New 500-bed hospital in Yangon to become national medical hub for liver, kidney transplants

By Ye Myint

A newly-opened 500-bed hospital in Yangon will in future serve as the country’s main facility for liver and kidney transplants, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, who is in charge of the hospital, told The New Light of Myanmar on Friday. It is also planned to be a teaching hospital for postgraduate medical training, she added.

The initially built modular operation theatre is now being upgraded to meet international standards, with from the 1,500-bed Yangon General Hospital and New Yangon General Hospital to the new facility which used to be the Ministry of Energy Office and is located in Lanmadaw township, a twenty-minute walk from Yangon General Hospital.

Rheumatology now has, for the first time ever in Myanmar, its own department at the new hospital, with officials saying that a liver surgical ward has been established as well.

In order to treat patients faster and more effectively and to provide initial counseling, an information counter with medically trained staff is now operating at the Out patient and Emergency Department.

Currently 200 patients are treated at the specialist hospital in which five professors, eight senior consultants, 22 junior consultants, 25 civil assistant surgeons and 130 nurses work.

The new hospital was refurbished by four private companies for K7 billion, with the handover to the Ministry of Health in September, 2013. Myanmar for the first time performed liver transplant operations in 2004.

World No Tobacco Day observed on 31 May as Yangonites keep puffing

As 31 May marks World No Tobacco Day, the World Health Organization is yet again highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use. According to the WHO, tobacco kills nearly six million people each year, of which more than 600,000 are non-smokers dying from breathing second-hand smoke. In Myanmar, 47.8 percent of men smoke my throat feels sore. I have been smoking since I was eighteen and I smoke more on non-smoking days out of protest. Chris Tarrant (British TV star) used to go round with a bucket of water throwing it on smokers on non-smoking day, nice.

An American clown once said, “After reading the dreadful consequences of smoking, I quit…. reading”. But now I’m thinking of stopping that habit for the sake of my family.

Developing Myanmar Waters Sustainably: the Netherlands and Myanmar join hands

In May 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management was signed between the Netherlands and the Government of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar. Since then a capacity building programme started, supporting Myanmar in building up knowledge about water management.

Also assistance and training was given to collect data necessary for the modelling of the rivers and the waterways. Many workshops and trainings have been held with relevant organisations and with all the Ministries involved like the Ministry of Transport, Agriculture and Irrigation, Environmental Conservation and Forestry, etcetera.

(See page 2)
Mobile medical team from Loilem Station gives free health care to locals

Loilem, 30 May—The Loilem Station commander arranged medical treatment free of charge for rural people in Loimonmong village of Loilem Township, southern Shan State, on Thursday. At the monastery, the station commander explained the various health care services available to local people. The township administrator reported on progress of education, health, power supply and agriculture sectors of the village and inspected health care services provided by medical officers of the military unit to the people at the village’s Post-Primary School.

Local people from Loimonmong, Hwehwe, Hokhai and Nawnglai-2 villages received medical treatment from the mobile medical team.

Moe Lwin Go (Loilem) project on 17 May, with the deadline for the project implementation end of the year, according to officials.

The Head of Mahlaing Township Rural Development Department U Lin Huak Myint discussed implementation of the project in 2,019 villages in 125 townships across the nation. It is aimed at creating job opportunities for rural people and undertaking livestock breeding to increase their income, he said.

The ministries concerned will disburse K30 million each to the villages included in the project, according to the head of the Township RDD.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

A total of 1.1 million gallons of water provided to nine wards of the eastern town and 600,000 gallons to another two wards in the western town, totalling 1.7 million gallons a day, the engineer said.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Water will be supplied to local residents through over 4,800 water taps, with

Mahlaing Township to implement green village project in rural areas

Meiktila, 30 May—Local people from 12 wards in Meiktila in Mandalay Region will have access to potable water as of the end of June, said Engineer U Soe Aung of the Engineering Section of the Township Development Affairs Committee. Under the guidance of the Mandalay Region government, local authorities will arrange purification of water from Meiktila Lake to be supplied to over 30,000 people in urban areas, he added.

The region government has provided K9 billion for water purification. Authentic Co., carried out the purification of water under the supervision of township authorities by building two water purifiers near the Independence Monument in Myoma Ward and another one near the ring road of Meiktila Lake in Pauckchaung Ward.

Water will be supplied to local residents through over 4,800 water taps, with

Singapore supports Myanmar cardiologists with expertise

Mandalay, 30 May—The Department of Health and Tan Tock Seng Hospital of Temasek Foundation in Singapore are now jointly launching a heart special treatment centre at Mandalay General Hospital, officials said Friday.

Myanmar cardiologists saved the lives of 4,500 patients with Acute Myocardial infarction in 2013 by using the modern equipment, officials said.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)
Vice president expresses hope that the country will see more high school students

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May

—About half of the students in primary schools continue their education to middle schools while two-thirds of the students in middle schools fail to enroll for high school education, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a basic education high school in Pyu Township on Friday.

The vice president visited Bago Region to encourage the enrollment of all school-aged children as the government has pledged that all primary and middle school level students can enroll for free as only one-sixth of the population has so far had the chance to go to school.

At the school, the vice president urged students, teachers, parents and elders to make concerted efforts to nurture outstanding students who are needed for the development of the country. The vice president also visited Phyuagyi Basic Education High School and Monastic Education Middle School in Bago Township on Friday where he donated cash for school uniforms, textbooks, note books, desks and chairs.

Foreign businesses, general amnesty discussed in Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—The Lower House’s third session kicked off in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, with reports on foreign businesses in disguise of local ones and a proposal for presidential amnesty topping the agenda.

Answering questions on whether there is constant supervision to prevent foreign businesses from carrying out their operations in disguise of local businesses, Union Minister U Win Shein said that the Ministry of the Military Government would be strengthened. Therefore, democracy and peace building are all-inclusive processes, and I encourage all of you to get actively involved.

Due to the features of the political models adopted in the past, suspicion took root among us. We must be frank and say that our political culture is still one in which suspicion easily takes root—this is the result of our political history. In a society where suspicion has taken root for so long, we must accept that implementing all-sector reforms will encounter many problems. However, one cannot deny that we have maintained reform momentum and avoided backsliding on what has been gradually achieved so far. These gradual achievements are due not only to each of us individually, but to society as a whole acting magnanimously, patiently, forgivingly, and with determination. Most importantly, all are making their cases and arguing their stands in a peaceful way. When we look at transitions in so many other parts of the world, many of which have turned violent, we cannot discount the value of this. But the most important reason is the emergence of a new political culture that discards the custom of direct confrontation between groups with long-standing differences, but instead accepts differences, and resolves issues through dialogue and negotiation. We must all strive to keep this political culture alive.

I have been observing the efforts at amending the constitution to bring it in line with democratic standards and norms. The Hluttaw formed the Pyayungtaung Hluttaw Constitutional Amendment Implementing Committee, and the Committee is now discussing amendment proposals. We are also seeing political forces join together to collect petitions from the public. I would like to urge all the political forces to connect with each other so that harmoniously cooperating in order to achieve a result that is practical and beneficial for the entire nation as well as for each individual citizen.

Regard the amendment of the constitution, I would like to give you my thoughts. We must accept the basic rule that a living, breathing constitution is always evolving and changes must be made under the right conditions and at the appropriate time in harmony with society’s political, economic, and social needs. Agreements reached during political dialogue, an important aspect of the peace process, will require amendments to the Constitution. At the same time, to see the emergence of an open and free society that we desire, we must strive to amend the constitution to comply with democratic norms and values. Everyone involved in the constitution amendment process will need to be principled and benevolent.

Since democracy has been absent from our country for many years, we must cultivate democratic practices and attitudes. For democracy to survive, democratic attitudes must exist. Democratic attitude means acting in accordance with democratic values. Understanding rights and responsibilities and respecting rule of law are the most important democratic values. In particular, conflict must be resolved in line with democratic principles and dialogue. Dialogue means solving issues together, and jointly implementing the solution. Dialogue is crucial during this reform period.

I am always working for the advancement of political freedom. I would like to urge all political leaders to carefully consider their actions in order to keep this political process alive.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that I continue to strive for achieving internal peace, improving livelihoods, and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

I wish you all good health.

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MIN AUNG HLAING

politics dutifully and loyally. I have been performing national duties and loyally. I have been performing national duties and loyally. I have been performing national duties and loyally. I have been performing national duties and loyally.

Speaking to the youths on Friday where he donated cash for school uniforms, Minister Maung said that health and shelter for low and middle income employees’ families, the government has made various arrangements including stipends, health and social insurance policies and housing projects. Deputy Minister U Thant Shin said it would be a priority in the next budget. Regarding the living of national races resettled in villages in Maungtaw, Deputy Minister Major-General Maung Maung Oo explained the measure for livelihood and security of them. Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Maung said that the ministry is trying to expand firewood plantations across the country.

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—The armed forces have been performing national politics dutifully and loyally. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at a ceremony which was held at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall here on Friday afternoon, sources said.

Speaking to the youths taking a maritime and aviation course, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said it was the first time the course was conducted with the aim of imparting patriotism and right vision to young people. He urged the youths to do their share of national development when the time comes. The trainees went on a guided tour of the National Landmarks, Gardens and the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myawady

Maritime and aviation course for youths introduced

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Speaker of Upper House, NNER discuss policy of education

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—Speaker of the Upper House U Khin Aung Nyunt met delegations of National Network for Educational Renewal-NNER on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the undertaking process of how a bill becomes law in line with the Upper House Law and Rule. NNER also discussed the policy of education.

Agreements reached during...
Meeting to hold International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held

TACHELEK, 30 May—A coordination meeting on successful holding of the ceremony to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June and prize presentation for the painting contest took place at the hall of Tachilek District General Administration Department in Shan State (East) on Thursday. Deputy Commander of Tachilek District Police Force Police Major Thant Zin explained work progress of the committee and formation of the subcommittees to hold the ceremonies. Members of the subcommittees discussed preparations for the commemorative ceremony and prize presentations.

Emergency drill practising natural disaster response conducted in Sittway

SITTWAY, 30 May—Local departmental officials, health staff and police forces staged a drill in Sittway township of Rakhine State on Wednesday morning, simulating an emergency situation during a major storm. The exercise took place in Kyaytawpaik-seik village, sources said.

A township administrative officer explained safety measures and escape routes to the locals, with most villagers participating in the drill which simulated evacuation, rescue works and escape to shelters on hilltops.—U Hla Kyaw (Triange Region)

Traffic police give talks on decline of traffic accidents

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—Traffic Police Corps of the Myanmar Police Force hold educative talks on traffic rules for prevention against traffic accidents. Members of the squads under No. 1 Traffic Police Branch (Nay Pyi Taw) and No. 2 Traffic Police Branch (Yangon) gave lectures to the people in Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin and Mon States. They shared knowledge about traffic rules to 715 people, 320 teachers, 4,674 drivers, 223 bus conductors and 75 trishaw drivers from 7 to 25 May.

Activity of anti-money laundering law discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May—A workshop on anti-money laundering law enacted on 14 March 2014 and rules took place at the hall of Myanmar Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win explained that internal monetary organizations, non-monetary business or other organizations are to abide by the Anti-Money Laundering Law. As the black money regained by the crime brokers will tarnish the image of the nation, all the organizations and responsible persons are to join hands in combating money laundering activity, he said. Senior officials of the departments concerned and representatives of the NGOs discussed the Anti-Money Laundering Law and national level assessment, drawing of the law, database system, online reporting system and duty and functions of the scrutiny committee.

Fish pond dredged at Mahlaing Township Police Station

MAHLAING, 30 May—With the aim of providing welfare facility to family members, Mahlaing Township Police Force dredged a fish pond in its compound in Mahlaing of Mandalay Region on 22 May. It was aimed at providing a manageable business for increasing family income of the police. If the fish pond is successful, one more fish pond will be dredged in the yard. It will be larger than the first one. A plan is underway to breed domestic fish species, said the commander of Township Police Force.

Fish pond dredged at Mahlaing Township Police Station

Health service for HIV-infected patients in Sagaing adequate: general hospital officials

KALAY, 30 May—HIV-infected patients can receive antiretroviral therapy at the General Hospital in Kalay, Sagaing Region, where drugs and treatment are adequate, sources said.

The hospital has been providing drugs to patients since 2010, with officials saying the facility will soon also be equipped with CD4 Count machines, which will be brought from Yangon General Hospital.

Statistics show that 221 adults and 29 children have so far received treatment at the hospital. Under the Myanmar National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, all HIV patients are eligible for treatment, with no discrimination against any groups.

Officials said that there is sufficient supply of all required drugs, even for those HIV positive patients who have sought treatment abroad and wish to continue treatment in Myanmar upon return.

Many hospitals in Myanmar are not well stocked and are often unable to provide medicines on request.—Joe Net

Treated mosquito nets delivered to locals in Mohnyin Township

MOHNYIN, 30 May—International donor organizations provided treated mosquito nets through the Myanmar Christian Churches to the people. In Mohnyin Township, the mosquito nets have been delivered to all families of Nantpok Village of the township, said volunteer Ko San Aung. The volunteers of the township distributed the mosquito nets to 323 houses in the village.

In addition, they gave health awareness about malaria disease and performed medical check-up to the local people on Wednesday.

NLM-001

KALAY, 30 May—Treatments are given all HIV patients who have sought treatment abroad.
Stumbling Thai economy lends urgency to junta’s revival efforts

Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha
BANGKOK, 30 May — Thailand is expected to publish data on Friday showing stagnant consumption and investment, more evidence of a stumbling economy that will lend urgency to the military junta’s efforts to get the country working again.

Southeast Asia’s second-biggest economy has been battered by political turmoil since late last year when protesters backed by the royalist establishment launched a bid to oust the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The government hung onto power even after a court forced Yingluck out of office for abuse of power on 7 May, but the military ousted it in a coup on 22 May, saying a takeover was necessary to restore order and prevent more violence.

Military rulers have held out little hope for early elections despite calls from the United States and other allies for a quick restoration of democracy.

Army chief and coup leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha has spoken of the need for broad reforms before an election. Another top officer said on Thursday conditions had to be right and divisions healed before a return to civilian rule.

Thailand has become polarized between supporters of Yingluck and her influential brother, deposed premier Thaksin Shinawatra, and the royalist establishment that sees Thaksin and his populist ways as a threat to the old order.

Despite the animosity of the elite and the Bangkok middle class, Thaksin’s popularity in the rural north and northeast has ensured that he or his allies have won every election since 2001.

Gross domestic product shrank 2.1 percent in the first quarter of 2014 as the lengthy anti-government protests damaged confidence and scared off tourists. Friday’s private consumption and investment data for April are likely to show the depression continued into the second quarter.

Data on Wednesday showed factory output fell for the 13th straight month in April, imports plunged and exports remained weak, underscoring the difficulty the military government faces in averting recession.

Navy commander Admiral Narung Pipatathanasai, the junta member overseeing tourism, told reporters on Thursday that 26 million people were expected to visit this year, down from a targeted 28 million, because of the unrest.

He said revenue from tourism was expected to drop to 1.8 trillion baht ($55 billion). The authorities had been banking on 2 trillion.

“Jail is not the best way to improve the situation,” Narong said. “The next pressing task is to build confidence among tourists and to show them that they can travel in Thailand freely ... through campaigns and other methods.”

Tourism accounts for about 10 percent of the economy. Many foreign governments have issued warnings about traveling to Thailand, which can affect insurance cover.

Narong said a nationwide night-time curfew, imposed on the day of the coup for seven hours but cut to four hours on Wednesday, could be shortened again in tourist areas. Even in Bangkok, the curfew is not being strictly enforced.

Second divers die in Korea ferry search as fugitive businessman’s car found

South Korean divers operate near floats where the capsized passenger ship Sewol sank, during a search and rescue operation in the sea off Jindo on 20 April, 2014. —Reuters

Finding MH370 “impossible” without new lead: expert

SYDNEY, 30 May — An Australian deep sea expert said on Friday that finding flight MH370 will be “virtually impossible” without new clues.

After three months of searching, Malaysia Airlines flight with 239 people on board is still missing and is believed to be somewhere on the bottom of the Indian Ocean off the coast of Australia.

On Thursday, authorities stopped searching in an area where acoustic pings had been detected. It was earlier believed the pings may have been coming from the aircraft’s black box, however this proved to be a dead end.

Authorities have now turned to a massive 60,000 sq km arc of the southern Indian Ocean.

A Sydney-based oceanographer told news.com.au that finding the plane in this huge area was “virtually impossible” unless there was a new lead. —Xinhua
**Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter voice support for UN reform**

**London, 30 May** — Former UN chief Kofi Annan and former US President Jimmy Carter on Thursday expressed their support for reforming the United Nations, emphasizing equal regard for all countries’ views and a greater role of the General Assembly in the international body.

“The world has changed and the UN must change along with it. The UN Security Council has to be reformed,” Annan said at a panel discussion at Oxford University with some former world leaders from the Elders, an independent group of former senior world leaders who work together for peace and human rights.

“Whether or not a country has veto power in the UN Security Council, its views must be respected,” he added.

Carter also voiced his support for the UN reform, proposing an increase of the authority of the UN General Assembly. He said that a good example of the value of the UN General Assembly was when it voted to recognize Palestine as a non-member observer state.

In 2012, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to grant an upgrade of Palestine’s status from “entity” to “non-member state,” an implicit and symbolic recognition of Palestine’s statehood at the UN.

After that, the Palestinians became eligible to sign more than 60 international treaties, conventions and protocols and became members of international institutions such as the International Criminal Court.

Annan and Carter were joined by former President of Ireland Mary Robinson in the panel discussion, focusing on 21st century peace building, conflict resolution, good governance and women’s role in world politics.

Annan also said he wanted to encourage more frank discussions between leaders and their citizens, adding that good governance with transparency and accountability is essential to prevent injustice and mediate disputes peacefully. —Xinhua

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**Reasons for the world to care about Scottish independence vote**

**London, 30 May** — Small northern nation to vote on independence in peaceful referendum, with the growing number of British men aged over 16.

For other figures, the ONS turned to Dutch research on the number of clients a typical prostitute has per week, as well as how much she or he spent on job-specific clothing and condoms — 125 euros ($170) a year and 50 cents per client respectively.

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**Sex and drugs worth $16.7 billion to UK economy, statisticians say**

**London, 30 May** — They already know what rock’n’roll is worth, so now Britain’s statisticians are getting to grips with sex and drugs in a bid to give a broader view of the size of the economy.

The fruit of their research is that sales of illegal drugs and sexual services add around 10 billion pounds ($16.7 billion) to Britain’s economic activity each year, making up just under 1 percent of total economic output.

Britain’s Office for National Statistics published the figures on Thursday alongside a detailed account of its methods, as it prepares to move Britain’s public accounts to a new European Union model in September.

The changes cover far more than black-market activities, and in total are likely to add around 4 to 5 percent to the level of gross domestic product as new businesses are added to the economy and the contribution of old ones reviewed, the ONS said.

Finding accurate estimates of Britons’ consumption of drugs and prostitution has proven the trickiest part of the job. “The estimates are based on data of variable quality, with the estimates of illegal drugs activity markedly stronger than those of prostitution, but both definitely weaker than the estimates of legal activity,” the ONS said.

Prostitution is legal in Britain, but brothels, pimps and advertising sex are not, making estimating the number of prostitutes especially complicated.

The ONS said it believed there were at least 58,000 prostitutes in Britain in 2004 — based on a charity’s estimate of the number of prostitutes in London — and that numbers since then had increased in line with demand, which it based on the growing number of British men aged over 16.

For other figures, the ONS turned to Dutch research on the number of clients a typical prostitute has per week, as well as how much she or he spent on job-specific clothing and condoms — 125 euros ($170) a year and 50 cents per client respectively.

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**Cocaine from Britain’s largest ever cocaine seizure is displayed by UK Border Agency staff in London on 3 Aug, 2011.** — Reuters

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**International conference on WWI starts on Friday in Belgrade**

**Belgrade, 30 May** — A two-day international conference on World War I, organized by the Centre for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD) will start in Belgrade on Friday.

CIRSD president Vuk Jeremic told Tanjug that the participants will focus on the geopolitical situation in the world in 1914 and the events leading to the outbreak of the Great War.

The conference under the title “The European Tragedy of 1914 and the Multipolar World of 2014: Lessons Learned” marks the centenary of WWI which started with the Austro-Hungary’s attack on Serbia.

The conference will gather internationally renowned historians and experts who will try to shed more light on the events that led to the tragic international conflict with around 15 million casualties, said Jeremic. —Tanjug

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**Volunteers hang campaign signs before a ‘Yes’ campaign meeting at the Fenwick Hotel in Kilmarnock, Scotland on 25 March, 2014.** — Reuters

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New threats will not distract US from Asia, Hagel says

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT, 30 May — The United States will not be deterred from plans to strengthen its military position in Asia by emerging threats elsewhere, the US defence secretary said on Thursday as he prepared to meet allies in the region worried by an increasingly assertive China.

President Barack Obama, in a keynote foreign policy speech on Wednesday, surprised and disappointed some in Asia when he made no specific reference to what has been a signature policy theme of his administration, the rebalancing of US military, political and economic focus toward Asia.

He talked at length instead about emerging threats, including by militants operating from the North African region.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters en route for Singapore, where he will speak at a regional security forum before heading on to Afghanistan and Europe, that the US commitment to Asia was as strong as ever.

“What the president said on Wednesday and his explanation in addressing the emerging threats in all corners of the world will not diminish, or shorten, or lessen our asset position here in the rebalancing to the Asia Pacific,” he said when asked if resources earmarked for Asia after the winding down of the Iraq and Afghan wars might be rediverted to deal with the new threats Obama referred to.

“That doesn’t diminish at all the commitment, nor will it, that we have made to this rebalance in Asia and the Pacific.”

WASHINGTON, 30 May — President Barack Obama’s second term was supposed to be a crowning opportunity to make his mark on the world stage, but instead he’s leading an intense effort to redefine his foreign policy record — and the odds look stacked against him.

An administration-wide public relations blitz, which Obama launched with a big foreign policy speech this week, has done little to quell critics who frequently pan his global approach as rudderless, as the White House lurched from crisis to crisis.

With just two and a half years left in office, Obama’s chances of forging a successful foreign-policy legacy by the end of his presidency face seemingly intractable challenges, ranging from Ukraine to Syria to the South China Sea.

While Obama has outlined a strategy that includes both a strong military and the diplomatic tools of alliances and sanctions to provide global leadership, it is unclear if he and his aides have the vision — let alone time — to change the perception of a presidency with eroding global influence.

“This is a risk-averse president who is unlikely to take bold strokes,” said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East adviser to Republican and Democratic administrations. “And he faces a series of problems in which quick-and-easy American fixes are really not available.”

Toppling the list is Ukraine, where Obama and other Western leaders were powerless to prevent Russia’s seizure of Crimea. It was a sharp rebuke to Obama’s “reset” of relations with Moscow in his first term — once seen as a big legacy achievement — and prompted Republican critics to call him naïve for ever trusting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The best outcome Obama can hope for may be for Moscow to refrain from taking over more of eastern Ukraine, which might be a credit to the impact of US-led sanctions but hardly an accomplishment of historic proportions for his second term.

The image of Obama as a passive world leader has been fed by perceptions he has allowed the civil war in Syria to fester. His failure to strike Syrian forces last year after they crossed a US “red line” on the use of chemical weapons left doubts about Obama’s willingness to use force in other world crises.

Though Obama used his speech to graduating cadets at West Point on Wednesday to announce increased support for Syrian rebels, he made clear US involvement would remain limited.

How far Obama will go in response to China’s growing assertiveness in maritime disputes with its neighbours is another tough question for the remainder of his term.

Al-Qaeda renegade group kills 15 Kurds in northern Syria

BEIRUT, 30 May — An al-Qaeda renegade group killed 15 Kurdish people, seven of them children, in an attack on a village in northern Syria, a monitoring group and a photographer at the scene said on Friday.

The attack by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which was disowned by al-Qaeda’s central command earlier this year, occurred during a six-month-old ISIL offensive against Syrian Kurds and various rebel groups that has weakened the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad and killed thousands.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and a freelance photographer said the attack took place on Thursday near the Kurdish town of Ras al-Ain after militants stormed a village.

A man comforts a woman after activists said people were killed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in a village near Ras al-Ain city in Hasakah Province on 29 May, 2014.—Reuters

Accused government whistleblower Edward Snowden is seen on a screen as he speaks via video conference with members of the Committee on legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during an hearing on “mass surveillance” at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on 8 April, 2014.—Reuters

NSA, Snowden clash over 2013 internal email release

WASHINGTON, 30 May — An email exchange released on Thursday shows Edward Snowden questioned the US National Security Agency’s legal training programmes, but provides no evidence the former contractor complained internally about vast NSA surveillance programmes that he later leaked to the media. Snowden responded in an email to the Washington Post that the release by US officials “is incomplete.”

The release of the April 2013 emails between Snowden and the NSA’s legal office is the latest round in a battle between Snowden, who casts himself as a crusading whistleblower, and US security officials, who say he failed to report his concerns to superiors before acting. In an interview with NBC News on Wednesday, Snowden said he had raised alarms at multiple levels about the NSA’s broad collection of phone, email and Internet connections.

“I have raised the complaints not just officially in writing through email to these offices and these individuals but to my superiors, to my colleagues, in more than one office,” Snowden told the network.

“Many, many of these individuals were shocked by the programmes,” Snowden said, adding that he was advised: “If you say something about this, they’re going to destroy you.”

The release of the emails comes after Snowden accused the NSA of using a powerful surveillance tool on ordinary Americans and the UK’s GCHQ of “spying almost everything.”

The emails show Snowden raised alarms internally about NSA surveillance programmes that he later leaked to the media, only to be told he had raised them internally. Snowden wrote to colleagues on April 30, 2013: “I’m not really surprised.”

The NSA said Snowden had broken the law by leaking classified material, but he has maintained that he did so to protect Americans’ civil liberties.

Legacy at risk, Obama struggles to redefine foreign policy

WASHINGTON, 30 May — President Barack Obama arrives for a commencement ceremony at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, on 28 May, 2014.—Reuters

US President Barack Obama arrives for a commencement ceremony at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, on 28 May, 2014.—Reuters

Accused government whistleblower Edward Snowden is seen on a screen as he speaks via video conference with members of the Committee on legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during an hearing on “mass surveillance” at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on 8 April, 2014.—Reuters

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A WARNING THAT SURPRISED ME

Maung Hlaing

Recently, I happened to read an article in a daily newspaper entitled “No Smoking Area, Penalties Apply”. We are used to seeing such warning labels as “Smoking kills” or “Tobacco smoke can harm your children!” and so on. Although the law against tobacco smoking was enacted in Myanmar in 2006, I saw the warning at offices after five years or so. Better late than never.

However, the warning reminds me of my younger days when I used to smoke on the sky. Because I was brought up in the rural areas, the smoking of old-fashioned folks was the envy of all boys. The smoking style of elderly folks was the envy of all boys brought up in the rural areas, and it reminds me of my younger than never.

The Masterful Management

Masterful Management

“Make the present business effective, find and realize the business potential; and focus on the future of the business.” – Peter F. Drucker

The Masterful Management

Management is not for amateurs. Professional Business. Masterful Management must be able to get meaningful results. The main aim and object of management is to GROW the business. A masterful management must see that the company gets the desired results, grows and finally becomes great.

The Broad Purpose of the Masterful Management

The Masterful Managers should have the Will, Determination and Capability to:
- Generate Short-term Wins,
- Grow the business to the highest Potential; and
- Put in place the Foundation and the Prerequisites for the Future of the business.

The Job of Management

The first and foremost job of management is to get Direct Results. It simply means a builder must build the marketable buildings and the builders must be able to make their sales. The second job of management is to lay down some vital core values for all the stakeholders of the company to understand, cherish and practice. A business exists to serve some good purpose. So, the business should go beyond making money only. It must also optimally serve the stakeholders such as Customers and Employees and the Community. It must also be committed to some vital Social Responsibility. As an example of core values, a modern, enlightened business

Tobacco smoking is believed by most researchers in this field to be an important factor in the development of cancer of the lungs and cancer of the throat. It is also believed to be related to cancer of the bladder and the oral cavity. All tobacco smoking—cigarette, cigar, pipe, cheroot, and hookah—affects life expectancy and health. Most of the people who think tobacco appears to have much a greater effect than cigar, pipe or cheroot have a much greater effect on lung function and respiratory system as cigarette smoking.

Today, another smoking style has become popular among the tobacco smokers. Those who smoke traditional cigarettes have come to use electronic cigarettes, known as e-cigarettes. Due to the globalization, some Myanmar adults have tried e-cigarettes, which may be illegally imported, I think. In the near future, the use of e-cigarette may be growing rapidly. Although e-cigarettes appear to have far fewer of the toxins found in smoke compared to traditional cigarettes, the impact of e-cigarettes on long-term health should be studied.

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The Responsibility of Management

The fundamental responsibility of management is to Make the Resources Most Productive. Management must masterfully organize, plan and deploy the following vital resources most efficiently:
- Human Resource
- Financial Resource
- Technological Resource
- Raw Materials Resource
- Information & Communication Resource

For this purpose, management should adopt the Corporate Strategy of: MEROR
- M (Mission) Maximizing Excellent
- E (Earnings) Resources
- R (Results) Opportunities
- O (Orders) Results
- E (Effort) Resources

If management has the WILL, DETERMINATION and CAPABILITY to Maximize the Excellent Resources, Opportunities and Results, most of the Generals in competition will certainly be Out-generalled. The main thing is to get and maintain the Cutting Edge.

Leading Change

The other ability of a Masterful Management is leading transformation of the Hardware and the Software of the company.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital CO., LTD.
Union minister: Problems with China-backed mine projects in central Myanmar to be tackled

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May — Union Minister U Hla Tun said on Thursday that problems at Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project in central Myanmar will be addressed as some local former land owners refuse to accept compensation, causing “delays” in planned work at the mine.

During a coordination meeting, the union minister said that although Myanmar Wanbao Company, the Joint Management Committee and the regional government cooperate, several issues regarding the mine need to be resolved.

The Union minister said Moegyo Sulphuric factory also suggested publicizing future schemes by drawing a mine closure plan after 30 years in accordance with international norms.

He urged that the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme should be carried out, adding that CSR will also be implemented in the Sabeitaung and Kyasentaung projects in 2014 and 2015. Implementation works of Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project, located in Salingyi Township of Monywa district, began in 2010. The joint venture project between Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and Myanmar Wanbao Company of China has an investment of US$ 999 million.

Residents have been demonstrating over land losses and air and drinking water pollution due to the dust produced by mining and the metallurgical process. They said that locals suffer from breathing problems and other health damages caused by the Kyasentaung and Sabeitaung projects operated by Ivanhoe Co. Ltd of Canada.—MNA

2nd Mobile and Tablet Fair opens in Dagon Tsp, Yangon

YANGON, 30 May—The 2nd Mobile and Tablet Fair kicked off on Friday at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township in Yangon, aimed at providing one-stop service to customers during the fair.

The fair organized by Outlabbiz Group will be open for three days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., officials said.

Various brands of mobile handsets and tablets including popular products of Sony, Samsung, LG, Hisway, Nokia, Huawei and HTC are available at the fair.

37 companies are participating in the fair, with more than 100 booths.

Mobile banking service of CB Bank is available at the fair, making it the first time for the bank to join, according the bank staff. Several visitors said they prefer to purchase electronic equipment at fairs as the prices are much lower, with a 35-year old customer saying he bought an English-Myanmar Electronic Dictionary to donate to a monk who is learning advanced Buddha’s teachings.—Khaing Thanda Lwin

Safety measures need tightening at jetties

YANGON, 30 May—Commuters are taking big risks by crossing the Yangon River on motorboats from Pansodan Jetty to Dala Jetty and vice versa, without putting on lifejackets, witnesses said.

As well as being wide, the river becomes rough with rogue waves, especially in the rainy season.

As the majority of commuters are workers and students, responsible bodies should make sure that motorboat operators and passengers use life jackets before starting the trip.—Mya Than (Oxygen)

Pyu-era gold artifact found by U Tin Tun in Minbu Township

According to officials, the golden object portrays a griffin and weighs around 226 grams.

The golden object was presented to the Ministry of Culture by villagers in Minbu Township after they found it while working on their rice field. They found it in Minbu Township, Monwin District in Magway Region. The artifact is thought to belong to the Pyu Period and was donated to Archaeology Department to be preserved, officials added.

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May — An ancient gold armlet thought to belong to the Pyu Period was donated to the Archaeology and National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) last November, media reported on Thursday.

Villager U Tin Tun, who found the ancient armlet, was honoured with a ceremony at the Ministry of Culture on 29 May. He found it while tilling his rice fields near a rice mill in Minbu Township, Minbu Township, Nyaungshwe District in Magway Region.

U Tin Tun was awarded a certificate of honour with over K 20 million in cash.—MNA
Obama: when it comes to head injuries in sports, don’t just suck it up’

WASHINGTON, 30 May — President Barack Obama said on Thursday more effort is needed to prevent concussions in young athletes, including greater awareness of the severity of head injuries, which are too often dismissed as headaches instead of serious brain trauma. Obama, speaking at a White House conference highlighting the risks of concussions to young athletes, called for more research, improved safety equipment and better protocols.

“We’ve got to have every parent and coach and teacher recognize the signs of concussions, and we need more athletes to understand how important it is to do what we can to prevent injuries — and to admit them when they do have them,” he said.

“We have to change that culture that says, ‘You suck it up’ and play through the pain,” Obama said. Brain injuries, long a concern for the military, are increasingly receiving attention in sports leagues, not only among professional athletes but also youth players. Concerns have spread beyond violent contact sports such as football and hockey to soccer and even cheerleading.

“As many as 250,000 youths each year are treated in hospitals for sports-related concussions and other injuries, according to the latest figures from US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has launched its own campaign on the issue.

The event at the White House, peppered with former athletes, representatives of major US sports leagues and health experts, aimed to use Obama’s office to draw attention to avoiding and treating sports-related head injuries.

Japan consumer spending, factory output skid after sales tax hike

A man walks past a display window of a luxury brand at Tokyo’s Ginza shopping district on 29 May, 2014.

TOKYO, 30 May — Japan’s household spending in April fell at the fastest rate in three years in a sign that consumption is slow to recover from an increase in the nationwide sales tax, raising questions over the pace of economic recovery.

Industrial production fell more than expected in April as companies cut output to avoid a pile up in inventories in the lull after the sales tax hike took effect.

BOJ officials have repeatedly said they are confident spending will quickly recover as the labor market remains tight, but the bigger-than-expected spending drop in April and a slowdown in factory activity could raise the stakes for monetary policy.

“Spending will recover from May, but sales of durable goods look weak and this could be a drag on overall spending,” said Hidenobu Tokuda, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute.

“The government can afford to let the spending in its stimulus package run its course. The BOJ doesn’t need to move now, but it needs to keep an eye on the situation.”

Japanese household spending fell 4.6 percent in April from a year ago, more than the median market forecast for a 3.2 percent annual decline.

That marked the fastest annual decline since March 2011, when an exceptiona-”

ly powerful earthquake triggered a nuclear disaster.

Compared to the previous month, spending tumbled by a record 13.3 percent in April, more than the 10.7 percent expected by economists.

Major study shows obesity rates climbing worldwide

LONDON, 30 May — No country has witnessed a significant decline in obesity prevalence over the past three decades, with the number of overweight and obese people topping 2.1 billion in 2013, according to latest figures published in British medical journal The Lancet.

A team of international researchers performed a comprehensive search of the available data from surveys and reports to track overweight people (body mass index of 23kg/m2 or higher) and obesity (BMI of 30kg/m2 or higher) in 188 countries from 1980 to 2013. Worldwide, there has been a startling increase in rates of obesity and the overweightness in both adults (28 percent increase) and children (up by 47 percent) in the past 33 years. The number of overweight and obese people rose from 857 million in 1980 to 2.1 billion in 2013.

However, the rates vary widely throughout the world, with more than half of the world’s 671 million obese individuals living in just ten countries — United States (more than 13 percent), China and India (15 percent combined), Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Egypt, Germany, Pakistan and Indonesia. Currently, 62 percent of the world’s obese people live in developing countries.

Tyson offers $6.3 billion for Hillshire, eclipsing Pilgrim’s bid

PACKAGES OF Tyson food beef meat loaf are reflected in a mirror as they sit on a refrigerator for sale at a grocery store in Encinatas, California on 29 May, 2014.

NEW YORK, 30 May — Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N) has offered to buy Hillshire Brands Co (HSH.N) for $6.3 billion, upstaging Pilgrim’s Pride Corp (PPC.O)’s offer for the sausage company earlier in the week, in a deal that would broaden Tyson’s supermarket food offerings.

Investors lauded on Thursday’s news, sending shares of Hillshire, known for its Jimmy Dean and Hillshire sausages, nearly 18 percent higher to $52.69, above Tyson’s $50 per share offer, suggesting that some investors expect a bidding war.

The overture from Ty-son, the biggest US meat processor, trumped Pilgrim’s $45 per share bid earlier this week.

Both all-cash bids include the assumption of Hillshire’s debt.

Tyson put the total value of its bid at $6.8 billion, based on 125 million outstanding Hillshire shares and debt of roughly $500 million. About two weeks ago, Hillshire said it planned to buy Bimbo Foods Inc (PF.N), known for its Birds Eye frozen vegetables, at a deal valued at $4.3 billion excluding debt. That pact, considered less appealing by some investors and analysts, could be in peril as the Tyson and Pilgrim’s bids require Hillshire to terminate the Bimbo deal. Hillshire said in a statement that it would thoroughly review Tyson’s proposal.

Mr Wheaton continued: “If e-cigarettes are classified as tobacco products, then the associated regulatory hurdles will make it much harder to access less risky alternatives — this can only be a bad thing for public health. “We hope the arguments being made by the scientific community, the industry and public health campaigners will demonstrate the need for policy makers to carefully consider the benefits of tobacco harm reduction and give it their full support.”

British American Tobacco invests approximately £170million per year in research and development which is enabling it to develop an expanding range of alternative tobacco and nicotine products including the launch of its first e-cigarette, Vype. Mr Wheaton concluded: “We believe we can and should be a part of this debate and possible solutions, given our knowledge of consumers and our global reach. “Tobacco harm reduction provides a progressive approach to public health policy. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on making this policy a global reality.”
Microsoft to put Salesforce apps into Windows-run devices

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 May — Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) said on Thursday it would integrate rival Salesforce.com Inc (CRM.N) apps into its Windows and online Office platforms, furthering Chief Executive Satya Nadella’s drive to make the company more cloud-computing friendly.

The main thrust of the tie-up means Salesforce’s popular customer-management apps will be available on Windows desktop PCs, tablets and mobile devices, while Salesforce users will be able to access Microsoft Office content such as Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations.

The two companies will also allow for fuller data integration features. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The collaboration is the latest sign that Nadella, who became CEO almost four months ago, is intent on forcing Microsoft to work with companies that have a better hold on mobile customers. The new approach, which Nadella calls “mobile first, cloud first,” started with the move in March to make Office available on Apple Inc’s (AAPL.O) iPad.

While Salesforce has been a pioneer in cloud software, Microsoft has long been criticized by industry analysts as moving too slowly to the cloud-based, subscription software model favored by smaller and nimble enterprises that prefer to pay as they go.

“Nadella recognized the need to partner as the company cannot do this alone,” said Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets. “Salesforce remains the pioneer of cloud computing and this significantly expands Microsoft’s cloud opportunity.”

Thursday’s announcement is also a sharp turn for Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff, an outspoken former Apple programmer, who has often railed publicly against Microsoft’s reliance on installed software. Microsoft itself is a direct competitor of Salesforce.com with its Microsoft Dynamics suite of business tools.

Ancient extinct fossil returns to life in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 30 May — A tiny marine animal thought to have died out 4 million years ago has turned up alive in waters off the top of New Zealand’s South Island, scientists said on Thursday. Called Protuloptilophila, the “living fossil” formed a network of tiny holes in the chalky tubes of marine worms called serpulids, according to the New Zealand government’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

Earlier this year a group of scientists from New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Norway discovered fossil examples less than a million years old, alerting them to the possibility that the animal, previously unknown outside of Europe and the Middle East, might still be alive in New Zealand. It had been thought to have been extinct for 4 million years following a long geological history extending back 170 million years into the Middle Jurassic period in Europe.

“Finding living Protuloptilophila is a rare example of how knowledge of fossils has led to the discovery of living biodiversity,” NIWA marine biologist Dr Dennis Gordon said in a statement.

Security enthusiasts may revive encryption tool after mystery shutdown

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 May — A team of security experts may seek to restore and improve a popular computer encryption system after its developers mysteriously shut it down, claiming “unfixed security issues,” a leader of the effort told Reuters on Thursday.

TrueCrypt, one of a number of programmes that encrypt all of a user’s hard drive, had gained popularity after fugitive former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden praised it and law enforcement officials complained of their inability to crack it.

A lock icon, signifying an encrypted Internet connection, is seen on an Internet Explorer browser in a photo illustration in Paris on 15 April, 2014.—Reuters

The software’s code has been publicly available for years, but its developers have not spoken publicly and their true identities are unclear. After Snowden’s revelations, supporters contributed some $70,000 to an effort to verify the security of the code.

TrueCrypt had passed the earliest testing, so it shocked many technologists on Wednesday when the TrueCrypt website announced it would discontinue encryption support and urged users to move to rival software.

“WARNING: Using TrueCrypt is not secure as it may contain unfixed security issues,” the notice said. “You should migrate any data encrypted by TrueCrypt to encrypted disks or virtual disk images.”

Speculation has mounted over the cause of the reversals, with some suggesting that the developers had tired of the decade-long project and others guessing that US authorities had demanded a back-door key from the programmers, as happened with anonymous email provider Lavabit. As that debate raged on Thursday, an audit team funded by the $70,000 was preparing to announce that it would continue its quest to determine the security of TrueCrypt and would seek to fix legal issues with the license to the code, said Matthew Green, a Johns Hopkins University cryptography professor helping lead the effort.—Reuters

Intel: new tablets a big step toward reaching aggressive target

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 May — New Intel-based tablets from major brands will start hitting store shelves in June, and senior executives at the chipmaker hope the offerings will move it closer to an aggressive sales goal.

Far behind rival Qualcomm (QCOM.O) in mobile devices, the upcoming tablets are the result of Intel Corp’s (INTC.O) strategy to sell chips this year at a loss in a bid to stoke out badly needed market share. Intel is bettin that in the future, its customers will keep using Intel chips without the discounts. Toshiba (6502.T) this week announced six tablets and PCs with detachable screens made with Intel chips, one of which runs the Android operating system and the rest Windows. More Intel-based tablets will start hitting US store shelves in June and July for back-to-school shoppers, Erik Reid, general manager of Intel’s Mobile Client Platforms unit, told Reuters in a recent interview.

“It will be a new high-water mark, to be eclipsed by another high-water mark at the holidays,” said Reid, who is managing Intel’s tablet push.

With the PC industry shrinking, mobile devices and other new markets have become a top priority for Intel. Most tablets are made with chips from Samsung (005930.KS), Qualcomm and other companies that use low-power technology from ARM Holdings (ARM.L). Earlier in May, CEO Brian Krzanich told Reuters that Intel was well on its way to reaching his goal for the company to increase its sales of tablet/chips this year by 40 million units.

After shipping 5 million tablet chips in the first quarter, Intel is on track to meet a target of 7.5 million such chips for the June quarter, Krzanich said.

“We’re on schedule to hit that number and we’ll see if we can do better than that,” he said.

Global tablet shipments from all manufacturers in 2014 will grow 12 percent to 245 million, less than a previous forecast of 261 million devices, because people are keeping their devices longer, market research firm IDC said on Thursday. Intel sold around 10 million tablet chips last year. Manufacturers have launched a handful of Windows tablets running on Intel’s new Windows Tablet chips, but those chips have been slow to appear in devices running the popular Android platform. On Thursday, Intel announced a deal with Chinese chipmaker Rockchip to make components for entry-level Android devices aimed at local consumers in China.—Reuters
Japan, US resume talks on beef, pork in Pacific free-trade pact

WASHINGTON, 30 May — Japan and the United States resumed talks on Thursday aimed at narrowing differences over Japan’s tariffs on beef, pork and other farm produce in a US-led Pacific free trade initiative.

Hiroshi Oe, deputy chief Japanese negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and Wendy Cutler, acting deputy US trade representative, met in Washington for the first follow-up session after last week’s ministerial meeting in Singapore of the 12 countries negotiating the pact.

Japan has proposed lowering tariffs on pork and beef while asking the United States to allow Japan to introduce safeguard measures if imports from the United States of the products drastically increase, people familiar with the negotiations said earlier.

Oe arrived in the US capital a day after US agricultural groups such as the National Pork Producers Council stepped up criticism of Japan and urged the US government to seek to oust Japan from the TPP negotiations unless it reviews the exceptional tariffs.

“We’ll take up not only the safeguard issue but all other remaining issues. We’ll try to thrust out many of the remaining details,” Oe told reporters upon arrival at an airport in a Washington suburb on Thursday.

The Office of US Trade Representative said the latest round of bilateral talks is for discussions about “market access issues focusing on agriculture.”

Along with beef and pork, Japan has said it will keep tariffs on four other sensitive agricultural product categories — rice, wheat, dairy products and sugar.

Japan and the United States also have differences over a US call for Tokyo to open its automotive market wider by lifting nontariff barriers such as safety regulations.

The US 10-country TPP pact also seeks to set up a rules-based commitment to combat tax evasion and tax havens.

The US team also has insisted that Japan continue to provide assistance, in particular in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab, said the resolution.

The Council also condemned “in the strongest terms” recent terrorist attacks perpetrated by Al-Shabaab in Somalia and the region, and underlined the importance of holding perpetrators to account and reiterated that terrorist attacks will not lessen its resolve to support the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia.

Expressing “deep concern” about the humanitarian situation in the country, the Council members also urged the Somali government to ensure that all perpetrators of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws are held accountable.

Nearly 85,000 South Sudanesepeople flee to Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 30 May — The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that aid groups have reported that nearly 85,000 people have fled the violence in South Sudan to Sudan since mid-December 2013.

Under last year’s interim accord with major powers, the UN mission in the country as well as the regional body, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, said the UN will fund $40 million to help refugees.

Bomb scare prompts evacuation in Houston elementary school

HOUSTON, 30 May — A suspicious backpack prompted evacuation and drew a bomb squad to an elementary school on Thursday morning in the US city of Houston, local media reported.

The Barbara Bush Elementary School, one of the best public schools in Houston, was evacuated on Thursday morning after a suspicious red backpack was found on a campus, local TV ABC13 reported.

A bomb squad from Houston police was dispatched to the school. After about an hour, they determined the backpack was harmless and the lockdown was lifted. Students returned to classes while parents were notified of the incident.

The school was opened in 1992 and named after Barbara Bush, the wife of the 41st President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, and the mother of the 43rd President, George W Bush. The senior Bush couple now live in Houston.
Chinese overseas milk powder purchases caused by price gap

BEIJING, 30 May — A Chinese official blamed overcharging by foreign producers on infant formula in China as a leading cause for Chinese people’s binge-buying of milk powder overseas.

Chinese buyers’ distrust of domestic brand quality is also to blame for the buying spree outside the country, said Jiang Yujun, deputy director of a dairy industry technology research center, at a Press conference on Friday. Some foreign brands that sell for some 130 yuan in Europe may cost up to 470 yuan in China, according to Jiang. At the Press conference, Jiang also defended Chinese producers’ quality, saying it is safe to consume domestic brands.

Ma Chuntiang, an official with the China Food and Drug Administration attending the Press conference, said that China is mulling measures to ensure that what people buy through the Internet is also safe.

Some 820,000 tons of infant formula milk powder were sold in 2013, of which 120,000 tons were imported, Ma said, adding that the exact amount of buying through the Internet is hard to know.

Ma said the need for milk powder will increase because of a baby boom as a result of China’s loosened family planning policy to allow couples to have two children if one of them is an only child. —Xinhua

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV ARISTEA M VOY NO (056)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARISTEA M VOY NO (056) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS CHUN AN CHARtering CO LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS G. LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

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**Ministry of Energy**

Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise

Invitation for Opened Tender (2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars (US $) for (2014-2015)

2. Tender No Description Qty Remark

(1) MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T1 Toyota Towing Tractor (Brand- New) for Aviation Dispenser (2014-2015) 11 Items Kyats

(2) MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T2 Server, and Accessories (2014-2015) 5 Items Kyats

(3) MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T3 Projector, Copier, Printer, Fax and Scanner (2014-2015) 5 Sets Kyats

(4) MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T4 Air Conditioner (2014-2015) 2 Items Kyats

(5) MPPE/LP/MCY/T1 Battery (2014-2015) 2 Items Kyats

(6) MPPE/LP/TTS/T1 Tyre with Tube and Flap (2014-2015) 2 Items Kyats

(7) MPPE/LP/CHM/T1 Shell Water Detector Capsules (2014-2015) 890 Boxes Kyats

(8) MPPE/MCY/CAP/T1 400 I GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) (2014-2015) 2 Items USD (each 2 nos)


(10) MPPE/MCY/T1 Butterfly Valves, Swing Joints, Dam and the Expansion Joints and Flexible Connectors (2014-2015) 8 Items USD

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-6-2014, 12.00 Hrs.
3. Tender document are available at our office starting from 27-5-2014 at during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone No 067-411487.

Planning Department

Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise

Ministry of Energy, No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

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**Philippine govt’ okays 9 projects worth 1.41 bln USD**

MANILA, 30 May — The Philippine government has approved nine major projects worth 62.3 billion pesos (1.41 billion US dollars), a senior government official said on Friday.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma, Jr said in a news briefing that the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board gave its go signal to the projects during a marathon meeting on Thursday.

Two projects—the construction of the Kaliwa Dam and the Angat Dam water transmission project—are aimed at ensuring the water supply requirements of Metro Manila and adjacent provinces.

The development of local water districts, National Irrigation Administration’s Malinao Dam Improvement Project, the Cebu bus rapid transit project and the upgrade of Busuanga airport in the western Philippine province of Palawan were also approved. Other projects okayed by the NEDA Board chaired by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III are the Light Rail Transit Line 2 operations maintenance project, Laoag airport road link project in northern Philippines, and the expansion of the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital.

Coloma said the master plan for the development of the Clark Green City in the northern Philippine province of Pampanga was also given the green light. —Xinhua
**Angelina Jolie still friends with ex-husband Jonny Lee Miller**

**Los Angeles, 30 May** — Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has revealed that she looks back fondly on her time with ex-husband Jonny Lee Miller.

The 38-year-old actress married Miller in 1996, after meeting him on the set of their movie Hackers, reported Digital Spy.

When asked in an interview what feeling the tech-no-thriller gives her on reflection, she said, “Well, oddly, love. That’s where I met Jonny, who is still a great friend. So I think of him when I think of that. Although, I’m sure the movie looks so ancient now, but we had a lot of fun making that.”

Although Angelina Jolie and Jonny Lee Miller divorced in 1999, they have remained close, collaborating on several global charities together.

Angelina also said that she did not intend to play a crazy character in her Oscar-winning Girl, Interrupted role. “I really, genuinely thought I was the only character who was sane in the entire film. And if you watch it closely, that’s exactly how I was playing it: I am just the only sane person here.”

“I was actually almost upset when people said I was so good at playing insane because I never thought she was insane. She was just incredibly honest, which, I guess, made her seem crazy,” Angelina said.

Angelina currently stars in the Disney movie Maleficent, opposite Elle Fanning.— *PTI*

**Fox TV network chief to depart after ratings slump**

**Los Angeles, 30 May** — Kevin Reilly, the top executive at Fox broadcast television, is leaving the network next month, the company said on Thursday, after Fox slumped to last place in ratings among the big US broadcasters.

Reilly’s seven years as chairman of entertainment at Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.’s broadcast division ended with marquee programs like “American Idol” and “Glee” suffering sharp ratings drops.

Fox has also lost its top ranking among viewers in the 18-group that advertisers value most.

“Fox has also lost its top ranking among viewers in the 18-group that advertisers value most,” Reilly said in a statement that he and Fox Networks Group chairman and chief executive officer, Peter Rice, had been discussing his departure for a while.

“It felt like the timing was as right as it could be,” Reilly, who joined Fox in 2007 and was named chairman of entertainment in 2012, said in the statement.

The move comes after the network presented its fall stable of programming to advertisers earlier this month.

Fox said that Reilly’s senior executives will report to Rice before the company names a replacement.

The network averaged 7.3 million in daily primetime viewers this past season, according to Nielsen data. That was up from 7 million last year, but Fox fell one place to fourth behind, CBS, NBC and ABC, respectively.

Its record haul of 111.5 million viewers in February for football’s Super Bowl did not deliver a significant improvement over the network’s 108.4 million viewers last year.

Fox’s current entertainment slate consists of critically acclaimed shows such as “The Mindy Project,” “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” and “New Girl,” but the shows have so far been unable to become ratings powerhouses for the network.— *Reuters*

**Lara Dutta: I am focusing on doing films now**

**Mumbai, 30 May** — Actress Lara Dutta, who had taken a sabbatical post the birth of her baby, says she is focusing on movies now and will be shooting for a film this year.

Lara married Indian tennis player Mahesh Bhupathi in 2010 and in January 2012, she delivered a baby girl. Now, the actress-cum-producer is gearing up for a comeback in films.

“Right now I am focusing only on doing films. I am definitely going to be back in films, you will see me soon. I am shooting this year, the release is not in my hands. I can’t talk about which films I am doing.” Lara said in a media interaction here.

“Everyone knows that we are doing a sequel to Chalo Dilli, that is in pre-production stage. I am quite excited about it. Besides this, there are films that I am doing outside my production house,” she said.

Chalo Dilli (2011), directed by Shashant Shah, had Lara and Vinay Pathak in the lead and Akshay Kumar in a guest appearance. Now, Lara is getting ready to roll a sequel, reportedly titled Chalo China.

“There is a lot happening this year with my production house Bheegi Basanti Entertainment. We are producing films and TV shows,” she said.

Though Bollywood actors are seen on the small screen, Lara is clear she won’t be a part of the television industry.— *PTI*
Colombia presidential candidate drops threat to end FARC talks

BOGOTA, 30 May — Colombian presidential candidate Oscar Ivan Zuluaga told Caracol radio that if elected, he would not demand that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, cease combat and criminal activity to continue the talks Santos initiated in late 2012, but would no longer immediately suspend talks as he promised previously.

Zuluaga did not say how long he would give Santos to declare a ceasefire, a condition it has rejected until now, but said he softened his stance at the request of Conservative Party leader Marta Lucia Ramirez in exchange for her support in the run-off vote campaign.

“We maintain our same conditions to advance the search for a negotiated peace,” Zuluaga told local radio. “We’ll allow the talks to continue. He added he would review what had been agreed upon so far during the closed-door discussions.

“The question of how to end the country’s 50-year conflict, during which 220,000 people have been killed, has been the campaign’s most prominent issue, with negotiations appearing to put peace within closer reach than ever before.

Negotiators at the talks, which are being held in Cuba, have reached partial accords on three of five topics under discussion.

Santos says this election is a choice between fulfilling,” Santos said.

“We maintain our same conditions to advance the search for a negotiated peace,” Zuluaga told Caracol radio.

2,000 firefighters battle east China forest fire

JINAN, 30 May — More than 2,000 firefighters are struggling to contain a forest fire in east China’s Shandong Province.

The fire broke out at about 3 pm on Thursday in a forest in the coastal city of Weihai and quickly spread with the help of a strong wind, the city government said in a statement. It is raging on several fronts totalling 7 km in length.

The firefighting efforts, which also involve helicopters, have been complicated by the heavy wind packing a speed of up to 61 km per hour, it said.

Roads near the fire have been closed and some water and electricity supplies have been disrupted.

Nadal masters young apprentice, Murray hits form

PARIS, 30 May — Rafael Nadal provided a clay-court lesson for one of the game’s young apprentices at the French Open when he crushed rising Austrian Dominic Thiem with a masterly display to reach the third round on Thursday.

The eighth-time champion showed flashes of his intimidating best in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 win that was tougher than the scoreline suggested but was never seriously in doubt against a player of whom grand things are expected.

While world No.1 Nadal improved his Roland Garros record to 61-1 in effortless fashion, prospective semi-final opponent Andy Murray cruised into the third round by outclassing Australia’s Marinko Matosevic.

The smoke has reduced visibility in neighbouring urban areas. For those who could be affected, the government said it has designated several schools and exhibition centers as emergency shelters.

“The question of how to end the country’s 50-year conflict, during which 220,000 people have been killed, has been the campaign’s most prominent issue, with negotiations appearing to put peace within closer reach than ever before.”

Negotiators at the talks, which are being held in Cuba, have reached partial accords on three of five topics under discussion.

Santos says this election is a choice between grasping a historic chance to end the decades-old conflict by voting for him, or continuing “an endless war” by choosing his rival.

Zuluaga, backed by popular ex-President Alvaro Uribe, who decimated rebel ranks with a relentless US-backed military onslaught, has been critical of the talks with “terrorists” and drug traffickers. Santos told Caracol radio that Zuluaga’s warming to the idea of talks was hypocritical, branding it “politicising.”

“Now it turns out they are friends of peace and for continued negotiations, even though they impose conditions impossible to fulfill,” Santos said.

Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after winning his men’s singles match against Dominic Thiem of Austria on 29 May, 2014. — Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after winning his men’s singles match against Dominic Thiem of Austria at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 29 May, 2014. — Reuters

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Levante appoint Mendilibar as coach after Caparros joins Granada

MADRID, 30 May — The roundabout of managerial appointments in Spain’s BBVA Primera Liga continued on Thursday when Valencia based side, Levante confirmed Jose Luis Mendilibar as their new coach.

The club posted the news on its official website stating that Mendilibar had “reached the basis of an agreement to coach the club for the coming season. The agreement is for the 2014-2015 season with the option to extend the contract for a further year.”

Mendilibar was sacked from Osasuna after just three games of last season, which saw the Pamplona based club relegated on the last day of the season. However, he is respected for his work at the club in the previous two and a half years and in a four-year term with Valladolid.

He replaces Joaquin Caparros, who decided not to renew his contract with Levante, opting instead to join Granada on a two-year contract on Wednesday.

Meanwhile after officially confirming that Bernd Schuster will not continue at the club next season, Malaga are expected to name Javi Gracia, who replaced Mendilibar at Osasuna, as their next coach.

Federer cherishes perfect point in 2008 Wimbledon final

PARIS, 30 May — Of all the perfect points Roger Federer has played in his stellar career, the 17-times grand slam champion singled out one from possibly one of his harshest defeats — the 2008 Wimbledon final.

Asked by French sports daily L’Equipe on Friday to pick the landmark moments in his career, the Swiss chose two memorable points, mentioned the day he cried after a defeat, revealed the day he had most doubts and the time he would like to relive. “I have two (perfect points). The match point I saved in 2008 against Rafa (Nadal) at Wimbledon (in the final). It wasn’t the shot itself but the quadrennial event. And he joked that FIFA might not want to stage the World Cup in Brazil again after preparations for this year’s tournament were plagued by worker deaths, planning delays and cost overruns.

“I think that non-violent protesters will watch the World Cup,” the 37-year-old said. “Who here wants to miss that chance? Nobody is going to be alive when the World Cup comes back to Brazil. I think there probably won’t be another World Cup here. FIFA has been traumatized.” — Xinhua

Ronaldo defends police force against World Cup protesters

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 May — Brazil legend Ronaldo has defended the use of police force to quell violent protesters during the World Cup.

Brazilian police were widely criticized for firing tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse anti-government protesters during last year’s Confederations Cup.

“As far as the vandals go, I think that we have to hit them and get them off the streets,” Ronaldo told Brazilian newspaper Folha de S Paulo. Protesters have vowed to return to the streets when football’s showpiece tournament begins on 12 June. Many have expressed anger at the rising cost of staging the event while essential services like health and education continue to suffer from underinvestment.

Ronaldo, a member of the World Cup local organizing committee, rejected claims that demonstrators were against Brazil staging the tournament for the first time. “I was really inconsolable,” Ronaldo said. “It was this point, this moment. It was this chance? Nobody is going to miss that chance? Nobody is going to be alive when the World Cup comes back to Brazil. I think there probably won’t be another World Cup here. FIFA has been traumatized.” — Xinhua

Levante appoint Mendilibar as coach after Caparros joins Granada

The Japanese men’s national soccer team coach Alberto Zaccheronieto (2nd from L) and some of its members Eiji Kawashima (far L), Masato Morishige (2nd from R) and Yoshito Okubo (far R) — are pictured as the team arrives at Tampa international airport in Florida on 29 May, 2014, for a training camp ahead of the World Cup finals in Brazil — Kyodo News

Tampa, Florida, 30 May — Japan arrived in Florida on Thursday for a training camp ahead of the upcoming World Cup finals in Brazil. The team touched down at Tampa International Airport after a 13-hour journey on a charter flight from Tokyo, two days after a 1-0 World Cup warm-up win over Cyprus in Saitama.

The Asian champions have friendly matches scheduled here against Costa Rica on 2 June and Zambia on 6 June before leaving for Brazil on 7 June.

Japan, making their fifth consecutive appearance at the World Cup finals, open their campaign against Ivory Coast on 14 June before taking on Greece and Colombia in their other Group C games.

Kyodo News

Blue Samurai touch down in Tampa for World Cup camp

Myanmar Football Academy team (Mandalay) to meet Chonburi Youth FC

The New Light of Myanmar

Saturday, 31 May, 2014

As the third group match of the Asian Champions Trophy U-16 2014, jointly organized by Malaysian Football Association and Frenz United football academy, the Myanmar Football Academy team (Mandalay) will play against Chonburi Youth FC of Thailand at Aung San Stadium on 31 May.

In its debut, the football team of Myanmar Football Academy shared one point each in a 1-1 draw with Laos Toyota FC. As the match on 24 May between the Myanmar youth and Guangzhou Youth FC was adjourned, Myanmar youth won one point till on 30 May.

Chonburi FC showed off its excellent skills in the group matches. It secures six points in two wins.

Myanmar took part in the tournament for the second time. The team began their group stage play to sail into the quarterfinal this year. Nyi Myat Thuawda; Photo: Soe Nyunt

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