naval partnership involving 30 nations, patrolling a vast area encompassing the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman. “Our naval personnel are operating with a multinational naval partnership in a campaign to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy, reduce illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promote the maritime environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business,” Johnston said.

Sydney, 16 May — An Australian warship has seized 449 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of AU$132 million (US$123 million) off the coast of Somalia, the country’s Defence Department said on Thursday.

It said in a statement that the crew of HMAS Darwin, an Australian Navy frigate, found the heroin hidden in bags on a dhow, a traditional sailing vessel, that was intercepted while patrolling the Indian Ocean some 40 nautical miles off Somalia’s east coast.

Defence Minister David Johnston congratulated the ship’s 232 crewmembers on their interception, saying it helps ensure that the profits from drug trafficking are not fed into extremist and terrorist organizations. Australia is participating in the Combined Maritime Forces, a naval partnership involving 30 nations, patrolling a vast area encompassing the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman. “Our naval personnel are operating with a multinational naval partnership in a campaign to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy, reduce illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promote the maritime environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business,” Johnston said.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Energy

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) from Interested Parties

For Sales and Distribution of Jet Fuel

1. The Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The MPPE is currently distributing jet fuel in 11 airports in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of jet fuel in Myanmar’s airports and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, the Government and the MPPE are seeking an experienced partner to form a joint venture. The purpose of the future joint venture company is to operate and improve the existing Jet Fuel Distribution Enterprise’s business activity at the Yangon International Airport. As a future stage, negotiations will be opened with the MPPE to expand the joint venture to the remaining airports.

3. Interested foreign companies should please submit the Letter of Expression of Interest together with a completed Pre-Qualification Application form (posted on MOE’s website) attached with the following documents endorsed by Myanmar Embassy in the respective country, to Managing Director, Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw, By 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014, at the latest, by hand.

(a) Certificate of incorporation
(b) Memorandum of association
(c) Articles of association
(d) Company profile
(e) Financial statements for last three years

4. Pre-qualification applications that cannot include all the documents under the above paragraph (5) and that cannot reach the above address by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014 will not be considered.

5. Applications shall be the company running jet fuel distribution at least three international airports in three different countries.

6. Documents and detailed information regarding EOI are available at http://www.moe.gov.mm/index.php/Information. Applications and documents can personally contact joethelander@gmail.com and following address if they have any further queries.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel:067-411488;067-411053;067-411119
Fax: 067-411135
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World’s largest blue diamond sells for 23.8 mln US dollars

Beijing, 16 May — The world’s largest blue diamond comes with a price tag to match. The sparkling 13.22 carat gem known as “the Blue” sold at a Christie’s auction in Geneva on Wednesday for more than 21 million Swiss Francs, or some 23.8 million US dollars.

The pear-shaped stone described as the world’s largest flawless vivid blue diamond had been expected to fetch between 21 to 25 million dollars.

An international jeweler that sold the diamond to a buyer in South Africa known as Cullinan.

The specialist says only three blue diamonds of 10 carats or more with the same vivid grading for intensity have been sold at auction in the past 10 years. He says all of those diamonds weighed less than 12 carats and none was flawless.

Xinhua
New York, 16 May — Triple Tony-award winning actress Glenn Close will return to Broadway later this year after a 20-year absence, starring opposite John Lithgow in a new production of Edward Albee’s “A Delicate Balance.”

Close, 67, will appear in a limited 18-week run of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play that begins previews on 20 October and opens a month later. The actress, who has also been nominated for six Academy Awards, last appeared on Broadway in the musical “Sunset Boulevard,” winning a Tony in 1995 for her portrayal of the aging actress Norma Desmond.

She also picked up Tony awards for “Death and the Maiden” in 1992 and “The Real Thing” in 1984.

In “A Delicate Balance,” Close and Lithgow, 68, who won a Tony for “The Changing Room” and “Sweet Smell of Success,” will play a married couple coping over the course of a weekend with the return of their 36-year-old daughter after her fourth marriage breakup and the visit of friends. Scottish actress Lindsay Duncan, 63, a double Tony winner for “Private Lives” and “Les Liaisons Dangereuses,” will play Close’s alcoholic sister in the play that had its Broadway premiere in 1966. —Reuters

Mike Leigh brings Turner’s stormy seas to sunny Cannes

Cannes, 16 May — With colours from the artist’s own palette and a central performance that explores the ‘art of the grunt’, British director Mike Leigh brought the turbulent life of English artist JW Turner to the Cannes Film Festi-

val on Thursday. Leigh, a Cannes regular who has had five films in competition for the top Palme d’Or prize and won it in 1996 for “Secrets and Lies”, is going head to head with another veteran British director, Ken Loach. His “Mr Turner” and Loach’s “Jimmy’s Hall”, about an Irish communist, are among 18 films vying for the top honour at the world’s most prestigious festival, while 100 or more are being shown here in other forums.

Leigh’s film brought Turner’s huge canvases of slaps tossed in stormy seas to a Cannes that this year is basking in steady sunshine. “Turner is...one of the great painters of all times anywhere really, a great radical revolutionary painter...” Leigh told reporters, explaining why he chose to focus on the 19th-century pre-Impressionist. “I felt there was scope for what could be a fascinating film because of what may seem the tension between this very mortal, in some ways flawed and very inspired individual and this epic work, this spiritual way that he had of distilling, capturing and expressing the world.” Another competition entry, “Timbuktu” by Mauritanian director Abderrahmane Sissako, went to another climatic extreme entirely, depicting the occupation of the Malian desert city by Islamist militants who impose their strict version of Islamic law on an uncomprehending local population. —Reuters

Preity Zinta talks about ‘Perverts’ and ‘Perfect Image’ in series of tweets

New Delhi, 16 May — Actress Preity Zinta’s Twitter erupted some hours ago into a furious rant against fame. The Salaam Namaste star, who hasn’t had a hit movie in years, posted a series of tweets, beginning with a confession about why she became an actress and ending in a public plea to treat celebrities with sensitivity. In between, she spoke about pictures of herself being morphed, being groped in crowds, the pressure to look perfect all the time and the dating disadvantages of being famous.

Preity said she was speaking on behalf of all celebrities, but it’s unlikely her meltdown (15 tweets in a few minutes - if that’s not a meltdown, what is?) will lead to Hollywood stars being hounded less by paparazzi, sought after less for autographs, chased less by TV cameras. Here are Preity’s tweets, in the order that she posted them:—PTI

Kim Kardashian, Kanye West to get married in Florence?

Los Angeles, 16 May — Celebrity couple Kim Kardashian and her fiance Kanye West are reportedly planning to tie the knot in Florence, Italy instead of France.

The 32-year-old reality star and her rapper partner would apparently hold a pre-wedding dinner in Paris before flying the guests to Florence for the actual nuptials, reported Ace Showbiz.

“Kim and Kanye have told all guests different info. No one knows all of the details,” a source said.
Malaysia says to review all data to pinpoint missing flight’s location

KUALA LUMPUR 16 May — Malaysia, China and Australia have agreed to re-examine all data related to missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 to better pinpoint the search area. Malaysia’s acting transport minister said on Thursday, as the hunt for the jet enters a new phase.

Three countries also agreed at a meeting in Canberra last week to undertake a survey to map the ocean floor and procure more deep-sea search vehicles and other equipment to scour it, minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters in Kuala Lumpur.

“I have briefed the Malaysia cabinet yesterday on the outcome of the meeting and it has been deliberated,” he said. The meeting with 777 passengers and crew disappeared on 8 March during a scheduled service between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing, where its jet enters a new phase.

The three governments would hold weekly video conferences to coordinate the search, starting on Monday. Based on ground-breaking analysis of satellite “ping” sent from the aircraft before it presumably crashed, searchers believed they knew the approximate position of wreckage of the plane.

A massive search operation involving satellites, aircraft, ships and sophisticated underwater equipment capable of scouring the ocean floor has failed to turn up any trace of the plane.

The United States said in early May that it would only contribute its sophisticated Bluefin-21 underwater drone for one more month, placing pressure on Australia, China and Malaysia to find funding for the next phase of the search.

FA Cup win could spark success for Arsenal and Wenger

SINGAPORE, 16 May — The pressure is all on Arsenal ahead of Saturday’s FA Cup final against Hull City, but if they can end their nine-year trophy drought then good times lie ahead with Arsene Wenger at the helm, former midfielder Ray Parlour has told Reuters.

The future of the French manager has been called into question this season with the club’s Premier League title challenge failing once again as the wait for a first trophy since the 2004 FA Cup goes on.

The Frenchman’s contract expires in the coming weeks and while he has dropped strong hints he will stay on, no confirmation of a new deal has been released, with some fans becoming restless and calling for change.

ParLOUR acknowledged the frustration but believed the club had made great strides this year under Wenger, who joined in 1996. Success in the Wembley showpiece would spur the manager and a core group of young players on to greater things.

“All the pressure is on Arsenal, obviously. It’s very important trophy for Arsenal,” the former England midfielder said on the sidelines of the Singapore Cricket Club’s soccer sixes tournament.

Parlour said Arsenal had a nucleus of good young players and getting an FA Cup win under their belt could drive them forward.

“And this first trophy, if they do win Saturday, the first one is always the hardest. If you can win that first one, it does give you massive confidence and belief for next season, and with the right signings, I’m sure they will be changing things, I’m sure they will be changing,” he said.

Even if the club lose the final to Hull on Saturday, Parlour said it would be the wrong move to get rid of Wenger, talking up the need for stability and pointing at how the constant changing of managers at rivals Sunderland Hotspur had held them back.
Phelps set for second meet of his comeback

**New York, 16 May —** Michael Phelps will take another small step in his comeback to competitive swimming when he competes in two races on Friday but this time he will do it without the presence of his friend and greatest rival. The 28-year-old Phelps competed for the first time since retiring after the London Olympics when he plunged back into the pool at a Grand Prix meet in suburban Phoenix last month.

He was narrowly beaten in the 100 meters butterfly by Ryan Lochte, his uber-competitive teammate who Phelps credits for driving him to greater heights.

Phelps set for second meet of his comeback

**Barcelona, (Spain), 16 May —** FC Barcelona’s veteran captain Carles Puyol said on Thursday goodbye to FC Barcelona after 15 years, a decision that had been previously announced on 4 March.

Puyol held a Press conference on Thursday where he received words of praise and admiration from his colleagues, ex-colleagues, presidents and ex-presidents, coaches and other figures from the world of football. Puyol said he wanted to recover.

Carles Puyol says goodbye to FC Barcelona

**AFC Challenge Cup**

Myanmar national team leaves for Maldives to take part in AFC Challenge Cup

Myanmar selected its squad with 23 players to take part in the AFC Challenge Cup to be held in Maldives from 19 to 30 May. Myanmar national team is included in Group A (together with host Maldives, Kirgizstan and Palestine. Myanmar team left for Maldives via Thailand on Friday. Myanmar squad comprises Thha Sithu, Kyaw Zin Phyo and Vannal Harwel as goalkeepers, defenders Ye Win Aung, Thein Zaw, Zaw Min Tun, Khin Maung Lwin, Pyae Phyo Aung, Aung Zaw, Aung Thaik, Aung Hein Kyaw, Yan Aung Win, midfielders; David Dune, Min Min Thu, Yan Aung Kyaw, Neyin Chan Aung, Kyaw Min Oo, Yazar Win Thein, Sithu Aung, forward: Yan Paing, Kyaw Ko Ko, Kaung Sithu and Chit Su Moe.

Myanmar national team leaves for Maldives to take part in AFC Challenge Cup

**Sizzling Swede Hanson takes control in Texas**

In a hardcourt encounter that had been previously said to be a dogfight with Russia’s Mikhail Youzhny, 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-1.

Nadal had been involved in a dogfight with Frenchman Gilles Simon late on Wednesday and looked weary as Youzhny pegged him back by claiming the first set on a tiebreak and breaking early in the second. But the 13-times grand slam winner, who has endured a mixed start to the claycourt season by his own high standards, turned on the after burners, winning 11 straight games to take the match away from his opponent.

Nadal celebrated his 27th birthday with a determined display to beat Austria’s Jurgen Melzer 7-6(1), 6-4. The last time Murray and Nadal met was in a hardcourt encounter in Tokyo in 2011 in which the Briton came out on top, but the Spaniard holds the upper hand overall in their rivalry with a 13-5 win-loss record.

**It’s a positive match to play because play against one of the best players in the world after two tough days** Nadal said ahead of Friday’s match with Murray. “I don’t know how he has changed his play, I know he has a complete game but I have to focus on myself.”

Michael Phelps

**Miami Beach, (FL), 16 May —** Two weeks after withdrawing from the Wells Fargo Championship with a back injury, Swede Peter Hanson charged into a one-shot lead at the Byron Nelson Championship on a course where he barely knows himself.

Hanson, despite having suffered only the front nine of the TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas in practice, piled up six birdies and a sole bogey to card a five-under-par 65 in breezy conditions in Irving, Texas.

The 36-year-old stormed to the turn in opening 65. “It’s always nice to get off to a fast start,” the Swede said after hitting a nine-iron approach to six feet at the par-four 18th to set up his sixth birdie of the day. “I gave myself a few chances on the back (nine), made a bogey on 14 from the middle of the fairway and had a reasonable chance to make a birdie on 16.”

“I was nice to get off with a birdie at the last. With the greens and how small they are and the run-off areas, if you start missing greens you get some very, very difficult lies and at up and downs. Once you start chipping, you will make bogeys.”

Duval, who plays a limited schedule on the PGA Tour, surged up the leaderboard with four birdies in his last five holes after very nearly withdrawing from the tournament earlier in the day because of pain in his right elbow.

“I’m tickled pink it feels as good as it does right now,” Duval, who has not won on the PGA Tour since his sole major victory at the 2001 British Open, said of his elbow.

Marc Leishman chips up to the 9th green during the first round of The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass — Stadium Course. — Reuters

**Rome, 16 May —** German veteran Tommy Haas provided a reminder of his claycourt skills to beat Stanislas Wawrinka on Thursday and reach the quarter-finals of the Rome Masters where Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray will resume their rivalry.

Haas recovered after trailing by a set and a break of serve to get past the Australian Open champions on 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 and make the last eight at the Italian event for the first time since 2002 when he lost to Andre Agassi in the final.

World number one Nadal will meet Britain’s Murray after the Spaniard fought back from a set down to beat Russia’s Mikhail Youzhny 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-1.

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