MCEA, Sphere Exhibits to organize BuildTechYangon2014 from 22-24 May

By Ye Myint

BuildTechYangon 2014 will be of great benefit to the rapidly growing Myanmar construction industry by shaping the future of the country’s construction sector, said U Aye Lin, EC member of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association on Monday, only days before the opening of the exhibit.

Before the start of the press conference on the BuildTechYangon 2014 and MCEA’s 15th annual meeting, U Aye Lin told the New Light of Myanmar that MCEA and Sphere Exhibits Pte Ltd will jointly organize the first Myanmar Building Technology Industry and Supply Event at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon from 22 to 24 May. The event is aimed at bringing advanced construction technologies to the country and helping to overcome the shortage of skilled workers through training programs. The exhibit is not only designed for investors and developers but also for local architects and construction companies that are willing to conduct training courses in Myanmar, he added.

Ms Ling Oh of Sphere Exhibits told the media at the press conference that business seminar will be held on Day 2 with 20 companies that are willing to share their experiences in Myanmar.

Trade value in April over US$185 million more compared to same month in last FY

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 19 May — In April, Myanmar earned about $735 million from exports, with imports worth $1.13 billion, reaching a total trade value of over $1.86 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The export value in the 39 days starting from 1 April to 9 May was over US$170 million lower than that in the same period of the last fiscal year.

However, the imports in those 39 days saw a rise of over US$355 million compared to the same period of the last fiscal year, bringing a rise of US$185 million in trade value compared to the trade value for the same time last year.

The country’s exports by ship from 1 April to 9 May amounted to US$95.25 million and imports amounted to US$ around 983.29 million, bringing the total trade value by ship US$1.58 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the exports through border checkpoints amounted to US$1.58 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Nokia to help foster Myanmar mobile telecom services

By Aung Khin

NAY PI TAW, 19 May — Nokia Solutions and Networks, said on Monday that it is making plans to help support mobile telecommunications services in Myanmar through its new technologies and human resources.

The Finland-based telecom company held its press conference at the Royal Kumudra Hotel in the capital to publicize its regional regulatory update and market developments in mobile telecommunications sector.

Nokia, that won one of the two licences made available to foreign operators in a bid process of Myanmar telecommunication business, recently selected NSN to supply its core and radio infrastructure for its 3G network in the South-East Asian country.

NSN said through two offices in Yangon, it will provide employment opportunities to local youth and fresh graduates, and to empower the people of the country.

NSN will be operational to empower domestic operators to provide network覆盖 to a vast majority of users throughout Myanmar.

Press conference on BuildTechYangon2014 and MCEA’s annual meeting in progress.—Photo: Ye Myint

Two Chinese officials of copper mine released by villagers near Monywa after being held hostage

NAY PI TAW, 19 May—Two Chinese citizens, who were held hostage for a day by villagers near Monywa, were released on Monday after lengthy negotiations with local officials, authorities said.

About 20 residents from Old Sate Village on 18 May stopped the car of the two Chinese citizens, who work for the Chinese-run Letpadaung Copper Mine Project in Salingyi Township near Monywa, and their Myanmar driver, according to officials.

The Chinese were said to have conducted air pollution tests about 500 metres from the village when they were stopped and taken to a primary school in the village.

The chairmen of the district and township administrative committees and officials negotiated with the villagers to release them three times between 2 pm to 6 pm without success. At 6:20 pm, the villagers released the driver but continued to hold the two Chinese.

To negotiate the release of the two Chinese, Sagaing Region Police Chief and officers and Salingyi township administrative officials left their base at Kyauktphyu Village after 10:45 pm and arrived at the monastery of Old Zeedaw Village at 11:00. Upon arrival there,
New sub-power station to supply electricity to people of Indawgyi region

Mohnin, 19 May—The inauguration of a sub-power station and a power line was held in Hopin Sub-Township of Mohnin District on 16 May, with Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe launching the facilities.

The 66/33 KV sub-power station and the 63.25 miles long 33 KV power line will supply electricity to residents living within 100 square miles of Indawgyi Lake. According to officials around 50,000 people live in the 39 villages there.

The Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Park in the central part of Kachin State is a tourist attraction and will be nominated as a World Heritage Site.—NLM-001

Election preparations coordinated in Tatkon Tsp

Tatkon, 19 May—A meeting between the chairman of the District Election Sub-commission and chairmen and secretaries of Tatkon Township, Ward and Village-tract sub-commissions took place at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Tatkon on Sunday morning.

The three-day-a-week flight (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) is scheduled to start from 10 June this year. A flight will cost 253 dollars per head. Planes under the joint venture between Silk Air and Singapore Airlines will take off from Mandalay International Airport at 3.55 pm and land at Changi Airport as scheduled.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Silk Air spreads its wings

Mandalay, 19 May—Silk Air is preparing to launch its direct flight from Mandalay to Singapore, according to the press briefing organized by Silk Air.

The fire was caused by a short circuit, and destroyed equipment and parts of the building, with the damage estimated at K 250,000, officials said.

Township IPRD

Fire engulfs post-primary school in Tatkon

Tatkon, 19 May—A fire broke out at No 1 Basic Education Post-Primary School in region-3 of Saya San Ward in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday.

Local authorities, police and firefighters put out the fire with three fire trucks and water pumps.

The fire was caused by a short circuit, and destroyed equipment and parts of the building, with the damage estimated at K 250,000, officials said.

Township IPRD

TALKS ON CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT AND CITIZENS RIGHTS IN MOHNIN: 88 Generation leaders Ko Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Ko Phyone Cho will give talks on Constitution Amendment and Citizens Rights in Mohnin on 19 May. Mohnin dwellers prepare to welcome them by erecting billboards in downtown areas.—NLM-001
President U Thein Sein inspects Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway

NAVPYITAW, 19 May—President U Thein Sein went on an inspection tour of the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway on Monday, getting a briefing on the condition of the road and bridges.

The President received reports on maintenance works and works to upgrade the road by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin who attended the inspection tour.

The President called for a number of improvements, including an upgrade of the bridges along the road, expansion of the highway from four lanes to six lanes and quick implementation of repair works for the prioritized section accounting for 6 per cent of the entire road as suggested by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, more staff training and close supervision of maintenance works and road safety measures.

MNA

President sends felicitations to Timor-Leste

NAVPYITAW, 20 May—On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, which falls on 20 May 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tour Matan Ruck, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Similarly, the President sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.—MNA

Improvement in infrastructure and better living conditions for health staff can improve hospital services: Vice President

THANDWE, 19 May—Only when infrastructure and the living standard of health staff is developed can improvement in hospital services be achieved, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham during his visit to Thandwe district general hospital on Monday.

During his visit, Adventure Myanmar Co., Ltd and ACE Co., Ltd donated K 10 million for the medical fund of the hospital through the medical superintendent. On his inspection tour of Rakhine State, the Vice President was accompanied by Union Minister U Khan Yi, Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and officials visited Sudhamma Garu (Pathein) monastery in Sittway and offered provisions to the monks.

On his arrival at relief camps and clinics in Sittway, he inspected several facilities and donated cash.

The Vice President also visited the Sittway Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and a senior care home.—MNA

Talks on citizens and laws given in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 19 May—Talks on citizens and laws organized by Wunthanhoo Democratic Party were held in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay this morning.

Advocate U Myint Thein gave a lecture on citizens and laws, and Secretary General Daw Nan Shwe Kya gave talks on the need to protect the rights of Buddhist Myanmar women.

Region (IPRD)

Villagers in NyaungU Tsp receive free medical care

NYAUNGU, 19 May—A 77-member mobile medical team of the Defence Forces gave free medical treatment to local peoples in Taungzin Village-tract in NyaungU Township on Sunday.

Divided into three groups, the mobile medical groups have provided medical care to 338 people from villages so far in Taungzin Village-tract, according to the NyaungU Township Information and Public Relations Department.

Ye Thu Aung (NyaungU)
Thai PM in crisis meeting with Senate as protesters move to oust him

Indonesian presidential frontrunner picks popular ex-VP as running mate

China ‘uses channels’ to warn North Korea against fourth nuclear test
US Republican chairman: Clinton’s age, health ‘fair game’

WASHINGTON, 19 May — Hillary Clinton’s age and health are valid campaign issues if the 66-year-old Democrat makes another run for US president in 2016, the Republican Party leader said on Sunday.

Reince Priebus, the Republican National Committee chairman, was asked on NBC’s “Meet the Press” about Republican strategist Karl Rove’s reported comments that Clinton, the Republican candidate in 2008, was 72 on Election Day that year. The New York Post reported that Rove made the suggestion at a recent conference. Rove denied using the phrase, but told Fox News Clinton’s health would be an issue should she run.

Clinton suffered a blood clot in her head in December 2012 after falling at her home and received several days of treatment at a New York hospital. The incident raised health concerns for Clinton, who was a widely traveled secretary of state during President Barack Obama’s first term.

Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, said last week, “There was nothing to it ... She is strong. She is doing great.” Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg blasted Rove’s comments as beyond the pale. “I thought his remarks just were outrageous,” he said on CBS’s “Face the Nation” on Sunday. Bloomberg called Clinton a “great American” who would make a “spectacular candidate on the Democratic side.” “You can’t ask somebody to do more than she has done for her country,” said Bloomberg, a long-time Democrat who switched to the Republican Party when he first ran for mayor. He later dropped his party affiliation altogether. Democrats accuse Republicans of politicizing the blood clot as part of a strategy to discourage Clinton from running.

They do not want Hillary Clinton,” Senator Claire McCaskill told NBC. “Because they know she is going to ignite a spark of enthusiasm across this country and she has got the strongest resume for president of anyone who’s run in a very long time.”

She called Rove’s reported comments, which also drew a swipe last week from White House spokesmen Jay Carney, “a cheap political shot.”—Reuters

Tamils say barred from commemorating war dead, Sri Lanka denies

COLOMBO, 19 May — Minority ethnic Tamils said on Sunday they had been banned from commemorating the deaths of their relatives five years ago in the final battle of a 26-year war with Sri Lanka’s military, a charge denied by the army.

While President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is under international pressure to investigate war crimes in the battle, watched a victory parade in the south of the island, Tamils said they had been banned from attending Hindu temples in the north.

Ananthi Sasitharan, wife of a rebel leader missing since his Tamil Tiger separatists surrendered to the army on 18 May, 2009, said the military used “abusive language” when they tried to enter the temple in Kecirimali. “They didn’t allow me to Keerimalai Hindu temple to conduct my usual rituals to remember my relatives killed in the war and my husband. This is a blatan human rights violation. It exposed the government’s heavy military control over Tamil civilians,” she said.

Five other residents also said they had been banned, but declined to be identified due to possible reprisals. They said security was tightened across the northern Jaffna peninsula, with roads closed to prevent any commemorative events. They said the military had ordered Tamils not to hold any commemorations.

Military spokesman Ruwan Wanigasooriya said families had not been barred from their rites, but some additional security had been established to maintain stability as some parties were trying to create what he described as an “unwanted situation”.

South Korea’s Park, sorry over ferry disaster, breaks up coast guard

SEOUL, 19 May — South Korean President Park Geun-hye formally apologized on Monday for a ferry disaster last month that killed about 300 passengers, mostly school children, and said she would break up the coast guard because it had failed in its rescue mission.

Park has been hit hard by an angry nation-wide outcry over the government’s response to South Korea’s worst civilian maritime disaster in 20 years and the seemingly slow and ineffective rescue operation. Polls show support for Park has dropped by more than 20 points since the 16 April disaster.

“I apologize to the nation for the pain and suffering that everyone felt, as the president who should have been responsible for the safety and lives of the people,” Park said in a televised national address, her first since the ferry Sewol capsized and sank with 476 passengers and crew on board.

At least 286 people were killed and 18 remain missing. Only 172 people were rescued, with the rest presumed to have drowned. Of the passengers, 339 were children and their teachers on a field trip from a high school on the outskirts of Seoul. Park fought back sobs as she remembered some of the teenagers who perished while trying to help each other. She vowed sweeping reforms to improve oversight, as well as tough punishment for bureaucrats and businesses whose negligence endangers public safety.

“A 20-year-old vessel was bought and refurbished to add excessive capacity, then it was loaded with much more cargo than allowed with a false reporting on weight, but not a single person in the position to supervise stopped any of it,” Park said.

She singled out structural problems within the coast guard as the main reason why there was such a high casualty toll from an accident that played out on national television as the vessel gradually sank with most of the passengers trapped inside. “Had there been an immediate and proactive rescue operation after the accident, we would have been able to reduce the casualties,” Park said.—Reuters

Tamils say barred from commemorating war dead, Sri Lanka denies

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton participates in an event on empowering woman and girls, at the World Bank in Washington on 14 May, 2014.—Reuters

South Korean President Park Geun-hye

Tamil ethnic minority in Sri Lanka was barred from commemorating war dead, Sri Lanka denies

Colombo, 19 May — Tamil ethnic minority Tamils said on Sunday they had been banned from commemorating the deaths of their relatives five years ago in the final battle of a 26-year war with Sri Lanka’s military, a charge denied by the army.

While President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is under international pressure to investigate war crimes in the battle, watched a victory parade in the south of the island, Tamils said they had been banned from attending Hindu temples in the north.

Ananthi Sasitharan, wife of a rebel leader missing since his Tamil Tiger separatists surrendered to the army on 18 May, 2009, said the military used “abusive language” when they tried to enter the temple in Kecirimali. “They didn’t allow me to Keerimalai Hindu temple to conduct my usual rituals to remember my relatives killed in the war and my husband. This is a blatant human rights violation. It exposes the government’s heavy military control over Tamil civilians,” she said.

Five other residents also said they had been banned, but declined to be identified due to possible reprisals. They said security was tightened across the northern Jaffna peninsula, with roads closed to prevent any commemorative events. They said the military had ordered Tamils not to hold any commemorations.

Military spokesman Ruwan Wanigasooriya said families had not been barred from their rites, but some additional security had been established to maintain stability as some parties were trying to create what he described as an “unwanted situation”.

“There was no prevention of individual families commemorating their dead. We spoke mainly about any organized move to politically incite people and ... commemorating terrorists would not be allowed,” he said.

Wanigasooriya said the military saw some Tamil families observing religious rituals in temples, including in Keerimalai.

While both sides mark the end of the war every year, this fifth anniversary comes after the main ethnic Tamil party secured a landslide in a provincial poll in September, rekindling the animosity between the sides.—Reuters
Colombia election candidate says Zuluaga should quit race over spying

BOGOTA, May — A candidate in Colombia’s presidential elections next Sunday has called on the leading opposition candidate, Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, to quit the race after new video evidence of spying by his campaign consultant on peace talks with leftist rebels.

Zuluaga’s recent surge in polls of voter intentions could be challenged after local Press published a video showing him and a former campaign manager being briefed about government intelligence by a man now in custody and facing spying charges.

The campaign manager, Luis Alfonso Hoyos, quit earlier this month after the arrest of the accused hacker, Andres Sepulveda, and after Colombian broadcaster RCN said the two men had offered confidential information about the peace talks.

In the video Sepulveda informs Zuluaga that he is in possession of military intelligence. Zuluaga shows no surprise and does not question how he obtained it.

“Oscar Ivan Zuluaga should immediately renounce his candidacy to the presidency and present himself to the judiciary to answer for these crimes,” said Green Alliance candidate Enrique Penalosa, a distant third in polls.

Zuluaga on Sunday appeared to cast doubt on the video’s authenticity, calling it a “montage” and “crude” and that his campaign had been infiltrated by people working against him. He did not explain further why the video and audio published on new magazine Semana’s website were dubious.

Sepulveda’s arrest was made in early May after a raid on his Bogota office where he is alleged to have spied on a FARC member handling its communications at the peace talks in Cuba and hacked into the email of two Cuban journalists.

Zuluaga’s campaign acknowledged after Sepulveda’s arrest that he worked for the campaign, consulting on social networks. It said then it condemned illegal spying but avoided the results of an investigation.

President Juan Manuel Santos, neck and neck with Zuluaga in election polls, has made the peace talks the hallmark of his four-year mandate and says he needs a second term to finalise and implement a deal to end five decades of fighting.

The talks are widely backed by the public but Zuluaga, the candidate supported by former President Alvaro Uribe, has drawn support from voters who fear talks will lead to impunity for guerrillas in a conflict that has killed more than 200,000.

Juan Fernando Cristo, a Liberal Party senator who backed Santos’ re-election bid, condemned the revelations.

“The video shows Oscar Ivan Zuluaga has been lying to the country. It’s an extremely serious doing, it’s a conspiracy they have created against peace in Colombia,” he said.

Santos’ own election bid was briefly marred after campaign strategist Venezuelan JJ Rendon, quit amid allegations he took a $12 million bribe to use his influence to prevent the extradition of several drug traffickers to the United States. He denied receiving money.

A key advance in peace negotiations came on Friday when the government announced on Friday it reached an agreement with the FARC on how to end the illegal drugs trade. That could boost support for Santos as he seeks to convince voters the talks will succeed after failed attempts by previous governments.

Egypt court jails more than 160 Brotherhood supporters

CAIRO, May — An Egyptian court jailed more than 160 Muslim Brotherhood supporters to up to 15 years in prison on Sunday, pressing a crackdown on the Islamic group before a presidential election former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is expected to win.

Defendants chanted “Down with military rule” as Judge Hassan Fareed handed down 10-year jail terms to 126 Brotherhood supporters accused of violence and membership of a terrorist group in one of the cases. A further 37 people received 15-year sentences in a second case related to an alleged attempt to blow up a Cairo metro station.

The security forces have detained thousands of Brotherhood supporters since the military deposed president Mohamed Morsi last July following mass protests against his rule.

Sisi, expected to easily win the 26-27 May vote, has signaled there will be no reconciliation with the Brotherhood. Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie, who was among 683 people sentenced to death last month, made a rare address in court, rejecting the accusations leveled against his group.

Hard for NATO to defend Baltic states from Russia

BERLIN, May — NATO would struggle to defend the Baltic states from any Russian aggression “with conventional means”, Germany’s Spiegel magazine reported on Sunday, citing sources close to the organisation and a draft of a NATO planning document.

Eastern European states are nervous about Russia after it annexed Ukraine’s Crimea region and massed 40,000 troops on Ukraine’s borders.

The United States has sent 600 soldiers to the three Baltic countries — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — and Poland to take part in exercises to bolster NATO’s presence in eastern Europe.

“Russia’s ability and intention to undertake significant military action without much forewarning poses a far-reaching threat for the maintenance of security and stability in the European-Atlantic area,” the weekly magazine said, citing a NATO defence planning committee document.

Russia is capable of building up a local or regional military threat at short notice and at an arbitrary spot, the draft document continued.

However, Europe at the end of the Cold War had concluded that “it could reduce its capabilities for fighting conventional, large scale and high intensity conflicts in Europe”.

While we never comment on alleged leaks or on our defence plans, NATO’s core task is collective defence and we will do what it takes to defend any ally under attack,” said NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu.

“In light of the new security situation created by Russia’s illegal and illegitimate aggression against Ukraine, we have taken immediate measures to enhance collective security in the air, at sea and on the ground.”

The Ukraine crisis has compelled the alliance to refocus on its core mission of defending its members after years in which its main effort has been far away in Afghanistan. — Reuters

Member of the Muslim Brotherhood Mohamed Beltagy (L) speaks during his trial at a court in Cairo, on 18 May, 2014. — Reuters
Gunmen loyal to ex-general storm Libyan parliament, demand suspension

ATHENS, 19 May — Exit polls showed Greece’s radical leftist Syriza party ahead in local elections in Athens and the wider Attica region on Sunday, in a surprisingly strong performance that represents a setback for the country’s fragile ruling coalition.

The vote, along with European Parliament elections a week later, are being closely watched as a gauge of sentiment towards the coalition of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, who is facing his first electoral test since coming to power two years ago.

Syriza’s candidate for Athens mayor, Gabriel Sakellaridis, led the incumbent, leftist-backed independent George Kaminis, by less than 2 percentage points, two exit polls showed.

The candidate for the far-left party, which has called this month’s vote a referendum on Samaras’s pro-bailout, austerity policies, was also in the lead for the race for prefect — similar to state governor — of the wider Attica region.

If confirmed, the vote would raise pressure on Samaras’s pro-bailout, austerity policies, which has targeted popular government’s officials with job cuts.

Elections were held for mayors and town councils in 325 municipalities as well as prefects for 13 regions across Greece, with a run-off vote to be held on 25 May. — Reuters

Fire on Colombia church bus kills 31 children, one adult

BOGOTA, 19 May — Thirty-one children and one adult were killed in Colombia on Sunday when fuel exploded on a broken-down bus returning from a church event, an emergency response coordinator said.

Two children of victims were being identified using dental records in Barranquilla, the nearest city to Fundacion town where the accident happened, said Major Eduardo Velez, coordinator of Magdalena province’s emergency response corps.

Eighteen people managed to escape and were being treated at hospitals in the region.

“Was there a canister of gasoline inside the vehicle? The fire spread very fast,” Velez told Reuters.

He said the fire started after the driver attempted to start the faulty bus by pouring fuel into the engine which he accessed through the floor of the cabin. The driver escaped unharmed and was being questioned by police, he said. The bus was owned by a private transport company and was used during the week to take children to and from school.

President Juan Manuel Santos was traveling to Fundacion to console the victims. — Reuters

Suicide car bomb kills five in bar district of north Nigeria’s Kano

KANO, 19 May — A suicide car bomber killed five people on a street of popular bars and restaurants in the northern Nigerian city of Kano on Sunday evening, in an area mostly inhabited by southern Christians, police said.

Kano police spokesman Musa Majiyi said the bomber struck Gold Coast Street in the Sahon Gari or “foreign quarter” of the North’s biggest city. “I heard a loud blast. And there was a lot of smoke. Soldiers came in to cordon off the place and ambulances were rushing people to hospital,” witness Abdul Dafar, who lives a block away from the blast, said, adding that he had seen four dead bodies in the aftermath.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but blame is likely to fall on violent Islamist group Boko Haram, whose struggle against the Nigerian state has killed thousands over the last five years.

The militants also operate in neighbouring Niger, Cameroon and Chad, and President Goodluck Jonathan described them as West Africa’s al-Qaeda on Saturday in Paris, where regional leaders met France’s President Francois Hollande to discuss how to tackle the growing threat posed by the group.

The militants grabbed world headlines with abduction of more than 200 school girls a month ago from the remote town of Chibok in the northeast. Britain, the United States and France have pledged to help rescue them. — Reuters

Mali sends troops to retake town from Tuareg separatists

KIDAL, (Mali), 19 May — Malian forces sent in troops on Sunday to retake Kidal from Tuareg separatists after six government workers and two civilians were killed, according to the United Nations, during an attack on the regional governor’s office. At least eight soldiers were also killed and around 30 civil servants captured by rebels during clashes that broke out while Prime Minister Moussa Mara was on a visit to the northern town. A spokesman for the separatists denied that anyone had been killed inside the government building.

Gunfire had already broken out before Mara’s arrival early on Saturday and he was forced to take shelter in an army base.

“In light of this declaration of war, the Republic of Mali is henceforth at war,” Mara told a Reuters reporter inside the base overnight. He told a news conference on Sunday that after he moved to Gao, another city in the north, that the government had already sent troops, including special forces, to retake Kidal.

“Reinforcements are on the way to Kidal. The objective is to totally retake Kidal,” a senior military source also told Reuters, asking not to be named.

Mara was visiting the town, a stronghold of Tuareg separatists, for the first time since his appointment last month as part of efforts to revive long-delayed talks with northern armed groups.

Mali was thrown into turmoil in 2012 when al Qaeda-linked Islamists took advantage of a Tuareg-led rebellion and seized control of the country’s north before a French-led military operation, known as Serval, drove them back last year. — Reuters
C-in-C meets Minister of National Defence of PRC

NAV PTY TAW, 19 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a Chinese delegation led by General Chang Wanquan, state councillor and minister of National Defence of the People’s Republic of China, at Zeyathiri Beitman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday evening.

The Commander-in-Chief asserted that any actions that can harm peace and stability of neighbouring countries will not be allowed through national race armed groups in border region.

The visiting minister said China wants to see a lasting peace in border region.

MNA

Diplomacy Course opened

YANGON, 19 May — The Opening Ceremony of the Course in Diplomacy (3/2014) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry at 10 am today, with an opening address delivered by HE U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Course is aimed to enhance the ability and knowledge of the newly recruited junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The curriculum includes the subjects related to political and security matters, international and domestic economics, cultural and social matters, protocol, consular and legal matters, communication skills, administrative and budgetary matters, diplomacy and ASEAN-related matters.

The period of the Course is 11 weeks and altogether 25 Heads of Branch/Third Secretary will participate in the Course. — MNA

Strategic Direction

- To effectively implement the role of ASEAN Chair as prescribed by the ASEAN Charter;
- To play a leading role in fulfilling the objectives and vision of ASEAN;
- To enhance the centrality of ASEAN in cooperation with countries around the world, international and regional organizations;
- To play an independence and active role in international and regional organizations in accordance with Myanmar Foreign Policy and its priorities;
- While promoting the region’s interest in leading ASEAN, it will also be linked with the promotion of national interest of Myanmar.

FM sends felicitations to Timor-Leste

NAV PTY TAW, 20 May — On the occasion of the 12th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, which falls on 20 May 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jose Luis Gutierrez, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. — MNA

Yangon’s real estate market cannot meet demands as number of foreign residents is growing fast

By Myint Win Thein

With Myanmar opening up to investment, more and more foreigners come to tap the last frontier market. This is good news for the country and its people alike. However, the commercial hub Yangon, where most foreign investor set up their offices, neither has enough office space nor hotel rooms to accommodate all of them.

The influx of foreigners has caused steep demand for offices as well as residential property in Yangon. With no available space for offices and residence, foreign companies have to resort to residential properties in Yangon including villas and condominiums. As a result, rents for condos and apartments rose up dramatically and some experts are beginning to worry that this will hamper foreign investment.

To solve the problem, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is encouraging local companies as well as foreign companies to invest in the hotel sector. The government is also inviting foreign companies to develop hotels and office towers in Myanmar.

Although land prices in Yangon are higher than in most cities in the world, land is still available for foreign investors under the B.O.T system. Former ministry buildings are also still available in Yangon. Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar is building a US$440 million complex where once a ministry building was located. The first phase of the project includes a commercial center, a five-star hotel with 480 rooms, and a 27-story office building for lease.

Recently, the ground breaking ceremony for the Daewoo Amara Hotel was held in the former White Elephant Complex, formerly owned by a government ministry in Hlne Township, Yangon. The 667-room hotel project is a joint venture between Daewoo International and Myanmar IGE Company. Such foreign joint-venture projects on land owned by government ministries will ease the problem in the near future.

Private companies are speeding up construction of new hotels and service apartments to meet the demand, but it will take time to successfully handle the situation.

Ko Sai Nge, who lived in a condo at the MWEA tower on Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, has now moved to a relatively small apartment in Sint Oo Tan Street in order to lease his condo apartment to foreigners who are working in Myanmar.

He said he was offered US$ 3,000 per month by Chinese citizens for his newly furnished and renovated condo apartment. But he is waiting for other foreigners who can pay him US$ 4,000 per month.

He said his condo apartment has a parking space, a phone line, internet access, one master bedroom and two bedrooms. At first he did not even consider moving to another place in order to lease his apartment until a rental agent urged him to do so. The agent told him that he could get as much as US$ 5,000 per month for his condo apartment.

Rents in Yangon are rising at unprecedented speed. Sakura Tower, located near the Sule Pagoda and across from the Sule Shangri-La Hotel, is leasing its office rooms for about US$ 90 per square metre and some of its occupants moving to other cheaper locations where rents are only US$ 65 per square meter.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.
Cooperatives Ministry disburses loans to cooperative societies under micro-credit scheme

NAV PI TAW, 19 May—The Ministry of Cooperatives has disbursed over K321.8 million on Monday to cooperative societies in four townships which had paid off previous loans to the ministry and over K738.067 million to newly formed 44 cooperative societies under a micro credit scheme in the presence of Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

At a ceremony to promote development and socio-economy of rural areas held at the National Indoor Stadium No. 1 in Thangeen Township, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Han gave the loans to over 330 cooperative societies in Dawbon, Mayangon, Thongwa and Taikkyi townships.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President U Nyan Tun called on the people and officials of the ministry to cooperate with each other as part of efforts for improving the standard of living and reducing poverty.

During the ceremony, the Ministry of Cooperatives said it will also disburse agricultural loans amounted to K267 million and will sell 630 tractors to farmers in 44 townships in Yangon region through regional cooperative societies. The ministry is also planning to sell sewing machines, tricycle-motorized vehicles and 2,044 tools and machines worth K701 million to local people by installment.

As from October, 2012, the ministry has already disbursed over K145 billion to people under the microcredit scheme to be able to use the loans as a capital.

“In addition, instruments on protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers are still being drawn. When the instruments come into effect, migrant workers will see the benefits,” he said.

The essence of the overall objective of ASEAN cooperation under the framework of ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme (2010-2015) is the subject of the main theme of this year’s ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting, “Enhancing Competitive Labour Force for Harmonious, Progressive and Prosperous Workplace.”—NLM

Nokia to help foster Myanmar...

NAV PI TAW, 19 May—The Second Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 19 May 2014. The Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw delivered the opening statement.

Experts from ministries and Union Attorney General’s Office, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the representatives of 70 to 80 per cent population by 2015, and we will recruit Myanmar fresh graduates and provide training to encourage the human resources development of the country.”

NSN, with headquarters in Finland’s city of Espoo, operates in more than 120 countries and had net sales of approximately 11.3 billion euros in 2013. After buying out of Siemens AG in 2013, NSN is now wholly owned by Nokia Corporation.

Nokia said: “Our company has fully committed to support the Myanmar government to achieve the target long-term evolution (LTE) known as 4G LTE on the market and a standard for wireless communication of high-speed date for mobile phones and data terminals, value added services and working relationship.

Raman Vattumalai, NSN Country Head of Myanmar: “Our company has fully committed to support the Myanmar government to achieve the target long-term evolution (LTE) known as 4G LTE on the market and a standard for wireless communication of high-speed date for mobile phones and data terminals, value added services and working relationship.

Meanwhile, the ministry has sold agricultural machinery, vehicles and machines worth K5 billion to farmers and peoples by installment.

The government made efforts for getting the loans from foreign countries and has been implementing the micro-credit scheme nationwide.

Committee reviews constitution for amendments

NAV PI TAW, 19 May—The meeting of the committee to review and redraft the table 1, 2 and 5 of the 2008 State Constitution was held in Nay Pyi Taw today.

It was attended by Chairman of the committee Union Minister for President’s Office U Soe Thane, Vice-chairmen Union Minister U Tin Naing Then and Union Minister U Hla Tun and regional ministers.

They reviewed 112 points of the sections of the state constitution. The meeting continues tomorrow.

Sales of pulses and beans flat in Mandalay

Despite demand for pulses and beans from Yangon, the sales are flat in Mandalay and prices are dropping as the crops are brought to the local market from different regions of the country. Prices of seseame are stagnant on the market, said traders, while prices for peanuts have, however, been on the rise due to the demand from China. One viss of peanut fetches as much as K1,700.

Although rice grown in the dry season is also sold on the markets, rice prices have risen in Mandalay.

Sales of pulses and beans flat in Mandalay

Despite demand for pulses and beans from Yangon, the sales are flat in Mandalay and prices are dropping as the crops are brought to the local market from different regions of the country. Prices of sesame are stagnant on the market, said traders, while prices for peanuts have, however, been on the rise due to the demand from China. One viss of peanut fetches as much as K1,700.

Although rice grown in the dry season is also sold on the markets, rice prices have risen in Mandalay.

Sales of pulses and beans flat in Mandalay

Despite demand for pulses and beans from Yangon, the sales are flat in Mandalay and prices are dropping as the crops are brought to the local market from different regions of the country. Prices of sesame are stagnant on the market, said traders, while prices for peanuts have, however, been on the rise due to the demand from China. One viss of peanut fetches as much as K1,700.

Although rice grown in the dry season is also sold on the markets, rice prices have risen in Mandalay.
**HEALTH & BUSINESS**

**Tuesday, 20 May, 2014**

**New Light of Myanmar**

---

**AT&T makes bet on video with $48.5 billion DirecTV bid**

**Los Angeles, 19 May** — AT&T Inc plans to pay $48.5 billion to buy DirecTV, in the latest sign that the wireless industry and the US television market are set to converge as customers consume more video on their mobile devices.

The deal, announced on Sunday, highlights AT&T’s pressing need for fresh avenues of growth beyond the maturing US cellular business, which has become increasingly competitive.

**The combination** with DirecTV, the No1 US satellite TV provider with 20 million customers, would beat up Dallas-based AT&T’s packages of cellular, broadband, TV and fixed-line phone services.

For DirecTV, the deal will enable it to offer broadband Internet for the first time to its US customers, filling in a gap that had made the company vulnerable to cable rivals, which can provide Internet service through their networks.

“It gives us the parts to fulfill a vision we have had for a couple of years, that is, the opportunity and the ability to take premium content and deliver premium content over multiple points for the customer, whether it be through a smartphone, through a tablet, or television or laptop,” said AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, speaking on a conference call.

**Foreign doctors, nurses in Saudi Arabia could take MERS global**

**New York, 19 May** — The biggest risk that Middle East Respiratory Syndrome will become a global epidemic, ironically, may lie with globe-trotting healthcare workers.

From Houston to Manila, doctors and nurses are recruited for lucrative postings in Saudi Arabia, where MERS was first identified in 2012. Because the kingdom has stopped hiring of foreign healthcare professionals in the last few years, disease experts said, there is a good chance the MERS virus will hitch a ride on workers as they return home.

“This is how MERS might spread around the world,” said infectious disease expert Dr Amesh Adalja of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

It can take five to 14 days for someone infected with MERS to show symptoms, more than enough time for a contagious person to fly to the other side of the world without being detectable.

Healthcare workers “are at extremely high risk of contracting MERS compared to the general public,” Adalja said. The threat has attracted new attention with the confirmation of the first two MERS cases in the United States. Both are healthcare workers who fell ill shortly after leaving their work in Saudi hospitals and boarding planes bound west.

About one-third of the MERS cases treated in hospitals in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah were healthcare workers, according to the World Health Organization.

Despite the risk, few of the healthcare workers now in, or planning to go to, Saudi Arabia are having second thoughts about working there, according to nurses, doctors and recruiters interviewed by Reuters.

Michelle Tatro, 28, leaves next week for the kingdom, where she will work as an open-heart-surgery nurse. Tatro, who typically does 13-week stints at hospitals around the United States, said her family had sent her articles about MERS, but she wasn’t worried.

---

**Lockheed starts final assembly of new US weather satellite**

**Los Angeles, California on 18 May, 2014.—Reuters**

The headquarters building of US satellite TV operator DirecTV is seen in Los Angeles, California on 18 May, 2014

---

**Pfizer raises bid for AstraZeneca to $117 billion**

**New York on 28 April, 2014.—Reuters**

The Pfizer logo is seen at their world headquarters in New York

---

**Home prices drop in more Chinese cities**

**Beijing, 19 May** — China’s property sector showed new signs of cooling in April, with more Chinese cities seeing month-on-month drops in prices and fewer cities reporting gains, official data showed on Sunday.

Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities, new homes in eight cities saw month-on-month price declines in April, double of that for March, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement.

A total of 44 cities saw month-on-month price gains in new home prices last month, down from 56 for March and 57 for February, based on the NBS data showed. Among the 44 cities with rising new home prices, growth decelerated in 31 last month.

---

**Stephenson’s counterpart at DirecTV, Mike White, will stay on to run the satellite television business, which will continue to be based outside Los Angeles in El Segundo, California.**

AT&T currently offers a video service known as U-Verse and Stephenson said during a conference call the company would continue to offer it after the acquisition is completed. It expects the deal to close in about a year.

AT&T and DirecTV made their announcement just a few months after Comcast Corp offered $45 billion for Time Warner Cable Inc, a transaction that would create the leading US cable and broadband Internet powerhouse.

The Comcast proposal is now awaiting regulatory approval.

---

**Lockheed Martin’s clean room near Denver in this Lockheed Martin handout photo taken on 25 April, 2014.—Reuters**

The Propulsion Module (L) and System Module (R) of the first GOES-R series weather satellite are readied for integration at Lockheed Martin’s clean room near Denver in this Lockheed Martin handout photo taken on 25 April, 2014.

---

**Littleton, (Colorado), 19 May—Lockheed Martin Corp has begun final assembly of a new US weather satellite that will allow the US government to provide far earlier warnings about potentially deadly tornadoes and solar flares when it is launched in early 2016.**

Lockheed this week powered on a key part of the satellite for the first time in a special “clean room” at a sprawling facility south of Denver, where engineers are assembling the satellite and testing components before the whole spacecraft moves to environmental and thermal vacuum testing in July.

The company won a $1.09 billion contract in 2009 to build two 30-foot, 14,000-pound Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series (GOES-R) satellites for NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which have since exercised options for two additional satellites.

The first of the new satellites is on track for delivery to the government by October 2015, followed by launch into Earth orbit in early 2016. Steve Jolly, chief engineer for the GOES-R programme, told Reuters during the first media tour of the cavernous “highbay” room where the satellite is being built.

To minimize any debris, visitors and workers wear special coveralls, head bonnets and slippers over their shoes, while fans blow air down through the room to reduce the possibility that even a stray bit of dust could harm the performance of the sophisticated cameras on board once they get out to space.

The GOES-R satellites are being assembled at a Lockheed facility tucked away in a canyon south of Denver where the company built the nation’s first intercontinental ballistic missile in 1955, and continues to work on a range of other military and intelligence satellites today.

---

**London, 19 May** — US drugmaker Pfizer said on Sunday it had raised its offer for British rival AstraZeneca to $69.3 billion pounds ($116.6 billion), or 55 pounds a share, and would walk away if AstraZeneca did not accept it.

But the latest bid was still viewed as falling short of properly valuing AstraZeneca and the company is likely to publicly reject it as early as Monday, according to the Financial Times, which cited people familiar with the matter.

Pfizer wants to create the world’s largest drugs company, with a headquarters in New York but a tax base in London, where corporate tax rates are lower than in the United States.

It has met entrenched opposition from AstraZeneca, as well as many politicians and scientists who fear cuts to jobs and research.

The US group said its new offer was final and could not be increased. It said it would not make a hostile offer directly to AstraZeneca shareholders and would only proceed with an offer with the recommendation of the AstraZeneca board.

Pfizer also increased the cash element in its offer to 45 percent, with AstraZeneca shareholders set to receive 1.747 shares in the enlarged company for each of their AstraZeneca shares and 24.76 pounds in cash.

The new offer represents a 15 percent premium over the current value of a cash-and-share approach made on 2 May — worth 50 pounds a share at the time — which was swiftly rejected by AstraZeneca shareholders.

Nonetheless, two analysts — Raghuram Selvaraju of Aegis Capital and ISI Group’s Mark Schoenebaum — said they believed the sweetened offer would boost Pfizer’s earnings quickly, with Schoenebaum predicting an uplift from 2015.

---

**At least 145 cities saw month-on-month price gains in new home prices last month, down from 56 for March and 57 for February,** based on the NBS data showed. Among the 44 cities with rising new home prices, growth decelerated in 31 last month.

---

**Home prices drop in more Chinese cities**

---

**Stephenson’s counterpart at DirecTV, Mike White, will stay on to run the satellite television business, which will continue to be based outside Los Angeles in El Segundo, California.**

AT&T currently offers a video service known as U-Verse and Stephenson said during a conference call the company would continue to offer it after the acquisition is completed. It expects the deal to close in about a year.

AT&T and DirecTV made their announcement just a few months after Comcast Corp offered $45 billion for Time Warner Cable Inc, a transaction that would create the leading US cable and broadband Internet powerhouse. The Comcast proposal is now awaiting regulatory approval.

---

**The headquarters building of US satellite TV operator DirecTV is seen in Los Angeles, California on 18 May, 2014.—Reuters**

---

**Lockheed starts final assembly of new US weather satellite**

---

**Foreign doctors, nurses in Saudi Arabia could take MERS global**

---

**AT&T makes bet on video with $48.5 billion DirecTV bid**

---

**Home prices drop in more Chinese cities**
Lockheed eyes avatars, 3D printing to lower satellite costs

LITTLETON, (Colorado), 19 May — Lockheed Martin Corp, the Pentagon’s biggest supplier, is ramping up its use of 3D printing and virtual reality simulators to drive down the huge costs of producing national security satellites and safeguard profits in the face of reductions in US defence spending. The company expects to finalize a government contract to buy two new missile-warning satellites in coming weeks for 40 percent less than projected by Pentagon cost estimators due to changes in its manufacturing methods, plant closures and layoffs. Analysts say the deal will be worth around $2 billion.

“We’re trying to find new ways of doing things. We’re leaving no stone unturned,” Mark Valerio, vice president and general manager of military space for Lockheed, told Reuters in an interview at the company’s facility south of Denver. Valerio said Lockheed was pushing hard to continue lowering costs so it could maintain strong operating profits even as lower military spending sapped revenues. “We haven’t hit a wall yet,” he said. “But that’s when you bring in technology.”

He said Lockheed had reached agreement with the Air Force on the 5th and 6th Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) missile-warning satellites, and hoped to finalize the details by early July, the company’s first confirmation a contract is near.

Last year, Lockheed signed a deal with the Air Force for a separate programme to build two military communications satellites for $2.2 billion, $1 billion less than initially expected.

Lockheed, which built the first Titan intercontinental ballistic missile at the Littleton, Colorado site in 1955, and Boeing Co have long dominated the US government military space market. But the weapons makers are scrambling to cut costs and hold onto their share of the military satellite market, given a downturn in US military spending, and efforts by the US Air Force to bring in new competitors.

The cost of military satellite programmes has begun to edge lower in recent years, but most bigger satellites still cost upwards of $1 billion to build since it is difficult to achieve the economies of scale seen on weapons with large volumes.

Those costs have driven the Air Force to study smaller satellites that would be less complex to build and cheaper to launch, an area that is drawing interest from smaller companies that have long been shut out of the lucrative market.

Lockheed executives say additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, could trim the weight of key components on spacecraft, allowing the government to pack on more sensors, or launch satellites on smaller, less expensive rockets.

Lockheed engineers are evaluating which satellite components could be made with an in-house 3D printer instead of sending specifications to outside suppliers. That could save money and bring more manufacturing back to Lockheed, which relies on suppliers to build about 60 percent of its satellites. The new manufacturing process allows Lockheed to use fine titanium dust to build lighter-weight parts than possible with older machining techniques and reduces waste, said Dennis Little, vice president of production.

Valerio said he was confident the government would eventually approve use of 3D parts on the new SBIRS and other military satellites, noting no major concerns had been raised. “We’ll get there; it’s not that hard,” he said.

Lockheed’s interplanetary Juno aircraft, which was launched in 2011 to carry out a NASA mission over Jupiter, carries a part made with 3D printing, and similar parts are used on the company’s revamped A2100 commercial satellites. Valerio said Lockheed was also working on using the new manufacturing technology to build propulsion tanks. “In the next decade, we will completely change the way a satellite is designed and built. We will print a satellite,” he said. “It’s real. We’re flying it on satellites now.” — Reuters

Facebook developing video-chat app to rival Snapchat

A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. Reuters

NEW YORK, 19 May — Facebook Inc is developing its own video-chat app, known internally as Slingshot, after its failed attempt to acquire mobile messaging startup Snapchat, the Financial Times reported on Sunday. Facebook has been working for several months on the planned video-chat app, which would allow users to send short video messages using a touch-screen, the FT said, citing people familiar with its plans.

Slingshot could be launched this month, the paper cited one source as saying, while noting that Facebook might ultimately decide not to proceed with the launch of the app.

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg has been overseeing the “top-secret” project after the social network company was unable to win Snapchat’s creators, Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy, with its $3 billion takeover offer late last year, the FT said.

Snapchat, popular among teenagers, allows users to send short video photos that automatically disappear after a few seconds.

Google said to be in talks to buy streaming-video site Twitch

New York, 19 May — Google Inc was said to be in talks to acquire video-streaming service Twitch, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal on Sunday.

Officials at Google and Twitch declined to comment on the matter. The report said the size of the deal could not be learned and discussions between the parties were at an early stage. In addition, the company was said to be looking at raising additional funding instead of selling itself.

In September, Twitch raised $20 million in fund-
Cambodian defence minister flies to Myanmar for ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting

Pnom Penh, 19 May — Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh flew to Nay Pyi Taw, the capital city of Myanmar, on Monday to attend the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (8th ADMM) to be held from Monday to Wednesday. “The meeting will serve as a follow-up to the 7th ADMM in Brunei last May,” Nem Sowath, chief of the Cambodian Defence Ministry’s Policy and Foreign Affairs Department, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport before departure. “The ASEAN defence ministers will also exchange views on security and defence issues in the region and the world.”

The meeting will adopt concept documents on a three-year work programme (2014-2016) and the establishment of a direct communications link among ASEAN defence ministers.

At the end of the meeting, ASEAN defence ministers will issue a joint declaration on “defence cooperation towards a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN community”.

Founded in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

---

US Trade Representative Michael Froman (L) and Akira Amari, Japan’s minister in charge of Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, shake hands before starting their talks in Singapore on 19 May, 2014. —Kyodo News

Japanese and US negotiators are gathering to seek further progress. The ministers, however, are not expected to announce a broad agreement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership at the two-day meeting through Tuesday. It is seen as an opportunity for the countries to assess how much progress has been made and to scrutinize the current situation, negotiation sources said.

The meeting is aimed at “accelerating bilateral talks with each country and evaluating progress made so far,” Akira Amari, Japan’s minister in charge of TPP negotiations, told reporters before holding talks with US Trade Representative Michael Froman on the sidelines of a TPP plenary meeting.

“It’s important to have a sense of urgency” to strike a broad agreement “so (the TPP) won’t be left with nowhere to go,” Amari said. Amari and Froman met for the first time since they held marathon talks in April, when the two sides moved closer over how to deal with Japanese tariffs on key farm products and US auto tariffs, the biggest sticking points. Japan will also hold bilateral meetings with six other countries including Singapore, according to government officials. —Kyodo News

---

ISLAMABAD, 19 May— Paramilitary troops recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition in Pakistan’s southwest Chaman district on Monday morning, local media reported. Quoting unnamed sources from Paramilitary troops Frontier Corps (FC), local Urdu TV channel Samaa said that the forces seized five materials on an intelligence tip off in Chaman area, a district in the country’s southwest Balochistan Province.

The explosives were being brought into the province from some unknown place, said the report. The troops recovered 170 bags of explosive materials, 200 remote controlled detonators and over 100 primacords from the custody of the militants.

Another 45 bombs, 100 guns and 135 pistols were also recovered during the operation by FC, said the report. The sources from FC were quoted as saying that the militants were planning to take the lives of innocent and vulnerable people but the intelligence apparatus timely foiled their plans.

The truck driver was arrested and shifted to some unknown place for investigations. Balochistan has been under the grip of violence for more than a decade. Militants including Taliban and separatist groups usually smuggle weapons from Afghanistan and use them in attacking people and blowing up gas pipelines, power pylons and railway tracks in the province.

---

Japanese and US negotiators are gathering to seek further progress. The ministers, however, are not expected to announce a broad agreement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership at the two-day meeting through Tuesday. It is seen as an opportunity for the countries to assess how much progress has been made and to scrutinize the current situation, negotiation sources said.

The meeting is aimed at “accelerating bilateral talks with each country and evaluating progress made so far,” Akira Amari, Japan’s minister in charge of TPP negotiations, told reporters before holding talks with US Trade Representative Michael Froman on the sidelines of a TPP plenary meeting.

“It’s important to have a sense of urgency” to strike a broad agreement “so (the TPP) won’t be left with nowhere to go,” Amari said. Amari and Froman met for the first time since they held marathon talks in April, when the two sides moved closer over how to deal with Japanese tariffs on key farm products and US auto tariffs, the biggest sticking points. Japan will also hold bilateral meetings with six other countries including Singapore, according to government officials.

---

SOMA, 19 May — A Turkish court ordered three suspects to be kept in custody on Sunday on a provisional charge of “causing multiple deaths” in last week’s mine disaster, as the last of the 301 victims were buried.

Of the remaining 22 people detained earlier, six suspects have been released but could face prosecution later. Questioning of the other 16 people was continuing.

The detentions came five days after a fire sent deadly carbon monoxide coursing through the mine in the western Turkish town of Soma, causing the country’s worst ever industrial accident.

The disaster has sparked protests across Turkey, directed at mine owners accused of ignoring safety for profit, and at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan’s government, seen as too close to industry bosses and insensitive in its response. An initial report on the possible causes of the accident indicated the fire may have been triggered by coal heating up after it came into contact with the air, Prosecutor Bekir Sahiner told reporters outside the Soma courthouse, rejecting initial reports that a transformer explosion was responsible.

“The crime of which the suspects are accused is causing multiple deaths and injuries due to negligence,” he said. The prosecutor did not identify the three suspects in custody in court but media reports said they were the plant manager and two mine engineers. —Reuters
Claims Day Notice

**MV KOTARAKAN VOY NO (RKN373)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTARAKAN VOY NO (RKN373) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses, subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

---

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (104)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: MS MOL SINGAPORE PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

---

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV KOTARAKAN VOY NO (RSU385)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTARAKAN VOY NO (RSU385) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses, subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

---

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV BANG-SAPAN VOY NO (1016)**
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG-SAPAN VOY NO (1016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses, subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: MS WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

---

**Extension of the Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)**
Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don)

Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested foreign investors for the request of the Expression of Interest regarding the above title from 1.04.2014 to 7.04.2014 in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper and to be submitted to 15.05.2014 during office hours.

Now, MPE hereby announces that the additional information for LOEI shall be as follows:

(a) The submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 26.05.2014 from 15.05.2014.

(b) The extension of time for the respective embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of company’s registration or nearest shall be submitted.

(c) Only the companies that submitted LOEI shall be considered in Tender Process and only the companies who had met MPE’s requirements shall be proceeded for the Invitation to Tender.

---

**Taliban key commander detained in Afghan province**

KABUL, 19 May—Afghan forces captured a Taliban key commander in the eastern Logar province on Monday, Interior Ministry said in a statement released here.

“The units of police and army during joint operations in the province area- side Provincial capital Pul-e-Alam 60 km south of Kabul captured Taliban key commander Mr. Lalab Abdullah on Monday morning,” the statement said. A walkie-talkie and three motorbikes were also recovered from his hideout, the statement added.

---

**Major military exercise testing New Zealand armoured units**

WELLINGTON, 19 May—New Zealand and United States troops are using one of New Zealand’s biggest military exercises to test new equipment in its armoured units, the exercise commander said on Monday.

More than 600 soldiers and 60 officers were taking part in Exercise Alam Halfa on the Waitemata training ground at the center of the North Island, Lieutenant Colonel Sholto Stephens said.

“Each day is different and they are learning how to utilize their skills in different situations and games,” said Stephens said in a statement. The list of tasks was extensive with the troops and equipment being put through their paces in grueling battle simulations that test agility and capability in a life-like scenario, he said.

The exercise being watched by observers from the US Marines and US Army who debriefed command each day and advised on what could be done better.

---
Los Angeles, 19 May — Monster movie “Godzilla” trampled its rivals at US and Canadian theaters this weekend, raking in a massive $93.2 million US dollars, far ahead the second-place finisher comedy “Neighbors.”

“The monster film opened in a monstrous start with $38.5 million dollars revenue at 3,952 locations on Friday for Warner Bros and Legendary Pictures, becoming the biggest opening of the year ahead of “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” ($36.9 million dollars) and “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” ($35.2 million dollars).”

“Godzilla” delivered the second largest opening weekend of 2014 to date, as it debuted just below the $95 million dollars start of “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” and a little bit ahead of the $91.6 million dollars start of “The Amazing Spider-Man 2,” according to Rentrak.

At a budget of $160 million dollars, directed by Gareth Edwards, a young British director, “Godzilla” earned a “B+” on CinemaScore. About 72 percent of critics on Rotten Tomatoes recommended it. The audience breakdown for the film skewed towards moviegoers over the age of 25 (60 percent) and towards male moviegoers (58 percent). “Godzilla” is doing well in IMAX theaters. The giant lizard has gathered $14.1 million dollars from 352 IMAX locations for the first weekend. That represented 15.1 percent of the film’s overall gross this weekend.

Seth Rogen and Zac Efron’s “Neighbors” earned $26 million dollars to take the second-place in its second week in theaters, dropping from the first place with a steep 47 percent drop. “Neighbors” has grossed $91.5 million dollars through 10 days of release. Sony’s “Amazing Spider-Man 2” fell 53 percent in its third weekend, earning an estimated $16.8 million dollars for a total gross of $172.2 million dollars.

Stallone’s “arthritic” action heroes roll their tanks through Cannes

Cannes, (France), 19 May — Tanks rolled down the beachfront in Cannes on Sunday, as Sylvester Stallone led an invasion of action heroes “with arthritis” to publicise “The Expendables 3”.

Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mel Gibson waved at fans from three tanks that drove slowly down the main boulevard in the French Riviera town where the international film festival is in its fifth day.

Later, when the cast of the film walked the red carpet at the main festival venue, they held up signs saying “Bring back our girls” in support of the campaign to free the Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by Islamist militants.

The film, which is not in competition, also features Harrison Ford, Antonio Banderas, Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren and Wesley Snipes and the cast was asked by reporters to describe just what makes a good action star.

“You have to be incredibly intelligent, handsome, sexy, good teeth, high IQ, a lot of hair ...” Stallone joked.

“What makes the audience like a person, it’s not a matter of muscles,” he told a news conference.

“There’s something that’s almost intangible and I don’t know what it is, but I know it’s very rare because there have only been about 15 action heroes, real serious ones, in history.”

Stallone, one of the film’s writers, said it took three movies to get the “Expendables” formula just right, judging the first as being too violent and the second too soft.

“I believe we finally got it right in the third one - kind of like marriage.”

Reuters
Menton, 18 May — Convicted rogue trader Jerome Kerviel was arrested in southern France late on Sunday to serve a three-year jail sentence in a high-profile case he has depicted as one individual’s struggle against high finance.

Kerviel, 37, has spent years fighting charges stemming from massive market bets that brought about the 2008 financial crisis. He had been required to cross the border a little before midnight and was arrested in Menton on 18 May, 2014. — Reuters

Journalists surround conviced rogue trader Jerome Kerviel (L) as he arrives on the Franco-Italian border in Menton on 18 May, 2014. — Reuters

Revising WWII results “unacceptable,” Putin says ahead of China visit

Shanghai, 19 May — Russia’s President Vladimir Putin has stated on the eve of his visit to China that the two countries jointly oppose any attempts to “revise the results” of World War II, the Kremlin said on Monday.

“We share an idea that it is unacceptable to revise the results of the war, as the consequences will be extremely grave.” Putin told Chinese reporters before traveling to Shanghai to attend a summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, slated to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday.

He was responding to a question about joint Russian-Chinese efforts to oppose the attempts aimed at challenging the results of the war, something that China has repeatedly accused Japanese government of doing amid a heated territorial dispute over the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

In a transcript of his remarks posted online by the Kremlin, Putin made no direct mention of Japan in his response to the question.

Instead, the Russian leader cited the “tragic events” unfolding in neighbouring Ukraine “where violent neo-Nazis are waging a real campaign of terror against civilians.”

“We will certainly continue to oppose attempts to falsify history, heroize Nazis and their accomplices, blacken the memory and reputation of heroic liberators,” he said.

Putin noted that in 2015, Russia and China will jointly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the war’s end by organizing a series of events.

Regarding the Pacific phase of the war involving Japan, Putin recalled how Russia helped liberate northeastern China from Japanese control.

Kyodo News

Djokovic throws down gauntlet to Nadal with Rome win

Rome, 19 May — Novak Djokovic laid down the gauntlet ahead of Roland Garros when he came from a set down to dismantle claycourt king Rafael Nadal in a three-hour thriller on Sunday,

After a slow start in which he twice dropped serve, Djokovic took control of the baseline rallies and finished the match with a flurry of precision groundstrokes that had Nadal reeling.

“Beating Rafa on clay is definitely a confidence booster,” Djokovic, who claimed his third Rome title and the 44th of his career, told reporters.

“If it’s something that we can take into Roland Garros.”

Beating Nadal in the French capital is a different proposition altogether but the way Djokovic managed to dominate the Spanish world No1 averts well for his chances of completing his career grand slam next month.

He has won eight of the last nine sets they have contested.

“It’s been a great week considering where I was a few weeks ago with the wrist injury,” said an emotional Djokovic, who was making his comeback in Rome after injuring himself in the Monte Carlo Masters last month and missing the Madrid Masters.

“I tried to be aggressive from the beginning to the end. It didn’t work at the start but I didn’t change the game plan and I found the right rhythm and everything started going in.” — Reuters
Japan wallop Jordan to book spot in World Cup

Ho Chi Minh City, 19 May — Reigning World Cup champion Japan thrashed Jordan 7-0 on Sunday to book a spot in the semfinals of Women's Asian Cup and an automatic berth at next year's World Cup in Canada. Midfielders Emi Nakajima and Mitsuho Sakaguchi both scored a brace and Japan, who led 2-0 at halftime at Binh Duong Stadium, piled on five goals after the break to demoralize Jordan in their final match of Group A.

“The main point is we have booked a spot in the World Cup. We’ll aim for the title from now,” said Japan coach Norio Sasaki. “Now we want to continue to keep in good form for our next match,” he said.

KyoDo news

Azarenka out of French Open due to foot injury

WELLINGTON, 19 May — World number five Victoria Azarenka has withdrawn from the French Open as she continues to recover from a foot injury that forced her earlier withdrawals from tournaments in Doha, Miami, Madrid and Rome.

“Unfortunately I will not be able to compete in Roland Garros this year,” the two-time Australian Open champion wrote on her Twitter page. “Working hard on my recovery and getting back on court.”

Azarenka has battled an injury to her left foot for more than two months, playing just one match — a loss to American Lauren Davis in her opening encounter at Indian Wells in early March. Her foot problem flared up at the Australian Open in January, where she was the two-time defending champion, though was beaten by Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska in the quarter-finals.

The French Open begins on Sunday and runs until 8 June. World number one Serena Williams is the defending women’s champion.

Williams beat Errani to win Italian Open title

ROME, 19 May — Top-ranked Serena Williams beat 10th seed Sara Errani 6-3, 6-0 to win her third Italian Open title on Sunday.

Williams thwarted Errani’s bid to become the first Italian to win the tournament in nearly 30 years by quickly taking control of both sets.

Errani appeared to have suffered a left thigh problem, and left the court to have her thigh bandaged while trailing 5-3 in the opening set.

“She played really well in the first set. She was doing everything right and I could tell she had obviously improved since our last meeting in Paris last year,” Williams said.

“It was unfortunate she got injured in the last game of the set, but overall I thought she was really well out there,” she added.

Williams also won in Rome in 2002 and last year, before she went on to win the French Open on both occasions.

Xinhua

Lampard named England vice-captain in Brazil

LONDON, 19 May — Frank Lampard will be England’s vice-captain at next month’s World Cup in Brazil, manager Roy Hodgson said on Sunday.

The 35-year-old Chelsea midfielder, who has played 103 times for his country and skippered the team six times, was chosen as Steven Gerrard’s deputy ahead of striker Wayne Rooney.

“Frank’s been the vice-captain all along in Steven’s absences, which I think has been twice,” Hodgson told the FA website. “He’s stepped up quite brilliantly.”

“I’ve always thought that he was going to be a key member of this 23 because of his experience and what he brings to the team apart from pure footballing ability.”

“He brings a lot of other things to us in terms of his leadership qualities and characteristics.”

England have friendlies against Peru, Ecuador and Honduras before starting their World Cup campaign against Italy on 14 June. They also play Uruguay and Costa Rica in Group D.

Reuters

Todd clinches first PGA Tour victory in style

CARY, (North Carolina), 19 May — A brilliant left-handed recovery shot helped American Brendon Todd to his first PGA Tour title, a two-stroke victory at the $6.9 million HP Byron Nelson Championship in Texas on Sunday.

Todd, who had never finished better than sixth on tour, displayed impressive poise and a sizzling short game to card a bogey-free four-under-par 66 at the Four Seasons TPC in Irving.

He finished at 14-under 266, while Canadian Mike Weir (67), without a win since 2007, claimed second place on 12-under.

Todd collected $1.24 million and an invitation to next year’s Masters, less than two hours down the road from where he went to college at the University of Georgia in Athens.

“I thought I could win on the PGA Tour. It’s taken a while but now that I’ve won it’s a dream come true,” the 28-year-old told reporters.

“I’m really excited, the relief I finally have a chance to play the PGA Tour for multiple years (but) number one is going to Augusta.”

Todd hit a number of good shots, including a bunker shot he holed at the par-three second, but none was more memorable than his second shot at the par-three 13th.

After yanking his tee shot 20 yards left of the bunker shot he holed at the 17th and then avoided water with his tee shot at the last.

“There were so many up-and-downs on the back nine but that putt on 17 was huge. It allowed me to play a little more conservatively on 18. I couldn’t even explain how (nervous) I felt on the back nine today.”

“I just took my four-iron and just hit it with the back of the club,” he said.

“It just ran down the perfect. I didn’t care where it went. I just wanted to get it down near the hole.”

Boozyed by the revrieve, Todd parred his way home, although victory was not assured until he drilled a 15-foot par putt at the 17th and then avoided water with his tee shot at the last.

“Weir, meanwhile, recorded his best finish since 2010. The 2003 Masters champion was the only one to exert any pressure on Todd on the back nine as one player after another fell away.

Reuters