Honesty, loyalty key for reaching nation-wide ceasefire: Karen National Union

By Aye Min Soe

Pado Mahn Nyein Maung, a central executive committee member of the Karen National Union has stressed the importance of honesty and loyalty to achieve a nationwide ceasefire at the meeting of ethnic Karen people in Ayeyawady delta on Tuesday.

“If we build peace with honesty and loyalty, it is sure we will achieve peace,” said Pado Mahn Nyein Maung, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Karen National Union (KNU), at the gathering of ethnic Karen people in Maubin, Ayeyawady Delta, at a ceremony to support the efforts of the Union government to strike a peace deal.

During the ceremony, Mahn Khin Maung Nyein, a member of the panel of the patrons of the ceremony, has called on the Union government to abolish the KNU from the list of unlawful associations to be able to speed up the peace process.

Out of seven chapters of the peace deal for the nation-wide ceasefire, five have been agreed on by the government’s peace negotiating team and the ethnic groups’ National Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT)—which is representing 16 ethnic armed groups, according to Mahn Nyein Maung. He is optimistic that an agreement for the remaining two chapters would be reached, Mahn Nyein Maung said.

The KNU has already organized two gatherings of ethnic Karen people in the Ayeyawady delta, where around 2 million Karen are living, to clarify the policy and efforts of the KNU for achieving peace in the country. The ceremonies are aimed at removing doubts and lack of trust among the national people as the leaders of the ethnic armed groups and the government are making efforts to reach a nationwide ceasefire deal, Mahn Nyein Maung said.

Myanmar’s trade deficit at $633.99 million in April

NAI PYI TAW, 27 May—The Central Statistical Organization of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on Tuesday said Myanmar had a trade deficit of $633.99 million in April.

The total value of export amounted to $542.35 million, including $108.14 million in exports done directly with neighbouring countries at the borders. Myanmar spent around $1.18 billion on imports, including $136 million on imports from neighbouring countries.

Myanmar, Japan to strengthen military cooperation

Ethnic leaders to gather at conference before planned UPWC-N CCT meeting

Myanmar’s nightlife must remain safe

Let’s create a verdant environment in our schools and universities

Mohnyin Tsp authorities to open Nantyin Creek Bridge

Chin State plans to supply power to over 1,000 villages
Mandalay Region CCI holds annual general meeting

MANDALAY, 27 May—Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held the annual general meeting at Yadanaabon Super Centre on Monday.

Chairman of the chambers U Aung Win Khai Ngung discussed the endeavours of the chambers, regulations and rules for election of new executives, and adding executives of sister associations to the chambers.

Vice-Chairman of the chambers U Soe Myint explained rules of the associations, substitution of new generations into the chambers, organizing new sister associations, finance and disciplines.

Central Myanmar Photographic Society awards winners in photo contests

MANDALAY, 27 May — A ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the 42nd photo contest of Central Myanmar Photographic Society for 2013-14 fiscal year was held at Oriental House at the corner of 27th and 64th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Monday.

Patron and officials of the society awarded the winners in the coloured photo contest, natural photo contest, digital photo contest, human posture photo contest, black and white photo contest and online photo contest.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpaduang)

Traditional boxers selected for Mandalay Region boxing team

MANDALAY, 27 May — The sports trial for traditional boxing challenge took place at Aungmyay Mandala gymnasium in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 25 May evening.

In the three-round matches, Po Lone (Aung Soe), Wai Phyo (Aung Soe), Nay Thway (Aung Soe), Myo Htet Thit (2), Mway Pway (1) (Mway Pway), Thurein Tun (SKK) and Saw Lu Min (SKK) beat their opponents.

Sein Lone Chaw (Kyae Ye) and Shine Htet Aung (White New Generation) played a draw in the four-round match. SK (Kyae Ye) won over his opponent in the five-round match while Tun Naing Oo (White New Generation) knocked out Moe Ma Kha (Kyae Ye).

Fourteen tentatively selected boxers were selected after the sports trial. As of 27 May, those players are under training of coach U Maung Maung, manager U Myint Lwin and referee U Kyaw Gyi at Aungnye Mandalay Gymnasium. The nine players will be chosen finally. On 8 June, the boxers representing Mandalay Region will take part in the Inter-State Region Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge in Hpa-an of Kayin State.

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Tin Maung (Mandalay)
President sends felicitations to Azerbaijan, Nepal

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and His Excellency Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on the occasion of National Day, which falls on 28 May 2014. On the occasions of the National Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal which fall on 28 May 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Arтур Рашадиз, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan and His Excellency Mr. Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Nepal.—MNA

Public notice for remonstration

It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party name may do so with firm evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Ethnic leaders to gather at conference before planned UPWC-NCCT meeting

By Ye Myint

Ahead of the planned UPWC-NCCT meeting at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon in June, ethnic leaders will gather at a summit to hold further discussions on a second draft single text document to cement a ceasefire, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, one of the NCCT leaders and KNU secretary-general, has said.

According to him, a date has not yet been set, but the city of Tachilek was suggested as the meeting place by Union Minister U Aung Min, following the meeting between the Union Peace-Making Work Committee-UPWC and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team-NCCT last week.

Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win who led the NCCT in the three-day meeting which wrapped up Friday told media that U Aung Min pledged government’s support for the ethnic conference.

In his concluding speech after the talks the union minister said the UPWC will assist ethnic leaders if they want to hold an ethnic summit like the Laiza and Lawkheela conferences.

Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said the NCCT needs to seek approval from ethnic leaders on several points that have yet to be agreed on.

The second draft of the single text document has, however, been approved with the decision made that the final version will be written in June.

“As the NCCT is a coordination team, we have to present our report on the second draft document to the decision-makers at the ethnic conference.” Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said.

The UPWC and NCCT—representing 16 ethnic armed groups—concluded discussions on the 7-chapter document that includes 122 points of which nearly 100 were agreed on by the end of the second meeting as 77 points had been agreed on at the first draft single text meeting.

U Hla Maung Shwe of MPC said political dialogue might be held before the end of this year if the signing of the ceasefire agreement takes place in July or August after finalizing the single text at the end of June.

According to an agreement that needs no further coordination between UPWC and NCCT, a framework meeting shall be held within 60 days and a political dialogue within 90 days after the signing of a nationwide ceasefire agreement, he added.

According to local reports, NCCT leaders met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD’s chairperson, and members of the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society and United Nationalities Alliance-UNA separately during their stay in Yangon.
Thai army gets down to work on economy, stifles dissent

BANGKOK, 27 May — Thailand’s military rulers will set down to work at their Bangkok headquarters on Tuesday, firmly in charge after royal endorsement but facing small protests that the security forces have so far handled with restraint.

Coup leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Monday he had been formally endorsed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej as head of a military council in charge of the country. He warned he would use force if protests flared up again.

Prayuth seized power last week, saying the army had to restore order after nearly seven months of sometimes deadly demonstrations.

The junta has moved quickly to tackle economic problems, notably preparing payments for hundreds of thousands of rice farmers that the ousted government was unable to make.

The military has detained scores of politicians and activists and anyone defying a summons could be jailed for up to two years. It has censored the media and imposed a nightly curfew.

“We are very firm on our strategy when it comes to anti-coup protesters,” said deputy army spokesman Winthai Suwares. “If they break the law, we have to detain them. If they don’t go home by 10 pm curfew time, we must take them in.”

He said the army had found a number of weapons in raids around the country in recent days. “Most of these appear to belong to those linked to the ‘red shirt’ movement,” Winthai said, referring to supporters of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who is at the heart of the long-running crisis in Thailand and was also deposed by the military, in 2006.

An army ranger was killed on Monday in Trat Province, southeast of Bangkok near the Cambodian border, in a clash during a raid on suspected pro-Thaksin activists. Authorities seized weapons and detained suspected activists late last week in the northeast, a Thaksin stronghold.

Along with maintaining order, the immediate focus of the military’s work is boosting the battered economy.

Prolonged protests by groups seeking to oust Yingluck have hurt business confidence, halted much government spending and scared away tourists. The economy is on the brink of recession after shrinking 2.1 percent in the first quarter.

Yingluck was removed by the Constitutional Court on 7 May and the military seized power on 22 May.

Her brother Thaksin has lived in self-exile since 2008 to avoid a graft conviction he says was politically motivated, but remains Thailand’s most influential politician, hugely popular among poorer Thais, particularly in the rural, populous north and northeast.

Market is stable, save for some bottled water shortages

BELGRADE, 27 May — Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications Rasim Ljajic has said that there is no shortage of basic foodstuffs, except bottled water in some places, but this is being compensated for through humanitarian aid.

Bottled water is almost unavailable in Ljubovija and Krupanj, two municipalities in western Serbia badly hit by flash floods, and Paracin, central Serbia, but drinking water is being supplied as part of humanitarian aid.

“I believe that we can ensure market stability. We have sufficient quantities of stockpiles and we will intervene if there are any disturbances on the market in terms of supply and price volatility,” Ljajic said for Novi Sad-based TV Vojvodina on Monday.

He said that the stockpiles have been opened to provide corn for livestock feed, together with 85 tons of flour, meat products, and milk powder, and construction materials, medicines, pharmaceuticals and wheat are ready to be provided if needs arise.

Speaking on repairing damages, the minister said that a donation from the Turkish government provided a sufficient number of drying machines that will render it possible to make flooded buildings habitable very soon, but the biggest problem is the fact that about 1,700 houses are of no use for housing at the moment and they will have to be thoroughly repaired. —Tanjug

Modi unveils Indian gov’t portfolios

NEW DELHI, 27 May — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his first day in office on Tuesday assigning government portfolios to his Cabinet members and meeting with regional leaders who attended his oath-taking ceremony the previous day.

Sushma Swaraj, a former leader of the opposition in the lower house of Parliament, was named external affairs minister, while Arun Jaitley was appointed minister of finance and corporate affairs with the additional defence portfolio. Swaraj, 62, is India’s first woman external affairs minister. A communiqué released by the presidential office announced the portfolios of 23 Cabinet ministers, 10 junior ministers with independent charge, and 12 junior ministers.

Modi also met government leaders from the South Asia and Indian Ocean region who attended Modi’s swearing-in ceremony on Monday, including Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.—Kyodo News
Amnesty International in Spain receives suspicious envelope

MADRID, 27 May — The Madrid office of the human rights group Amnesty International received an envelope on Monday containing a suspicious substance, the city’s emergency services said, adding they were preventively securing the area and attending staff.

The building housing Amnesty’s offices in the Spanish capital has been evacuated. The group’s 30 workers were still inside and would be decontaminated, a spokesman said.

“Around 1745 CET (1545GMT) emergency services were alerted to an envelope with a suspicious substance, suspects BOMB disposal specialists, who will analyze the envelope, were on the scene alongside firefighters and ambulance staff, while the road where Amnesty’s Spanish headquarters are situated was cordoned off,” the emergency services spokesman said.

A spokesman for Amnesty International said in an email that the group’s 30 staff were well and that no one had shown any abnormal symptoms. He expected they would leave the building shortly.

American doctor shot dead in Pakistan in suspected sectarian attack

ISLAMABAD, 27 May — An American volunteer cardiologist was shot dead in Pakistan on Monday, a member of his minority Ahmadi community said, in the latest attack on a group that says it is Muslim but whose religion is rejected by the state.

Mehdi Ali Qamar had taken his wife, young son and a cousin to a graveyard in Punjab Province at dawn to pray when he was shot, said Salim ud Din, a spokesman for the Ahmadi community.

“He came here just one or two days ago to work at our heart hospital, to serve humanity and for his country,” Din said. “Two persons came on motorbikes. They shot 11 bullets in him.”

Qamar was born in Pakistan but moved abroad in 1996. He had returned to do voluntary work at a state-of-the-art heart hospital built by the Ahmadi community in the eastern town of Rabwah.

Qamar, 50, moved to Columbus, Ohio, in the United States, where he founded an Ahmadi centre and raised funds for medical charities in Pakistan, Din said.

He is survived by a wife and three young sons, Din said.

The US Embassy said it was providing consular assistance but declined to give further details.

“We express our deepest condolences to his family and friends,” the embassy spokeswoman said.

The Ahmadis believe there was a Prophet after Mohammed, Pakistani law says they are not Muslims, although Ahmadis insist that they are.

Ahmadi men have often been jailed or lynched for blasphemy for things such as offering Islamic prayers or reading the Koran.

Qamar’s killing follows the fatal shooting of a 61-year-old Ahmadi man last week. A teenage gunman killed Khalil Ahmad in police custody after the grandfather was arrested on blasphemy charges for objecting to stickers denouncing his religion.

Blasphemy carries the death penalty in Pakistan and cases against both religious minorities and Muslims are rising.

Some mullahs promise that killing Ahmadis earns a place in heaven and gives out leaflets listing their home addresses. Few at Ahmadis have tried to identify their attackers.

Seven Ahmadis were killed and 16 survived attempted assassinations last year, according to an annual report produced by the Ahmadi community in Pakistan. Others were driven from their homes or had businesses seized.

China’s foreign companies pay top salaries

BEIJING, 27 May — Employees in China’s foreign-invested companies earned more than any other group last year, according to new survey results released on Tuesday.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement on its website that foreign companies paid an average annual salary of 61,694 yuan (10,001 U.S. dollars) to their employees in 2013, topping all other types of companies.

State-owned companies paid the second highest at 56,728 yuan, while companies with investment from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan paid 49,683 yuan to employees, the statement showed.

The NBS tracked 870,000 companies in 16 sectors for the survey. The average salary of all tracked companies was 45,676 yuan.—Xinhua
UK’s Cameron calls EU leaders to discuss Commission president

LONDON, 27 May — British Prime Minister David Cameron has called EU leaders to discuss choosing a new European Commission president, his office said on Monday, a day after anti-European Union parties won resounding victories in elections for the European Parliament.

The euro-sceptics include Britain’s own UKIP (UK Independence Party), which won Sunday more seats in the European elections than any other British party.

The prospect of UKIP’s widely forecast success may have influenced Cameron’s plans to lobby against the two most prominent candidates for the commission’s president, on the grounds that they are too federalist, as Reuters reported on Friday.

With a national election next year in the UK, the rise in UKIP’s popularity has put Cameron under pressure to toughen his stance on Britain’s relationship with Europe, to win over voters and plat-ecode anti-EU members of his governing Conservative party. EU leaders are due to hold a preliminary discussion about who should get the Commission job, and other senior EU roles, at an informal dinner in Brussels on Tuesday.

The prime minister has agreed with the other leaders that tomorrow’s meeting is just the start of the process and there will need to be more consulta-tion in the coming months,” a spokesman for Cameron’s office said.

In the series of calls over the last few days, in which Cameron spoke to six EU leaders including German Chancellor Ange-la Merkel, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt and Hungarian Prime Min-ister Viktor Orban, he also reiterated that the decision was one for the heads of state.

Earlier on Monday, former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, the centre right’s choice for Commission president, brushed off questions about his candi-dacy, saying the job was ef-fectively his for the taking.

Candidates must be nominated by the EU’s 28 heads of state and govern-ment and then by approved by a simple majority in par-liment.

“It is clear that oth-er leaders share the Prime Minister’s view that the European Council has a clear mandate in the Treaty to nominate the next Presi-dent of the European Com-mission and it is important to follow that procedure,” the spokesman for Cam-eron said. — Reuters

Malaysia, UK satellite firm release data on missing flight, say families

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 May — Malaysia’s De-partment of Civil Aviation and British satellite firm Inmarsat on Tuesday re-leased the data used to de-termine the path of missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, following mount-ing calls from passengers’ relatives for greater trans-parency.

Relatives of passen-gers on the missing flight said they had received the data report compiled by In-marsat and Malaysian offi-cials and they published it on their Facebook page.

The data communica-tions log comprises 14 pieces of data from seven “handshakes,” or pairs of numbers, between the air-craft and the satellite. In-marsat said last week. One new element is informa-tion, the other is frequency.

The Boeing 777 with 239 passengers and crew disappeared on 8 March during a scheduled service between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing, and is be-lieved to have crashed down in the Indian Ocean, off western Australia. — Reuters

Battle at Donetsk airport; new Ukraine leader says no talks with ‘terrorists’

KIEV/ DONETSK, (Ukraine) 27 May — Ukraine launched air strikes and a paratrooper assault against pro-Russian rebels who seized an airport on Monday, as its newly elect-ed leader rejected any talks with “terrorists” and said a robust military campaign in the east should be able to put down a separatist revolt in “a matter of hours”.

Ukrainians rallied overwhelmingly in Sun-day’s election behind Petro Poroshenko, a political vet-eran and billionaire owner of chocolate factories, hoping the 68-year-old can rescue the nation from the brink of bankruptcy, civil war and dismember-ment by its former Soviet masters in the Kremlin.

Monday’s rapid mili-tary response to separatists who seized the airport in Donetsk was a defiant an-swer to Moscow, which said it was ready for dial-ogue with Poroshenko but demanded he first scale back the armed forces’ campaign in the east.

Even as the fighting was getting under way, Poroshenko held a news conference in Kiev where he said the government’s military offensive needed to be “quicker and more effective”. “The anti-ter-rorist operation should not last two or three months. It should last for a matter of hours,” he said. As for the rebel fighters: “They want to preserve a bandit state which is held in place by force of arms,” he said. “These are simply bandits. Nobody in any civilized state will hold negotiations with terrorists.” Gunfire and explosions could be heard as a warplane flew over Donetsk’s Sergey Prokofiev International Air-port, hours after truckloads of armed rebel fighters ar-rived and seized a terminal.

Thick black smoke rose from within the perimeter. The government said its jets had strafed the area with warning shots and then struck a location where rebels were concen-trated, scattering the fight-ers before paratroopers were flown in to face them.

Eight hours after it be-gan, fighting was continu-ing after nightfall and had spread to residential neigh-bourhoods nearby.

“Fighting continues in the airport, with the use of planes and helicopters,” said separatist leader Denis Pushilin. “It’s a full-blown military standoff. I have no information on casualties. Our groups have destroyed one helicopter of the enemy.”

At one point, three Ukrainian Mi-24 helicop-ter gunships fired rockets and cannon at the concrete and glass terminal. More plumes of black smoke shot up into the air as the heli-copters fired at targets on the runway. The gunships threw out decoy flares as fighters shot at them from the ground.

The airport serves a city of 1 million people that the rebels have proclaimed capital of an independent “people’s republic”, and where they succeeded in blocking all voting in Sun-day’s election.— Reuters

China breaks up another ‘terrorist gang’ in Xinjiang

BEIJING, 27 May — Chinese police have broke- up a “terrorist gang” in the restive western region of Xinjiang, the local gov-ernment said on Monday, arresting five people con-se-quently launching attacks with explosives, days after a deadly blast in the capi-tal, Urumqi. China has an-nounced a year-long “anti-terrorism” operation in Xinjiang, home to a large Muslim Uighur minority, as well as nationwide, following a series of bloody inci-dents that Beijing blames on Islamists and separatists from the region.

Monday’s arrests in the Hotan area of southern Xinjiang, reported on the local government’s news web-site, come after the authori-ties said they had caught more than 200 suspects in 23 “terror and religious ex-temist groups” in May.

Police in Hotan arrest-ed five gang members, de-stroyed two explosive-mak-ing sites and seized 1.8 metric tons of explosive raw materials, the Tian-shan said.

Our groups have destroyed five gang members, de-stroyed two explosive-mak-ing sites and seized 1.8 metric tons of explosive raw materials, the Tian-shan news website report-ed. “The members of the criminal gang … organized members to go to Urumqi and other areas to gather and buy raw materials for explosives and made explosive de-vices, and covered up a conspiracy to launch violent terrorist attacks,” Tianshan said.

The suspects, who were Uighur judging by their names, also watched and disseminated “violent terrorist and religious ex-temist videos”, it said.

China’s leadership has been eager to reassure the public of stability in view of the recent deadly attacks, including a suicide bombing attack by five people on Thursday that killed 31 at a market in Urumqi.

Tianshan also reported lighter security at schools in Urumqi and at a train sta-tion targeted by a bombing late in April that killed a bystander and wounded 79. At least 180 people have been killed in attacks across China in the past year. Ex-iles and rights groups say the real cause of the unrest is China’s repressive poli-cies that put curbs on Islam and the culture of Uighurs, Muslims who speak a Tur-kic language. Uighurs have long complained of official discrimination in favor of the Han, China’s majority ethnic group.

While the Chinese says separa-tist groups in Xinjiang are seeking to form their own state called East Turkestan, though experts dispute the influence and reach of the most prominent group, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). — Reuters
**Eastern Libya oil rebel rejects new government**

**Tripoli, 27 May** — The leader of the protesters occupying Libyan oil ports said on Monday that he did not recognize Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq’s new government and suggested a previously agreed deal to end his blockade could be in jeopardy.

Ibrahim Jathran, who wants more autonomy from Tripoli for his eastern region, had agreed with Maiteeq’s predecessor to steadily end the protests, which have cut the OPEC member country’s oil exports after the ports fell under his control last summer.

Jathran’s statement added to the opposition to Maiteeq, a businessman backed by the Muslim Brotherhood, who was appointed two weeks ago in a chaotic, parliamentary vote that prompted anti-Islamist factions to challenge his legitimacy.

Libya’s parliament, the General National Congress, had been paralyzed by infighting among pro- and anti-Islamist, tribal and regional factions vying for influence in the chaos that followed the 2011 uprising against Muammar Gaddafi.

“All options are on the table,” Jathran said, without a direct reference to the oil accord. “If the parliament keeps with its decision on the new government, then we will take a different position than we have before.”

Keeping ports closed will be a blow to Maiteeq’s new government, with the country’s oil production down to 160,000 barrels per day (bpd) compared with 1.4 million bpd because of the Jathran blockade and other pipeline protests. In further complication, a deputy parliamentary president sent a letter on Monday to Maiteeq’s predecessor, Abdelrahim al-Thinni, asking him to stay on because a justice ministry body had ruled Maiteeq’s initial election by parliament was illegal.

**Gunmen kill four soldiers southeast of Nigeria’s Jos**

**Lagos, 27 May** — Nigeria’s military says where the more than 200 girls abducted by Boko Haram are, rules out force.

Since the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak in 2011 raised hopes of new freedoms, the country of 85 million, where one in four people and democracy, it has made inroads into Plateau state in the past month, setting off a bomb in Jos last Tuesday that killed 118 people, Bendel Nancwuat, head of the local council that administers the village of Gida Bua, where the attack happened, said it was not known if the assailants were Boko Haram or just bandits.

A spokesman for the Special Task Force - made up of military and police personnel meant to keep the peace in Plateau state - Captain Ikedichi Iweha, confirmed the incident but declined to give details ahead of an investigation.—Reuters

**Murders in El Salvador spike to record high for May**

**San Salvador, 27 May** — Murders in El Salvador shot up in May, surpassing previous homicide rates in one of the world’s deadliest countries and pushing the president to claim criminal groups were trying to destabilize the government.

The number of murders in May more than doubled from the same month last year, when homicides had fallen back from one of the world’s highest murder rates, with 81 people killed just over the last weekend.

With 356 homicides so far in May compared with 174 in the same month last year, the murder rate has surpassed the highs seen in early 2012 before a truce between the country’s powerful street gangs, according to Miguel Fortin, head of the prosecutor’s office forensic unit.

Fortin said the 81 murders over the last weekend overwhelmed forensic officials, who could not keep up with the demand to investigate crime scenes.

“While they were doing one autopsy, the next order would arrive,” he told reporters.—Reuters

**Nigeria military says knows where girls are, rules out force**

**CAIRO, 27 May** — Newly elected Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq of the General National Congress Nouri Abushumin (7th L) and other members of the new Libyan government pose for a group photo in Tripoli on 26 May, 2014.

It was not clear how Thinni would respond to the request, which his spokesman said he had received. He asked to step down from the prime minister’s post after gunmen attacked his family. His predecessor was ousted by parliament in March.—Reuters

Jos (Nigeria), 27 May — Gunmen killed four Nigerian soldiers on Monday in an ambush on a military patrol in central Plateau state, about 180 km (110 miles) southeast of Jos, a local government official said. Islamist militant group Boko Haram has made inroads into Plateau state in the past month, setting off a bomb in Jos last Tuesday that killed 118 people, Bendel Nancwuat, head of the local council that administers the village of Gida Bua, where the attack happened, said it was not known if the assailants were Boko Haram or just bandits.

A spokesman for the Special Task Force - made up of military and police personnel meant to keep the peace in Plateau state - Captain Ikedichi Iweha, confirmed the incident but declined to give details ahead of an investigation.—Reuters

**Sisi closes on presidency on final day of Egypt vote**

**CAIRO, 27 May** — Former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is expected to emerge from a second and final day of voting on Tuesday as Egypt’s next president, with supporters seeing him as the man who can pull the Arab world’s most populous nation back from the brink.

Since the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak in 2011 raised hopes of new freedoms, Egypt’s past- three years appeared shorter than in previous elections. The interior minister said turnout was good. As polls were about to close after the first day of voting on Monday, there was no sign of a late rush.

The superviser of a polling station in a working-class district of Cairo told Reuters fewer than 30 percent of registered voters had shown up. Earlier on Monday, it was hard to find anyone who planned to vote for Sabahi in lines of voters who voted for Sisi. “I voted because I want to feel safe.” Although he enjoys the adulation of many Egyptians, many of Sisi’s supporters said they voted for stability rather than Western-style democracy, which they felt had brought chaos and hardship into their lives. “The Egyptian people and democracy, it doesn’t work like it does in Europe,” said Abłam Ali Mohamed, a 47-year-old housewife in Alexandria, who voted for Sisi. “I voted because I want to feel safe.” Although he enjoys the adulation of many Egyptians, Sisi, 59, faces serious challenges including an economy in crisis and a campaign of Islamist violence that has spiraled since he overthrew Morsi.
Let’s create a verdant environment in our schools and universities

By Myo Myint

Education institutions are more than just places to provide knowledge and professional skills. They also serve as places to form good habits, attitudes and social skills. In addition, they can also act as places to promote good citizenship. With more and more people living in apartments, and houses on smaller plots of land, open spaces in schools and universities can function as places for relaxation, learning about the natural world, and playing sports and games.

Creating a verdant and pleasant school environment can have a variety of educational and social benefits. Firstly, it can be exploited to teach students nature study and to interact with nature, realize the value of preserving one’s environment and use as a resource to teach the contents of subjects like general science, botany, zoology, geography, forestry and many others. Secondly, students can be taught about the use of plants, flowers and trees as sources of food as well as medicine. Thirdly, the pleasant atmosphere created by plants and trees at schools and universities can be used to organize outdoor activities and to carry out outdoor teaching occasionally to provide students opportunity to interact with nature. Fourthly, in accordance with the concept “when you educate a child, you also educate the family”, students who are taught environmental literacy at school can have a positive impact on their family and community by sharing with them their knowledge of how to improve their surroundings and conserve their environment that they have learnt at school and university.

In creating a verdant and pleasant environment, schools and universities should consider a number of points. Growing plants and trees require watering, weeding, trimming, replanting and a certain amount of fertilizing. All these undoubtedly need money and manpower, both of which are in short supply at education institutions. So, education institution administrators need to start the greening on a manageable scale, and draw up a plan for expansion when the resource they need becomes available. Next, the plants and trees to be grown should be carefully chosen. Due to the occurrence of storms and heavy rains in many parts of the country, planting of huge trees and plants that have branches that break off easily must be avoided. Since one of the reasons for growing trees is to provide shade, one should also avoid growing lanky trees like eucalyptus as they do not provide much shade and they absorb a lot of ground water. Hence, only trees that are of medium height that provide shade, do not grow too big, and are environmentally friendly should be grown. Fruit bearing trees should also be included among trees that are grown so that students can have a chance to study the different stages of bearing fruits. When choosing plants, as many perennials as possible should be grown to prove their permanence, so they are not replaced often. They should also be common plants best suited to the local climate and soil and should not be expensive or rare plants in order to reduce as much expense as possible. Where possible, vegetables and fruit bearing plants should be included, so that students can participate in their cultivation in addition to entrepreneurship programmes and law enforcement programmes are to be made in accordance with changing trends.

Crimes or accidents should be prevented with systematic measures. Nights in Myanmar should be comfortable with entertainment and relaxation, and public security officials must take responsibility for the prevention of incidents happening in Myanmar.

As the country has only a small middle income class, night life is out of reach for many fun-seekers, but that will change as well. Myanmar is now developing, and a modern lifestyle will soon have an impact on society as a large number of foreigners is coming to the country. While this is a society that welcomes foreigners and is curious about different lifestyles, exploitation of locals and vulgar behavior are not welcome here.

By Aung Khin

Major cities in Myanmar now have a night life. There are a few night clubs popular for one’s environment, students will learn to appreciate the charm of nature, develop their aesthetic sense and the desire to enhance the beauty around them will be developed. Hopefully, this desire from a young age will prevent them from engaging in destructive acts when they grow up, such as destroying phone booths, and bus stops, disfiguring monuments, scribbling and drawing graffiti on walls and dirtying places by littering and spitting out be- tel. Fifthly, the well maintained open spaces in schools and universities can be used to organize outdoor activities and to carry out outdoor teaching occasionally to provide students opportunity to interact with nature. Fiththly, in accordance with the concept “when you educate a child, you also educate the family”, students who are taught environmental literacy at school can have a positive impact on their family and community by sharing with them their knowledge of how to improve their surroundings and conserve their environment that they have learnt at school and university.

In creating a verdant and pleasant environment, schools and universities should consider a number of points. Growing plants and trees require watering, weeding, trimming, replanting and a certain amount of fertilizing. All these undoubtedly need money and manpower, both of which are in short supply at education institutions. So, education institution administrators need to start the greening on a manageable scale, and draw up a plan for expansion when the resource they need becomes available. Next, the plants and trees to be grown should be carefully chosen. Due to the occurrence of storms and heavy rains in many parts of the country, planting of huge trees and plants that have branches that break off easily must be avoided. Since one of the reasons for growing trees is to provide shade, one should also avoid growing lanky trees like eucalyptus as they do not provide much shade and they absorb a lot of ground water. Hence, only trees that are of medium height that provide shade, do not grow too big, and are environmentally friendly should be grown. Fruit bearing trees should also be included among trees that are grown so that students can have a chance to study the different stages of bearing fruits. When choosing plants, as many perennials as possible should be grown to prove their permanence, so they are not replaced often. They should also be common plants best suited to the local climate and soil and should not be expensive or rare plants in order to reduce as much expense as possible. Where possible, vegetables and fruit bearing plants should be included, so that students can participate in their cultivation as well as get a chance to see how plants and vegetables, bear flowers and fruits and appreciate the hard work that cultivators have to do. If students are asked to tend plants and vegetables, to ensure that there are no threats to them, all undergrowth should be cleared to make certain that no dangerous insects or creatures are hiding among the foliage. Books on gardening and cultivation of plants and trees should also be kept in the school library so that students and teachers can use them for systems growing plants and trees.

Heads of schools and universities must be resourceful and must know from who to seek assistance as the budget needs to be utilized on more important matters like buildings and learning facilities. As representative of an important institution of the community, heads of education institutions can get help and ideas from a wide variety of sources such as the forestry department, the Ministry of Townships, school board of trustees, township assistance committee, NGOs and other organizations. Meanwhile, teachers, school and university heads must cultivate a strong interest in the management of the environment of their institutions as students take a lot of pride in it. For those heads who say they have no expertise in beautification of their surroundings, it must be pointed out that interest promotes study, and study promotes expertise. As potential education administrators and persons assisting administrative heads, teacher.trainees should also receive some training in gardening, landscape and environmental conservation in addition to agriculture at teacher training colleges and institutes so that when they join schools, they will be able to play a role in the enhancement of the school environment.

Education in its full sense is not just the provision of knowledge. It is the development of the mind, the heart, the hands and the body. It is promoting knowledge and skills.

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 May—The Ministry of Health announced on Tuesday that application forms for Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Child Health, Pathology, Anesthesiology and Radiology are now available from the Ministry of Health and is curious about different lifestyles, exploitation of locals and vulgar behavior are not welcome here.

Ministry of Health urges students to enroll in medical classes

The ministry said those meeting academic requirements can apply for the courses and should submit their application forms to the Medical Science Department not later than 13 June, with further information available from the department, the ministry added.—MNA

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K660,900 per tical; Selling K661,400
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K660,700 per tical; Selling K661,200

FE RATE
USD Buying K 963.5 - Selling K 967
SGD Buying K 765 - Selling K 773
Euro Buying K 1313 - Selling K 1328
Farmer educative hall and seed sorting factory commissioned into service in Myaungmya

MYAUNGMYA, 27 May — A ceremony to launch the farmer educative hall and seed sorting factory was held at Kyonwa agriculture farm in Myaungmya Township of Ayeyawady Region on Monday.

The factory was provided by JICA, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U San Maung and officials presented prizes to five farmers and three staff for their excellent performance in the JICA project.

They also attended the Palethwe paddy strain seeding ceremony in the agricultural farm. Staff of Agriculture Department participated in demonstration of cultivation. Head of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Department U Myint Thein explained seeding process at different levels.

They visited the agricultural machinery show room.—Aung Min (IPRD)

Chin State government plans to reclaim farmlands

HAKA, 27 May—Chin State government adopted a plan to reclaim the farmlands and to fade out the slash-and-burn system in the state.

The plan is to reclaim the highland farmlands and terrace farmlands on a manageable scale, said Chin State Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Van Thoung.

The farmers wishing to reclaim under 50 acres of vacant land for cultivation are to apply their works to Chin State government. If the reclaimed lands are over 50 acres, the farmers must apply it to the Union government. A plan is underway to reclaim 100 acres of farmlands in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

This year, a total of 10 acres of farmlands have been reclaimed in Haka township and 50 acres in Thantlang Townships by local farmers in Chin State, according to Chin World Media.—Zo Hae Hsa (Chin Hill)

16-mile earthen road completed in Hsihseng Township

HOPONG, 27 May—Spending the fund of the border region development under the Ministry of Border Affairs, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone has built the Hsihseng-Loitwe-Panthakhwa earthen road in Hsihseng Township of southern Shan State in 2013-14 fiscal year.

Over 16 miles long earthen road is 24 feet wide. A total of 15 reinforced concrete bridges were built on the road spending the border region development fund.

The newly-built road serves the local people with betterment of social, health and economic sectors.

Photo shows newly-built reinforced concrete bridge across Nantyin Creek in Mohnyin Township.—Nang Oo Kham (Hopong)
Students discover 7,000-year-old mummy in Chile

SANTIAGO, 27 May — A group of students discovered a 7,000-year-old mummy in northern Chile, local media reported on Monday. The mummy was found in El Laucho beach at the foothills of Morro de Arica, a newspaper reported.

The students were part of an archaeology workshop and were investigating the site of a landslide caused by the 8.2-magnitude earthquake that hit the region on 1 April. The students from the Escuela America school were performing an excavation when they found the mummy.

The mummy belongs to the Chinchorro culture and has an estimated age of 7,000-years-old. Authorities from the Chilean National Heritage Office arrived at the site to investigate the remains.

Chinchorro culture consists of fishermen villages located in the coast of Atacama desert, from Ilo in Peru in the north to Antofagasta in the south between 70-20 BC and 1500 BC. —Xinhua

Offshore drilling plans threat to New Zealand’s endangered seabirds

WELLINGTON, 27 May — New Zealand has more threatened seabird species than anywhere else in the world and planned deepwater oil and gas drilling could drive them to extinction, a leading conservation group warned on Monday.

The Forest and Bird group issued the warning with the release of a report on important bird areas (IBAs) for New Zealand seabirds, part of a global effort to identify marine IBAs and ensure protection.

More than a third of the world’s seabird species lived at least part of their lives in New Zealand’s territorial seas and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters, Forest and Bird seabird advocate Karen Baird said in a statement.

“New Zealand also has more seabird species that breed only within its jurisdiction than any other country in the world. We have 36 species. Mexico is next on the list, with only five species,” said Baird.

“Sadly, New Zealand also has more threatened seabird species than anywhere else in the world.” These included the Chatham Island taiko, yellow-eyed penguin, antipodean wandering albatross, the New Zealand fairy tern, which was down to 10 pairs, and the tawiti New Zealand storm petrel, which was thought to be extinct until 2003.

“The sheer number of IBAs for seabirds calls for a major rethink of the mass sell-off of deep water oil and gas drilling rights within our EEZ,” said Baird.

“As the industry oil spill modeling shows, a deep sea blowout could cover thousands of square kilometers of bird habitat in oil, which in turn could push some species to the brink of extinction.” —Xinhua

Bell-like objects detected in ancient palace

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May — A geophysical date has shown that objects assumed to be ancient bells have been detected in Kuthmyaung Creek in front of a Hindu temple on the compound of Kambawzathardi Palace in Bago, according to Royal Ye Hun Agriculture International Company.

The company said in its proposal to the government that the buried bells would be unearthed and handed over when found. Regarding the request, Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu went to the site and had discussion with company officials and locals.

The union minister also visited three excavation sites in Winka village, Kyaikto township of Mon State, whose archaeological evidence shows a strong link with an ancient city called ‘Thuwanaubumi’. However, according to historians and archaeologists, more research is needed. —MNA

Union Energy Minister visits oil fields, gas pipeline control stations in China

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May — At the invitation of the National Energy Bureau of the People’s Republic of China, Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung paid a visit to China from 18 to 25 May.

He visited the oil field in Daqing, the South East Asian Pipeline control station in Beijing, LNG Gas Station and CNPC Pipeline Control Centre in Beijing, the west to east pipeline in Shanghai and the Yunnan oil refinery project in Kunming.

During his visit, the Union minister met chiefs of Chinese oil and pipeline companies. They focused on strengthening bilateral relations, technical investment in Myanmar’s energy sector, and present and future cooperation between the two countries. —MNA

Instability disrupts education, health, social activities

NAY PYI TAW, 27 May — Lack of stability in the region will hurt education, health and social sectors, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun said in an address to an annual meeting held by Sakawamay Foundation at the General Hospital in Kyaukpaduang township, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday morning, according to officials.

Also the patron of the foundation, U Hla Tun promised more assistance to local youths in terms of education, calling for more efforts to channel into health care and social welfare. He also urged social organizations to strive to narrow down the rich-poor divide in the area by drawing short- and long-term plans. He stressed the foundation needs to maintain its good reputation and stick to its objectives, which include ensuring high standard of living and support for rural development. —MNA

Foxconn to buy $390 million stake in Taiwan telecom operator in 4G push

TAIPEI, 27 May — Apple Inc supplier Foxconn Technology Group will buy a stake in Taiwanese mobile telecoms operator Asia Pacific Telecom for T$11.6 billion ($390 million) in a deal that would expand its presence in Taiwan’s fledgling 4G telecoms market.

Foxconn, which is listed on the Taiwan stock market under the name Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, would pay T$20 a share for 58.29 million shares in Asia Pacific via a private placement, both companies said in stock exchange filings on Tuesday.

Asia Pacific and a unit of Foxconn are then expected to merge fully via a share swap, pending agreement on terms, by 20 June. The deal comes as Foxconn, the world’s largest contract manufacturer of electronic goods, is branching out into new areas including software and cloud computing, in addition to 4G services.

Foxconn has previously won one of the licenses to operate part of Taiwan’s 4G spectrum, which is expected to begin service later this year. “The deal should definitely benefit Hon Hai as they move into 4G, though it could be as long as seven years before they see any real profit from their entry into the field,” said Fubon Securities analyst Arthur Liao. —Reuters
**HEALTH & BUSINESS**

In Japan, Pigeon’s quest for the perfect nipple

As the country’s birth rate has a more than 80 percent drop, sales will this year for the first time account for more than half its total revenue. Its main target market is China, where parents aspire to quality Japanese bottles to feed their babies. Pigeon, which has a workforce of close to 3,500, hopes to have 50 percent share of the baby bottle teat market in all major international markets by around 2020, according to a note by Shared Research.

At its 15,400 square meter (165,800 sq ft) facility at Tsukubamirai, some of the more than 100 researchers involved in product development place ultrasound devices under suckling babies’ chins to monitor how their tongues move. That's a step forward from when they used to place cameras under the bottles to monitor how babies drink milk, and a giant leap from the company’s founder’s research methods.

In a Japan recovering from World War II, Yuri Nakata spent six years traveling around the country asking lactating mothers if he could drink from their breasts. He sometimes offered to pay, and is said to have drunk the breast milk of around 1,000 women from hostesses to total strangers — to learn more about their nipples.

“My grandfather was even slapped by women after he made the proposal,” said Yusuke Nakata, the late founder’s grandson who is now managing director at Pigeon’s Singapore office. “Our final goal is to make a teat as close as possible to a real mother’s nipples.”

Pigeon today has 200 mothers and baby volunteers who take part in the research. “Babies can’t tell us if they’re comfortable with the bottles. For babies who can’t drink from the bottle well, we can’t ask what’s bothering them, so we came up with using ultrasound devices,” Nakata said.

Babies are born with a natural reflex to help them find and latch on to the mother’s nipple, when it touches the roof of the baby’s mouth, triggers rhythmic cycles of sucking — called the peristaltic movement — in which the tongue and lips move. While the World Health Organization promotes breastfeeding as the best source of infant nourishment, many mothers now feed their babies formula for a variety of reasons.

“When a difficult baby drinks using our prototype teat, he’s thrilled,” said a Satoru Saito, who has worked at Pigeon’s R&D center for 17 years and is now general manager. Pigeon’s first teat was made from rubber, but these tended to crack easily and have now been replaced by softer, stretchable silicon-made teats. Tests and baby bottles account for around a quarter of Pigeon’s business. —Reuters

**New York, 27 May—**

**Stressful relationships may raise risk of death**

New York, 27 May—

Worries, conflicts and demands in relationships with friends, family and neighbors may contribute to an earlier death suggests a new Danish study. “Conflicts, especially, were associated with higher mortality risk regardless of whom was the source of the conflict,” the authors write. “Worries and demands were only associated with mortality risk if they were related to partner or children.”

Men and people without jobs seemed to be the most vulnerable, Rikke Land, a public health researcher at the University of Copenhagen, and her colleagues found.

The health-protecting effects of support from a social network and close connections with family and friends are widely recognized. Land’s team writes in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. “Less is known about the health consequences of stressful aspects of social relations, such as conflicts, worries and demands.”

**Tokyo, 27 May—**

**Fitness experts differ on best running techniques**

Japanese fitness experts differ on exactly how to embark on what has been called the most natural cardiovascular workout.

Some chase one ideal form, others work with the body’s individual flow, but all praise the soft landing.

For Romanov, Miami-based sports scientist, two-time Olympic coach and creator of the Pose Method, running is a teachable skill requiring clean, precise movements. “There’s a universal, archetypal running form,” said Romanov, whose forthcoming book “The Running Revolution” lays out the forward body tilt, forehead landing and short, frequent steps that characterize the Pose form.

His method purports to exploit gravity rather than muscular strength to drive the running body forward faster, farther and injury-free. Romanov said to assume a precise running pose, fall into gravity and pull back into the pose to re-establish a natural process that was perverted by poor coaching and harmful shoes.

“It’s not my standard, its nature’s standard,” said Romanov, who describes running as controlled falling. “Pain is the penalty for violating nature. When you’re going against gravity, it all crashes down.”

Dr Heather K Vincent, a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) supports the forward lean, lifted knees and rapid foot turnover encouraged by the Pose Method, but remains wary of its one-size-fits-all form. “We try to encourage control, strength. I’m not sure you can fit a running form to all bodies,” said Vincent, director of University of Florida Sports Performance Centre.

Vincent added that most runners’ steps are too long. She recommends a running cadence of 180 steps per minute, using a metronome. “It feels more like shuffling at first,” said Vincent, who trains clients in jump- rope jumping and jogging to foster the forward lean, knee lift and proper shoul- der-hip-ankle alignment. —Reuters

**Singapore, 27 May—**

China has approached foreign banks and gold producers to participate in a global gold exchange in Shanghai, people familiar with the matter said, as the world’s top producer and importer of the metal seeks greater influence over pricing.

The Shanghai Gold Exchange (SGE) got the go-ahead from the central bank last week to launch a global trading platform in the city’s pilot free trade zone, a move that could challenge the dominance of New York and London in gold trade and pricing.

Beijing’s plans to open up gold trading comes at a time when the benchmark price-setting process for precious metals is under scrutiny. Barclays Plc (BARCL) became the first bank to be fined over attempted manipulation of the 95-year-old benchmark London gold market daily “fix” last week.

State-backed SGE has asked bullion banks such as HSBC (HSBA), Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ.AX), Standard Bank (SBKJ.J), Standard Chartered (STAN.L) and Bank of Nova Scotia (BNS.TO) to take part in the global trading platform, two people approached by the exchange said.

SGE, the world’s biggest physical gold exchange, where domestic banks, miners and retailers buy and sell gold, could also open up the international platform to foreign brokers and gold producers, they said.

“China wants to have more voice in gold prices,” said Jiang Shu, an analyst at Industrial Bank, one of 12 banks allowed to import gold into China. “The international exchange is the first step towards gaining a say in gold pricing.”

“If you don’t allow foreign players to participate in your market actively, or do not push Chinese financial institutions to participate in the international market, then China’s strong gold demand is only a number, not a power,” he said. —Reuters

**With London ‘fix’ under fire, China seeks bigger sway in gold trade**

A Shanghai Gold Exchange employee stands beside gold bars displayed at the China International Exhibition on Financial Banking Technology & Equipment in Beijing on 9 Sept, 2010. —Reuters

**Joggers run past as the skyline of Singapore’s financial district is seen in the background on 21 April, 2014.** —Reuters

**Kosuke Mori, a three-month-old baby, is fed by his mother as Satoru Saito (not pictured), general manager of Pigeon Corp’s R&D centre, conducts a research on how babies drink milk, at Pigeon’s facility in Tsukubamirai, Ibaraki prefecture on 4 April, 2014.** —Reuters
Indian Air Force MiG-21 jet crashes, kills pilot in Indian-controlled Kashmir

SRINAGAR, 27 May — An Indian Air Force (IAF) MiG-21 crashed on Tuesday in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing a pilot, police said.

The MiG-21 crashed in village Marhama-Bijbehara, about 50 km south of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"An IAF MiG-21 has crashed today at Marhama while taking sorties," a senior police official said. "The pilot has been killed and his body was recovered. Police and rescue teams have been rushed to the spot." Further details are awaited," the official said.

Earlier, a report by the TV channel Times Now said two pilots aboard the plane were seriously injured.

India is phasing out its MiG-21 squadron as the jet is said to be prone to incidents and has been subject to frequent crashes in the past.—Xinhua

16 die as truck plunges into river in western Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 May — Sixteen people, including 10 children and five women, were killed when their truck fell into a river in the Swat valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, the police said on Tuesday.

Seven others were also injured in the accident on Tuesday morning.

A police officer at Swat police station said the truck was carrying nomadic families returning from Punjab.

Kyodo News

Vietnamese boat capsized in S China sea, crew saved

BEIJING, 27 May — A Vietnamese fishing boat capsized after harassing and colliding with a Chinese fishing boat in the South China Sea at around 5 pm on Monday, a source with the Chinese government said on Tuesday.

Crew aboard the boat were saved after their ship jostled a fishing boat from Dongfang City in southern China’s Hainan Province and overturned in the waters near China’s Xisha Islands, according to the source.

Vietnam has sent a number of ships to obstruct the drilling of Chinese companies in the waters where the collision took place. The Chinese side has taken measures to stop Vietnamese interference and lodged serious representations to the Vietnamese side, asking them to immediately stop the disruptive activities, according to the source.—Xinhua

Security guard opens fire at Mumbai air force station, kills two

NEW DELHI, 27 May — A security guard at an Indian Air Force station in Mumbai opened fire in the early hours of Tuesday, killing two of his fellow guards and injuring two others, a police official said.

"The incident happened at the Santacruz Air Force station in Mumbai around 1 am (local time) when the accused suddenly started firing at his colleagues at the base. While two security guards were killed on the spot, the injured have been admitted to a local hospital," he said, on condition of anonymity.

The accused, who fled after the incident, was later arrested by the police, the official said.

A probe has been ordered as to why the guard opened fire, he added.—Xinhua
Security personnel and rescue members stand next to damaged coaches of a passenger train after a collision in Khalilabad in Uttar Pradesh on 26 May, 2014.

**Sydney, 27 May**—Nine medical specialists from the Australian Defence Force are on board a Japanese naval vessel bound for Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines to engage in medical, dental, veterinary and engineering projects over the coming weeks, the Defence Department said on Tuesday. In a statement, it said the five medical staff and four support personnel are on the Kunisaki, a transport vessel of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force, as part of Pacific Partnership 2014, which includes such countries as the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Following its departure from Japan, the vessel is scheduled to visit Vietnam on 6-15 June, Cambodia on 19-28 June and the Philippines on 4-14 July. “Japan is a close friend of Australia and we are delighted to be joining them for what will be an important humanitarian mission,” Lt Col John Cronin, the commander of the Australian contingent, was quoted as saying.

The partnership started in 2007 as a humanitarian response to the 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of Southeast Asia.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GENIUS STAR X VOY NO (36)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Genius Star X VOY NO (36) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ECL STORE PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7G007R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Yangon Star VOY NO (7G007R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

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Australian military personnel on Japanese ship for humanitarian mission

STOCKHOLM, 27 May—Nine medical specialists from the Australian Defence Force are on board a Japanese naval vessel bound for Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines to engage in medical, dental, veterinary and engineering projects over the coming weeks, the Defence Department said on Tuesday. In a statement, it said the five medical staff and four support personnel are on the Kunisaki, a transport vessel of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force, as part of Pacific Partnership 2014, which includes such countries as the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

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Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (2/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars(CIF Yangon)

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<th>Sr.No</th>
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<td>(1)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/1</td>
<td>Toyota Towing Tractor: Brand-New for Aviation Dispenser</td>
<td>4 Nos.</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/2</td>
<td>Server, and Accessories</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/3</td>
<td>Projector, Copier, Printer, Fax and Scanner</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/4</td>
<td>Air Conditioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/T/1</td>
<td>Battery</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/PTS/T/1</td>
<td>Tyre with Tube and Flap</td>
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<td>Kyats</td>
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<td>(7)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/PCHEM/T/1</td>
<td>Shell Water Detector Capsules</td>
<td>890 Boxes</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
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<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/1</td>
<td>400 GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Mono Driven) and 300 GPM (each 2 nos)</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<td>(9)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/2</td>
<td>Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump with Trailer inductor</td>
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<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/T/1</td>
<td>Butterfly Valves, Swing Joints</td>
<td>8 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expansion Joints and Flexible Connectors</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

‘X-Men’ sequel tops ‘Avatar’ as Fox’s biggest global debut

LOS ANGELES, 27 May — Mutant superhero movie “X-Men: Days of Future Past” powered to $302 million in worldwide ticket sales through the US Memorial Day holiday on Monday, capping a weekend in which it surpassed “Avatar” as the biggest global debut for film studio 20th Century Fox.

The seven installment in the “X-Men” franchise topped US and Canadian movie charts with $111.0 million from Friday through Monday, according to estimates from tracking firm Rentrak. The film earned an additional $191.0 million at theaters around the world, Fox said.

The “X-Men” sequel was boosted by strong reviews, including a 91 percent positive rating on the Rotten Tomatoes website, and an “A” grade in audience polling by CinemaScore, Fox executives said. The film drew an ethnically diverse audience that was 56 percent male and 44 percent female, said Spencer Klein, senior vice president and general sales manager for 20th Century Fox, a unit of News Corp.

Robbie Williams headlines rock music festival in Portugal

LISBON, 27 May — The Rock in Rio music festival kicked off in Portugal’s capital Lisbon on Sunday night, headlining Robbie Williams, who led fans on a fantastic trip down memory with the song “Let me entertain you.”

The acclaimed pop star, famous for early days in the boy band “Take That,” last performed in Lisbon in 2003 at the Atlantic Pavillion and on Sunday night sang songs from the album “Swing both Ways,” launched in November. He also interpreted themes like “Dream a little dream” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz.”

Other performances on Sunday included Ivo Salgado, Paloma Faith and Boss AC.

The highly anticipated Rolling Stones will hit the stage on Thursday, as part of their tour “14 on Fire,” and tickets have already sold out.

US Grammy-winning artist Gary Clark Jr and Portuguese band Xutos & Pontapes will also play on Thursday.

Xinhua

Rolling Stones resume world tour after death of Jagger’s girlfriend

Oslo, 27 May — The Rolling Stones staged a high-energy concert in Oslo on Monday as the rock band resumed a world tour suspended in March after the death of Mick Jagger’s girlfriend, fashion designer L’Wren Scott.

Jagger, 70, wearing a tight black shirt and jeans for most of the late-night show in front of more than 20,000 spectators, said he was happy to be back performing in the Nordic city where the band first played on a tour in 1965.

Monday night’s concert, with hits including “ Satisfaction”, “Brown Sugar” and “Sympathy for the Devil,” was the first of a European tour that will now go to Lisbon and then Zurich.

The Rolling Stones postponed concerts in Australia and New Zealand in March to mourn Scott, a 49-year-fashion designer and former model who committed suicide in her Manhattan apartment.

Jagger said on his website just after her death that he was struggling to understand “how my lover and best friend could end her life in this tragic way.”

He did not refer to Scott during the Oslo concert. The Australian and New Zealand concerts have been rescheduled for October and November.

Norwegian media hailed the band’s performance, praising Jagger for his singing as well as joking, dancing, running and pirouetting around a vast stage.

“ It’s rock and roll and we like it,” the tabloid Dagbladet wrote, giving the concert five on a one to six scale.—Reuters

Members of the Rolling Stones perform during a concert at the Telenor Arena, in Fornebu, Baerum, in this 26 May, 2014 picture provided by NTB Scanpix.
Organizers could do better handling rain, top seeds say

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after defeating Robby Ginepri of the US in their singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 26 May, 2014.

PARIS, 27 May — French Open organizers can’t stop the rain from falling on Roland Garros, yet they could have done a better job at smoothing things out on Monday, according to Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Eight-times champion Nadal, who demolished American Robby Ginepri to reach the second round, complained that the Suzanne Lenglen court was too heavy, while second seed Djokovic questioned the umpire’s decision to leave the courts uncovered for 10 minutes while rain was falling.

Spain’s Nadal, who is more efficient on dry courts because this is where his top spin is at its most devastating, barely suffered from the conditions as he thrashed Ginepri 6-0, 6-3, 6-0. But the world No1 said the court could have been dried out before his entrance.

“I think the court was very heavy, The balls were very heavy, very wet,” Nadal told a news conference.

“Why don’t they dry the court before we start playing? The court is soaked with water. Why don’t they do anything?”

Forecasters predict a rain-hit first week in Paris, with only Tuesday’s action likely to be spared.

World number two Djokovic also had his say on the way organizers managed the day, after his three-set victory over Joao Sousa. “In my opinion there are a few times today they maybe should have covered the court earlier,” the Serbian said.

“So I think the chair umpire should have made a decision earlier to take us off the court and cover the court. I’m talking for the court’s sake, you know, for a good condition, because it was a lot of rain.

“I know that on clay, of course, we can play with a certain level of rain, but still it’s not that great for the court’s condition.”

Djokovic spent one rain interruption chatting with a ball boy who shared his courtside seat.

Play started one hour late on Monday because of persistent light rain and was later interrupted for another hour when heavy showers forced the players off the courts. — Reuters

Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball during the Women’s Singles first round match against her compatriot Ksenia Pervak on day 2 of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on 26 May, 2014. Maria Sharapova won 2-0.

MNIHUA
Bad food confiscated from Italy, England World Cup hotels

São Paulo, 27 May — Brazilian health and safety officials RAIDed the England and Italy team hotels for next month’s World Cup and confiscated fish, butter, ham and other food past their sell-by dates.

More than 50 kilograms of food deemed unfit for consumption was taken from the Portobello Hotel where Italy will stay and another 2kg was removed from England’s Hotel Royal Tulip. Both hotels are in Rio de Janeiro.

As part of a wider campaign by the ‘State Secretariat for the Defence and Protection of Consumers’, officials visited 13 restaurants, supermarkets, bakeries, shops and hotels, and notified eight of them for irregularities.

“In total, 218kg of food unfit for consumption was discarded,” the Secretariat said in a statement. One of the biggest raids came on Monday at Italy’s hotel in Margaratiba, just outside the city of Rio. Officials there discovered 25kg of seafood and margarine past the sell by date, and another 24kg of meat, sauces, cheese and sugar that had no visible sell-by date. They also removed 2.6kg of salmon, parma ham and butter after visiting England’s hotel.

Both hotels were also warned for not providing condoms to guests, as is required under Brazilian law.

Rodgers given new long-term contract by Liverpool

London, 27 May — Brendan Rodgers has been rewarded for leading Liverpool to the brink of their first English league title for 24 years with a new long-term contract, the club said on Monday.

Liverpool ended two points behind champions Manchester City after faltering near the end of the season, but are looking forward to a return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2009-10 season.

In a joint statement, owner John Henry and chairman Tom Werner said Rodgers was the right manager to bring silverware back to Anfield.

“His success at the club reflects our commitment to the club’s future,” the statement said. “We are all disappointed that we were not able to win the Premier League title this season, but are looking forward to a new beginning next season.

“Brendan is the right manager to lead Liverpool and we are all committed to working together to achieve that.”

Rodgers’s second season in charge at Anfield saw a dramatic improvement in his team when they finished seventh.

“I am very happy to build on the foundations we have built over the last two years and now we move on to the next phase which I believe will be as exciting, challenging and rewarding,” Rodgers said.