EU project aims to develop Myanmar aquaculture sector, increase exports to Europe

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 8 May — The European Union is set to launch a new aquaculture development project in Myanmar, the EU ambassador to the country said Thursday.

“We are working to develop the new project worth 20 million euros (US $22.4 million) because we believe that aquaculture is very important for Myanmar,” EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

In 2013, the EU sent its first ambassador to Myanmar, while also granting it access to the EU’s generalized system of preferences, allowing the country to send unlimited exports, including fishery products, to the EU.

Since then, the EU has become an important destination for Myanmar’s marine products. The ambassador said the EU wished to help Myanmar develop its aquaculture sector and enhance its ability to provide exports to Europe.

U Win Kyaing, general secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation, said an EU expert is currently in Myanmar conducting a study on the country’s shrimp and fish farming operations.

The aquaculture project, funded as part of a 1 billion euro (See page 9) Voluntary Partnership Agreement, aims to help Myanmar develop and increase its exports to Europe.

MPT offers 30 percent bonus to users

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May — In honour of Mother’s Day, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications is offering a special promotion to encourage its users to call their loved ones through a 30 percent top-up bonus. To enjoy this offer, please top up anytime from 10 to 16 May to receive an additional 30 percent bonus, which can be used to call any MPT mobile number from 10 to 31 May. This promotion is valid for GSM, WCDMA and CDMA customers. Upon top-up, users will receive the bonus automatically into their account.

Top-up bonus can be used for voice calls to MPT mobile numbers only. All top-up methods are eligible for this bonus (physical top-up, e-top-up and bank top-up). For further information, visit www.mpt.com.mm or www.facebook.com/mptofficialpage, or call 106 (free hotline 24/7).—GNLM
New asphalt road connects villages in Myeik Tsp

Construction of the Shan-taung-Minthan asphalt road in Myeik Township has finished.

The 2-mile road was built by Yoe Marn Ah Company with K191.73 million from the Township Department of Rural Development. The department also allotted K33.22 million for construction of a 180-foot-long and 12-foot-wide reinforced concrete bridge on the asphalt road.

Thanks to the road and bridge, local people from Minthan Village in Myeik Township have easy access to 20 villages in Kyunsu Township, here.

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Myint Oo (Myeik)

Immigration personnel deliver citizenship cards to senior citizens at homes

Mandalay, 8 May — The Chanayethazan Township Immigration and National Registration Department has been delivering citizenship scrutiny cards to the homes of elderly or immobile residents.

Head of the department U Win Myint and staff delivered a card to Daw Win Win Htay, who suffered a stroke seven years ago, in West Aung-an Yeiktha Ward.

On 7 May morning, the staff of the department issued citizenship scrutiny cards and household registrations to victims of a fire that destroyed 23 homes in Pyigyi Pyawbwe Ward on 20 April.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Paddy thriving in rural area of Ingapu Tsp

Under the management of Ayeyawady Region government, Gyeiktaw, Alesu and Ashaysu villages have been included in the implementation of the Emerald Green Project for development of rural areas.

Deputy Head of Ingapu Township Department of Rural Development U Myo Min Thu and staff made a field trip to the rural area to inspect the thriving summer paddy.

Thanks to the project, local farmers in three villages received loans from the authorities for cultivation of summer paddy.

Ingapu Township RDD

Households to receive tree saplings for planting in Mawgyun

Mawlamyinegyun, 8 April — The Forest Department of Mawlamyinegyun Township is nurturing more than 62,000 saplings of various species at its nursery to hold the monsoon sapling growing ceremony in fiscal 2015-16.

Under the supervision of the head of the Township Forest Department U Kyaw Nyunt, staff members have been nurturing the saplings daily.

The department plans to distribute 20 hardwood saplings and seven teak saplings to each household free of charge.

They will grow teak saplings along both sides of Mawlamyinegyun-Bogale road and Hlyawzon-Kyaikpi road in 2015-16 fiscal year.

Mawgyun Myint Aung

UMFCCI, Yunnan Province focus on border trade promotion

Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin and Dr U Yin Tun gave speeches before Deputy Commanding Officer of the Red Cross battalion Khin Maung Tun presented gifts to outstanding members.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Township Administrator U Shwe Aye, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Zaw Win and Health Department head Dr Daw Thin Thin Naing.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Dinner marks 79th World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

Yangon, 8 May — Current and former Red Cross members gathered on 6 May for a dinner to mark the 79th World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, which falls on 8 May 2015, at Aung Chan Tha Dhammayon in Ward 1, Kamayut Township, here.
President U Thein Sein meets ethnic leaders . . .

(from page 1)

After taking office, the government carried out political, administrative and private sector reforms, while involving citizens in the reform process, the president added. The government offered peace to armed ethnic groups within three months of taking office to fulfill the greatest wish of the people, he said, adding that although there are differences among national brethren, they all share a common love for the country.

The draft of the nationwide ceasefire agreement will be signed soon as a result of round table negotiations with national races, the president added, before saying that the ceasefire agreement will be followed by political dialogues.

In the area of economic reform, the government has taken measures to promote socioeconomic lives of rural people and to create job opportunities, according to the president.

Now almost everyone in Myanmar has a mobile phone and this contributes to development of education, health, economic and social sectors, the president explained.

Arrangements are under way to supply electricity to eastern Shan State and electricity will contribute to job opportunities as it will encourage industries, the president said.

Kengtung-Tachileik Road is in good condition and can be used in all seasons while three universities and a 200-bed hospital have been built in Kengtung, the president said.

In conclusion, the president urged local people to nurture the union spirit to end the 60 years of civil conflicts resulting from racism.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker delivers speech at World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day ceremony in Yamethin

NAV Pyi Taw, 8 May — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint attended the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day ceremony in Yamethin, Mandalay Region, on Friday and made a speech.

After taking salute from 460 members of Red Cross societies in Yamethin and Pyawbwe, the speaker said that Myanmar Red Cross Society was founded as an affiliation of India Red Cross Society in 1920 and it was recognized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1939. The speaker added that Myanmar Red Cross Society Act was enacted in 1959 and the society has been carrying out its activities widely since then, nurturing a number of outstanding members including Sai Aung Hlaing Myint, who won Henry Dunant Award in 1977 at the age of 21 and U Moe Kyaw Than and others who helped people in Laukkai in recently fighting.

In conclusion, the speaker urged the members of the Red Cross societies in the two townships to help all those who need it regardless of race, religion and social status at any time and any place.

Then, the speaker watch the skill demonstration of members of the societies and formally opened the building of Red Cross Supervisory Committee in Yamethin.

After viewing round the new building, the speaker urged members of Red Cross societies to extensively carry out their activities in the entire district. —MNA

The president and party later proceeded to Kengtung University of Computer Studies and Kengtung Technological University and greeted faculty members warmly.

At the meeting with faculty members, the president urged them to nurture outstanding students who are competent, ethical, disciplined and filled with the genuine union spirit.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to presidents of EU, EC

NAV Pyi Taw, 9 May — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council and His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Europe Day, which falls on 9 May 2015.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker invites US businessmen to invest in Myanmar

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann seen with officials of Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce (New York).—MNA

Yangon, 8 May — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party arrived at Yangon International Airport via Incheon International Airport of Republic of Korea in the Republic of Korea on Thursday evening.

On 6 May, the speaker and party were seen off by Myanmar Permanent Representative to the UN U Kyaw Tin and embassy staff at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

While in New York, the speaker held talks with Myanmar-US Chamber of Commerce (New York) at its office. The speaker said that Myanmar is practicing multi-party democracy and market economic system. He invited U.S. businessmen to invest in Myanmar for further strengthening friendly relations through economic cooperation between the two countries.—MNA
Judicial officers undertake training jointly run by USAID

Mandalay, 8 May—The Mandalay Region High Court and USAID are set to open a jointly run public information and community outreach workshop for the courts Friday in Chanayethazan Township.

Chief Justice U Soe Thein of the region high court spoke on the occasion while Deputy Chief of Party Mr Jason Schawrz of USAID extended greetings. A total of 141 participants—law officers, judges and additional judges at different levels—have attended the 7-9 May workshop. A plan is under way to hold one more workshop from 11-13 May.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Tube-well supplies potable water to local residents

Ingapu, 8 May—Junior Engineer-2 U Soe Htet Phyo and staff from Ingapu Township Department of Rural Development, Ayeyawady Region, inspected the sinking of a tube-well in Zaungtan Village in the last week of April.

The Township Department of Rural Development assigned duty to Khaing Thit Company with K7.6 million fund in 2014-16 fiscal year. Thanks to the tube-well, about 300 local residents from Zaungtan Village can receive sufficient supplies of potable water.

Ingapu Township RDD

Children, pregnant women receive vaccinations in Zabuthiri Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May—As part of a campaign to reduce the mortality rate and raise the health awareness of local residents, infants and pregnant women in villages of Zabuthiri Township received routine vaccinations on 5 May.

Midwife Daw San San Myint of Shadaw rural health centre administered vaccinations for diseases including measles, polio and tuberculosis to the children under one and a half and pregnant women.

Health workers provide health care services to children under five and medical checkups to pregnant women free of charge at Shadaw rural health centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Tin Maung

New bridge links Thabyaychaung and Shwemyo villages

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May—A ceremony to inaugurate the Sein and Shwe Bridge across Hsinthay Creek was held at the junction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and the road to Shwemyo village in Tatkon Township on the morning of 7 May.

After a speech by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe, Assistant Director U Aung Ko Khang of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee engineering department reported on construction of the bridge linking Thabyaychaung-Shwemyo villages.

After council member U Myint Shwe and departmental officials formally opened the 360-foot-long, 12-foot-wide bridge, ceremony attendees took the opportunity to stroll across it.

Shwe Ye Yint
China’s top political adviser urges Japan to admit wartime mistakes

BEIJING, 8 May — China’s fourth highest-ranking leader Yu Zhengsheng said on Friday that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe needs to more readily admit Tokyo’s wartime mistakes.

Yu made the request during a meeting in Beijing with a group of Japanese ruling party lawmakers, one of the attendees said.

Yu, chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, said he is “discontent” with Abe’s speeches delivered last month in Jakarta and the Great Hall of the People, which lasted about an hour, took place amid increasing high-level exchanges between Japan and China, although diplomatic disagreements over territory and wartime history remain unresolved.

Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks, the second in the last five months, two weeks ago on the sidelines of a regional conference in Jakarta.

At that time, Abe and Xi agreed to prevent the disagreements from impairing the overall relationship between the two countries and to encourage exchanges in various fields.

The atmosphere of Abe’s meeting with Xi, according to a Japanese official who was at the scene, was far friendlier than that of their first one in November.

Just two days before the intra-party group’s meeting with Yu, senior Japanese lawmakers from ruling opposition parties held talks with Zhang Dejiang, ranked third in the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, and shared the perception that bilateral ties are gradually improving.

The intra-party group has its roots in a LDP faction, led by former Finance Minister Fukushiro Nukaga, who led the group.

Yu, however, also said the two countries have been making progress on mending once-frosty relations in recent months and it is necessary for both sides to make further efforts, Nukaga said at a Press conference with more than a dozen lawmakers of the Liberal Democratic Party.

The meeting at the Great Hall of the People, which lasted about an hour, took place amid increasing high-level exchanges between Japan and China, although diplomatic disagreements over territory and wartime history remain unresolved.

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**Cameron returning to power, Labour routed in Scotland**

LONDON, 8 May — Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives are set to govern Britain for another five years after an unexpectedly strong showing, but may have to grapple with renewed calls for Scottish independence after nationalists surged. Ed Miliband, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, all but conceded defeat on Friday morning, saying he was “deeply sorry” for a “very disappointing and difficult night”.

Cameron said he hoped to form a government in the coming days after his party enjoyed what he described as a “very strong” night.

With nearly three-quarters of seats counted, the Conservatives had won 203 of 650 seats with an exit poll suggesting they were on track to win 316 seats in the lower house of parliament, just shy of a majority but with ample options to form a government.

Some pollsters said an overall Conservative majority could not be ruled out and the latest BBC projection suggested Cameron’s party could win as many as 325 seats.

In practice, controlling 323 seats in parliament is enough to command a majority as four lawmakers from Northern Ireland’s Sinn Fein refuse to take their places.

In Scotland, once a Labour stronghold, nationalists appeared to have won almost every seat, a result likely to stoke momentum for Scottish independence by underscoring the political clout that divides voters north of the border and the rest of the United Kingdom.

A Conservative victory is likely to face a historic in-out European Union referendum within two years, something Cameron has promised to deliver if re-elected.

Professor Vernon Bogdanor, a constitutional expert, said Cameron would need to “squeeze” to gain seats since Margaret Thatcher in 1983.

Sterling gained more than 2 cents against the dollar to rise above $1.55 for the first time since late February, and looked on track to enjoy its biggest one-day gain since the euro since January 2009.

For Labour, the election represents a crushing defeat.

The exit poll forecast it would get just 239 seats. If accurate, that would be the centre-left party’s worst result in almost three decades. The scale of its defeat in Scotland at the hands of the SNP is likely to raise serious questions about its future direction and policies.

Cameron falls just short of an outright majority and it looks like he will have multiple options to form a government anyway, perhaps with the support of the Liberal Democrats, his current coalition partners, or Northern Irish unionists of both. Cameron could also try and go it alone.

With almost all of Scotland’s 59 parliamentarians seats counted, the Scottish National Party (SNP) had won 55 of them, but obliterating Labour north of the border.

With a trail near the SNP is preparing to use an emphatic win to renew its push for an independence referendum even though it lost such a plebiscite only last year.

“We’re seeing an electoral tsunami on a gigantic scale,” said Alex Salmond, the SNP chief and foreign policy lawmaker. “The scale of its defeat would strip Cameron of any legitimacy in Scotland where his Conservative Party would have only one lawmaker.”

In a body blow to Labour, Douglas Alexander, the party’s campaign chief and foreign policy spokesman, lost his seat north of the border. He is a well-known Scottish nationalist student while Scottish Labour leader Jim Murphy was also topped.

The centrist Liberal Democrats, who have governed in coalition with the Conservatives for the past five years, suffered stinging losses with an exit poll predicting they would finish with just 10 seats across the UK.

That would be a disaster for leader and deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, who called it a “cruel and punishing” night.

**Hillary Clinton woos technorati, draws comparison to Eleanor Roosevelt**

San Francisco, 8 May — Hillary Clinton wants to be remembered as a leader and not a candidate. It’s a community of people focussed on the future,” said Dan Newman, a strategist at SCN Partners, a campaign consultancy. “And of course, to paraphrase (bank robber) Willie Sutton, it’s where the donors live.”

The event on Friday follows San Francisco fundraisers hosted by hedge fund manager and environmentalist Tom Steyer and entrepreneur Susie Buehl.

At Steyer’s Wednesday gathering at his home, Clinton was asked by a guest whether she was the Eleanor Roosevelt of her day or if Roosevelt was the Clinton of her day, according to an attendee who didn’t want to be named because the event was private.

Clinton drew laughs with a self-deprecating response that downplayed the comparison to the storied national icon and feminist activist, the attendee said.

Later in the day, she visited the city’s Century Club for an event hosted by Buehl, co-founder of the clothing chain Esprit. There, she spoke for about 30 minutes on topics ranging from student debt to healthcare to immigration, according to a guest who also declined to be identified.

Clinton, who called earlier this week for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, is expected to return to the immigration issue on Friday before a crowd that will likely include a high percentage of technology players.

Immigration represents the top political issue for many Silicon Valley executives, who would like to hire more foreign engineers, data scientists, and other highly educated workers due to what they say is a shortage of US workers in those fields.—Reuters

**Prime Minister David Cameron gives a thumbs up as he arrives with his wife Samantha at the Conservative Party headquarters in London, Britain on 8 May, 2015.**

**Survivors battle for helicopters near Nepal village that vanished**

BUNGIPUR, (Nepal), 8 May — It was three foreign trekkers who used their satellite telephone to call the rescue helicopter that landed in Nepal’s Langtang Valley around midnight on Tuesday, 28 April. Three days earlier, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake had triggered a catastrophic avalanche that buried hundreds of people in one valley in the village.

But villagers clung to the chopper’s landing sands, preventing it from taking off, witnesses said. They then led the uninfected foreign trekkers out of the aircraft and carried injured Nepalis aboard, including a toddler with broken legs, at a rescue in another village, Kyanjum Gompa.

“Most helicopters were coming to pick up the foreigners, who were healthy, not our injured people,” said Lhakpa Langab, a local guesthouse owner who was interviewed at a monastery in Kathmandu after his evacuation from the village.

“We said to the foreigners, ‘You are healthy. Stay one or two more days and let our injured people go.’”

Rescue workers are struggling to recover the bodies of nearly 300 people, including about 110 foreigners, believed to be buried under up to six metres (20 feet) of ice, snow and rock from the avalanche. It’s a big business.

Everest expedition companies charge clients between $40,000 (26,344 pounds) and $90,000, (59,274 pounds) depending on the number of guides and other services they want. Sherpas can make as little as $1,000 in a whole season.

Those who come to the Langtang Valley are a mix of experienced climbers and adventure trekkers.

“Everest is for very specialised, skilled climbers, while those in Langtang were people on adventure holidays — most without any guides,” said Prachanda Man Sherpa, a Sherpa head of Nepal’s tourism department.

“Anyone can get to Langtang, you are walking at high altitude, but if you are reasonably fit you can go there.”

US mountaineer Kevin Krogh was filming people at a guest house in Kyanjum Gompa in the Langtang Valley in the midst of the quake. The video shows hundreds of people looking back towards the Langtang Himal range as a foggy cloud enters the frame. Krogh, 32, and his wife, Beth Heldman, 40, had left Langtang village early Saturday morning with the rest of their party for the three-hour trek to Kyanjum Gompa.—Reuters
Chinese president arrives in Moscow for Great Patriotic War Victory celebration

Moscow, 8 May — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Moscow on Friday for a visit to Russia where he will attend events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Great Patriotic War, Russia’s term for World War II (WWII). A welcome ceremony was held at air force and inspector Russia’s three-service guards of honor.

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, Xi extended sincere greetings and wishes to the Russian government and people. Noting that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the WWII, Xi said China and Russia, as the main Asian and European battlesfields in WWII, will hold a series of commemorative events this year, so as to show the resolve of jointly maintaining the outcomes of WWII, and to build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation.

During his stay in Moscow, Xi will attend the Victory Day parade on the Red Square and lay wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Saturday, China and Russia, as the main Asian and European battlesfields in WWII, victorious nations in that war and founding members of the United Nations, made great contributions to the victory in WWII and post-war order. In Moscow, Xi will hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and meet with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. He will also meet with Russian WWII veterans and representatives of Russian experts who once worked in China. The two heads of state are expect-ed to ink a joint statement on strengthening the Chi-na-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordi-nation. They will also dis-cuss the docking of China’s Silk Road Economic Belt initiative with Russia’s re-lated idea for a trade and in-frastructure network across Eurasia. With China remain-ing Russia’s largest trade partner for the fifth consecutive year in 2014 and Russia being China’s ninth-largest trade partner, economic co-op-eration will be another important topic for discussion.

During Xi’s visit, the two countries are expected to sign a number of coop-erative documents in areas including energy, aerospace, finance and invest-ment. “The two leaders will expound their propositions on maintaining the out-comes of WWII, promoting world peace and stability, abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international order with the UN at the core, so as to build a new type of inter-national relations featuring win-win cooperation,” said China’s Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping at an earlier time. China’s guards of honor, consisting of 112 members, who are sched-uled to take part in the Vic-tory Day parade in Russia, have taken part in rehearsals for the parade after arriving in Moscow. It is the first time for China’s soldiers participat-ing in Moscow’s Victory Day ceremony. Xi landed in Moscow after visiting India. After Russia, Xi will make a two-day visit to Belarus, the first by a Chi-nese president in 14 years.

The tragedy of war is not allowed to be replayed,” said the Chinese president.

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Japan eyes donors’ meeting with ADB to support quake-hit Nepal

Tokyo, 8 May — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida conveyed to his Nepalese counterpart on Thursday that Tokyo is ready to co-sponsor a donors’ meeting with the Asian Development Bank to provide additional assistance to quake-hit Nepal, ministry officials said. The initiative is apparently part of an effort by Tokyo to compete with China as Beijing increases its presence in the region to safeguard its interests at stake.

“Seamless assistance” to the Himalayan nation to the extent possible as a “true friend of Nepal,” according to the officials. Panjwai expressed his gratitude to Kishida for co-hosting a donors’ meeting for Nepalese assistance, the officials said. A massive earthquake struck Nepal last month, killing thousands and causing a humanitarian crisis and extensive damage to the nation’s infrastructure. Japan is the largest contributor to the Manila-based ADB.

UN chief to seek ‘realistic options’ for Middle East peace talks

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday that after a new Israeli government has been sworn in he will inves-tigate the options for a “re-web the schism of majorities in Is-rael’s turbulent parliament. Netanyahu took a stand against Palestinian statehood during his election cam-paign. Palestinians seek a state in the Golan, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Is-rael captured in 1967. “Once a new govern-ment has been sworn in, the Secretary-General will ex-plore with Prime Minister Netanyahu realistic options for a return to meaningful negotiations on a two state solution,” UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said.

Snowden could not immediately be reached for comment.

A US spying programme that systematically collects millions of Americans’ phone records is illegal, a federal appeals court ruled on Thursday, putting pressure on Congress to quickly decide whether to replace or end the contro-versial anti-terrorism surveil-lance.

Ruling on a pro-gramme revealed by for-mer government secu-rity contractor Edward Snowden, the 2nd US Cir-cuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said the Patriot Act did not authorize the National Security Agency to collect Americans’ calling records in bulk.

Circuit Judge Gerard Lynch wrote for a three-judge panel that Section 215, which addresses the FBI’s ability to gather business records, could not be interpreted to have permitted the NSA to collect a “staggering” amount of phone records, contrary to claims by the Bush and Obama administrations.

“The expansive de velopment of government repositories of formerly private records would be an unprecedented contrac-tion of the privacy expec-tations of all Americans,” Lynch wrote in a 97-page decision. “We would ex-pect such a momentous decision to be preceded by substantial debate, and expressed in unmistakable language. There is no evi-dence of such a debate.”

The appeals court did not rule on whether the surveil-lance violated the US Constitution.

It also declined to halt the programme, noting that parts of the Patriot Act in-cluding Section 215 expire on 1 June. Lynch said it was “prudent” to give Congress a chance to decide what surveillance is permissible, given the national security interests at stake.

Enacted after the 11 September, 2001 attacks, the Patriot Act gives the government broad tools to investigate terrorism.

China's President Xi Jinping (C) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) during the welcoming ceremony at the Asia-Europe Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit at the International Convention Centre at Yaroslavl on Thursday, 11 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS
The Model Management

By Kyi Mun

Model means: Perfect; deserving to be imitated; e.g. model behavior, a model housewife, a model school.

Management means: The art or skill of planning, organizing, directing and controlling the work of a company or an organization.

The Model Management has, inter alia, to deal with the following five international best practices of business:
- Financial Viability
- Operational Efficiency
- Managerial Effectiveness
- Customer & Employee Satisfaction
- Competitive Advantage

The Model Management must have what it takes to run a company or an organization successfully taking into account the following five unique qualities:
- Physical Strength
- Mental Intelligence
- Emotional Feelings / Motives
- Spiritual Will
- Creative Actions

MAN (HUMAN RESOURCE)

Man Matters Most, it is proclaimed. Man has the following unique qualities:
- Physical Strength
- Mental Intelligence
- Emotional Feelings / Motives
- Spiritual Will
- Creative Actions

A model management’s mission should be a lofty, proactive and radical purpose.

MODEL VISION (Shaping & Creating the Future)

A model vision is a perfect life in the future which you have decided to achieve. A model vision is the dream that you intend to fashion in the future. A vision is a state of your future life that you see in your mind’s eye. In other words, a vision is the illumination in your wisdom of the kind of your life in the future. In short, your vision is what you want to become in the future.

A model management should have a model vision in place:

MISSION (Reason for Being in Business)

In simple language, mission means purpose. Dictionary meanings of MISSION are:
- (1) JOB: An important job that someone has been given to do especially when they are sent to another place; e.g. His mission was to improve staff morale and output.
- (2) DUTY: Something that you feel you must do because it is your duty; e.g. Mission in Life: He always felt that his mission in life was to help old people.

The dictionary meaning of MORALE is:

"Morale (the state of mind).
You can elevate young life with your mind; And you can degrade your life with your mind.

BHAGAVAD GITA

MIND (Mental Power)

Mind is the key to life. You can elevate your life with your mind; And you can degrade your life with your mind.

MATERIAL (Material Resource)

Money is a form of financial resource which must be used by management to increase it or to multiply it. Money is wealth which is a form of asset. It is managements’ job to continuously increase the value of the organization’s assets. Money is said to be like a second God. It is said that money makes everything. But it is the management’s duty to see to it that money must be legitimately used to earn legitimate profit. All management people should be fully aware of what the Bible says: “The love of money is the root of all evil.”

MACHINE (Mechanical Resource)

Machines are the means:
- To substitute manual labour
- To raise productivity
- To have a cutting edge in competition, and
- To grow the business

MANAGEMENT (Managing Resources)

Management must see to it that up-to-date, and if possible, cutting edge technology, core competence and distinctive capability cannot be maintained. The ideal method is:
- Strategy
- Cutting edge
- Distinctive Capability
- Core Competency
- Comprehensive Resources

MENTORING (LEADERSHIP)

Mentoring means: A system of using people with a lot of experience, knowledge, skills, etc. to advise other people at work, or in their professional life: e.g. Support for you in your new job will be provided by a system of mentoring.
Myanmar, Pakistan discuss military, trade ties

The 21st National Races’ Performing Arts Competition was held at the hall and lecture hall of University of Agriculture, while harp contest took place at Padamya Hall of University of Agriculture, Dobet contest at Agricultural Research Department and piano contest at the convocation hall of Forestry University.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Pakistan’s President Mr Mamnoon Hussain.—MYAWADY

Islamabad, 8 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on Pakistan’s President Mr Mamnoon Hussain at his office in Islamabad on Thursday. They discussed further strengthening bilateral relations and trade.

The commander-in-chief inspected a guard of honour before a meeting with the chairman of Pakistan’s Joint Chiefs of Staff committee.

This year is the 67th anniversary of Myanmar-Pakistan diplomatic relations and 63rd anniversary of military relations.

After the meeting, the military operations department of the Pakistan Armed Forces explained the security perspective of Pakistan to the senior general.

At 11:30 a.m. local time, the senior general met General Raheel Sharif, Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan at the latter’s office.

After the commander-in-chief expressed his heartfelt sadness for attacks against the Peshawar military high school, they discussed regional and local issues.

In the evening, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee hosted a dinner in honour of the senior general and party.

At 1.20 p.m., the senior general received Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman at the office of the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan. They discussed further cooperation in training, exchange of trainees, and sharing of experiences between two air forces.

The commander-in-chief also received Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah of Pakistan at the latter’s office at 3 p.m. to focus on further cooperation between two naval troops.

The senior general met with Pakistan’s Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif at the President Office of Pakistan at 3.45 p.m. Pakistan standard time to talk promotion of trade and economic sectors for enhancing bilateral relations of two countries and further cooperation between two armed forces in the defence sector.

Myawady

Performing Arts Competition continues for second day

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 May—The 21st National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition of Myanmar continued at the designated venues on Friday.

The amateur level (second class) men’s dancing contest, the basic education level (aged 15-20) women’s and higher education level women’s dancing contest were held at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science.

Singing contest in classic and modern events took place at the assembly hall and lecture hall of University of Agriculture.

Orchestra event was held at the hall of Forestry Research Department while harp contest took place at Padamya Hall of University of Agriculture, Dobet contest at Agricultural Research Department and piano contest at the convocation hall of Forestry University, Phyoe Sanda Myint/Khin Khin Thet

EU project aims to develop Myanmar...

(from page 1)

EU aid package to Myanmar, is slated to start soon after his findings and MNF suggestions are collated, the general secretary added.

According to the ministry’s data, aquaculture is integral to the country’s fishery sector. Between 1991 and 2013, the area of aquaculture cultivation increased from 12,225 to 180,614 hectares, while production rose from 6,397 to 9,444,809 metric tons. The sector employed around 130,000 farm workers in 2014.—GNLM

The Model Management

Mentoring is just a leadership tactic; There are other leadership tactics such as:

- P for Persuading
- O for Organizing
- E for Enabling
- T for Teaching
- I for Inspiring
- C for Caring

MOTIVATING (Inspiring)

Motivating means: Making someone want to achieve something and making them willing to work hard in order to do it. e.g. a good teacher has to be able to motivate her students. Motivate somebody to do something: The profit sharing plan is designed to motivate the staff to work hard.

One of the important tasks of management and leadership is to inspire the people:

- To participate
- To improve themselves, and
- To have ownership in the striving for achieving the goals.

MOBILITY (Ability to Move from Place to Place)

Mobility means: Lean management, alert communication, agile operation and fast logistics and effective coordination. Besides, an organization should have career mobility and career advancement opportunities.

MOBILIZING INNOVATION (Innovative Culture)

A model management should make it its top priority to build an innovative culture in the organization. It must dare all experiences between two trainees, and sharing of experiences between two air forces.

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Myawady

Timetables announced for candidates of ASEAN scholarship 2016

Yangon, 8 May—Candidates for ASEAN scholarship 2016 are to sit tests for English, Mathematics and Science subjects in the preliminary exam on 14 May.

The candidates from Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions, Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Shan (East), (North), and (East) states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are to sit the preliminary exam at No 16 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay and those from Yangon, Taninthayi, Bago (East), (West) and Ayeyawady regions, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states at Ahlon BEHS No 4.

The result of the preliminary exam will be announced at the exam centre on 26 May.

Winners in the exam are to apply for the ASEAN scholarship at Myanmar Education Research Bureau at No 426 on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township from 1 to 3 June. They must take the writing exam in July and interview conducted by officials of Singapore in September.

MNA

Fish are farmed in an artificial pond in Ayeyawady Region, where fish and shrimp farming businesses are likely to receive funding as part of an EU aquaculture project.—Photo: Credit to fao.org.com

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.
Two Ukrainian servicemen killed, 26 wounded in past 24 hours — Ukrainian military

Kyiv, 8 May — Two Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 26 wounded in separatist eastern territories over the past 24 hours, Ukraine’s military said on Friday, as attacks continued despite a cease-fire.

In a speech to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said he would stick to the Minsk peace agreements that the separatists accuse him of violating.

“Questions of war and peace are as relevant today as ever before ... No matter how much my peace plan is criticised, I will not swerve from this path,” he told parliament.

Violence has fallen significantly since a peace accord was signed in Minsk, Belarus, in February, but both government troops and pro-Russian rebels accuse the other side of violations and casualties are reported almost daily.

“Banned weapons are used all along the front line ... this is evidence of deliberate attempts by the enemy to sabotage the Minsk agreements,” Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said in a televised briefing.

He said rebels had fired mortars at government positions and described the situation near the rebel-held town of Horlivka, north of Donetsk, as the most intense, with separatists firing from tanks and guns.

Meanwhile, rebel officials accused Ukrainian troops of firing at Horlivka and reported that one civilian had been wounded in the attack, separatist news agency UNNA said.

He said 1,675 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed since the rebellion erupted last April. Over 6,100 people have died as a result of the conflict, according to UN figures.—Reuters

Italy may have found ship that carried 900 drowned migrants

Rome, 8 May — Italy’s navy said on Thursday it believed it had found the wreck of a boat that sank last month killing up to 900 migrants off the coast of Libya, the Mediterranean’s most deadly migrant tragedy in living memory.

Only 24 bodies have been recovered since the 18 April disaster and the search was vying for the latest known tragedy, which could push the number of deaths to up to 2,000.

According to the Italian coastguard, about 1,800 people are thought to have drowned in the Mediterranean so far this year.

A Japanese coast guard officer told Kyodo News that three Pakistanis were among the dead — two pilots and a crew member — while his government had received no official confirmation of any fatalities.

Two survivors of the disaster were disembarked from the Italian navy ship Vega in the Sicilian harbour of Augusta, southern Italy, on Friday. — Reuters

Iraqi journalist shot dead by unknown assailant

Baghdad, 8 May — The body of an Iraqi journalist was found in the western Qadisiya district. The identity of the killer was not known.

“He paid the price of being a journalist in Iraq,” said Jubbouri’s brother Ahmed. The head of the Journalistic Freedoms Observatory and a person who knew Jubbouri said the presenter had been threatened several times before his death and gave them telephone numbers to call if anything should happen to him.

“He received letters threatening him a year ago,” said the person who knew Jubbouri, but declined to be identified. “I read two of the statements. Asked if Iraqi authorities believed the migrant boat had now been found, a navy spokesman said: “Yes — The location and length are correct, but we cannot be certain.”

Lawlessness in Libya, where two rival governments are vying for control, has given almost免费 reinfo traffickers.

Two survivors of the disaster were arrested on the island of Sicily last month on suspicion of trafficking people on the ship.

After interviewing survivors, prosecutors concluded that more than 750 people were likely to have been aboard, many locked in the hold. Other reports suggested the death toll could be up to 900. Twenty-eight people were saved.

The scale of the disaster shocked the European Union into tripling funding for its sea patrol mission Triton, which replaced Italy’s now-defunct, broader “Mare Nostrum” mission.

Some 51,000 migrants have reached Europe by sea this year, 30,500 of them via Italy, according to the UN refugee agency, and calm seas in the run-up to summer have encouraged thousands to take the risk in recent weeks.

About 1,800 people are thought to have drowned in the Mediterranean so far this year.

The ambush of the Filipinos and Norway and the wives of the Malaysian and Indonesian ambassadors were among seven people killed in the crash of an army helicopter in northern Estonia on Friday, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman AsimBa-Jwa also said via Twitter that the Dutch ambassador and Polish ambassadors were injured in the crash in the scenic Naltar Valley, located about 45 kilometers northeast of Gilgit, capital of Gilgit-Baltistan autonomou region.

Local media said the ambassadors of Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa, Lebanon and Romana were also injured in the accident. The Mi-17 helicopter was carrying diplomats to Naltar Valley for the inauguration ceremony of a charifrit project to be officiated by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Bajwa said.

Nawaz was on his way to Naltar on a separate helicopter at the time of the crash and the prime minister’s helicopter was carrying President Mamnoon Hussain and did not crash into the chopper, according to a defence ministry official.

The Taleban Pakistan militant group claimed responsibility for shooting down the helicopter with a surface-to-air missile.

Bajwa refuted the aim, saying initial investigations show the crash was caused by a “technical fault while landing.” A spokesman for Taleban Pakistan said the militant group had targeted the prime minister in attacking the helicopter.

Bajwa tweeted that three Pakistanis were among the dead — two pilots and a crew member — while he earlier said 17 people — 11 foreigners and six Pakistanis were in the helicopter when it went down.

A Japanese diplomat said that Japanese Ambas- sador to Pakistan Hiroshi Inomata was in one of the helicopters that had landed safely at the site.

According to an eyewitness account, the helicopter crash-landed at a school building and caught fire.

But there were no chil- dren in the school at the time as they were on holiday.

Pakistan helicopter crash kills envoys of Philippines, Norway, 5 others

Islamabad, 8 May — The ambassador of the Philippines and Norway and the wives of the Malayan and Indonesian ambassadors were among seven people killed in the crash of an army helicopter in northern Estonia on Friday, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman AsimBa-Jwa also said via Twitter that the Dutch ambassador and Polish ambassadors were injured in the crash in the scenic Naltar Valley, located about 45 kilometers northeast of Gilgit, capital of Gilgit-Baltistan autonomou region.

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But there were no chil- dren in the school at the time as they were on holiday.
Failed Russian spacecraft falls from orbit, burns up

CAPE CANAVERAL, 8 May — An unmanned Russian spacecraft set for orbit after a failed cargo run to the International Space Station plunged into Earth’s atmosphere on Thursday, the Russian space agency reported. The capsule, loaded with more than three tons of food, fuel and supplies for the station crew, fell out of orbit at 10:04 pm EDT (0204 GMT), the Russian space agency Roscosmos said in a statement. At the time, the Progress-59 spacecraft was flying over the central Pacific Ocean, the statement said.

Most of the spacecraft was expected to burn up during its high-speed descent through the atmosphere, but small pieces of the structure could have survived and splashed down in the ocean.

“Only a few small pieces of structural elements could reach the planet’s surface,” Roscosmos said in a statement earlier Thursday — similar to what happens at the end of routine Progress cargo missions.

The freighter was launched on 28 April from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, but never made to the station, a $100 billion research laboratory that flies about 250 miles (418 km) above the earth.

Ground controllers lost contact with the Progress spacecraft to deliver modules and cargo, two of which have not been successful.

Various versions of the Progress freighters have been flying since 1978, supporting previous Soviet-era stations including Salyut 6, Salyut 7 and Mir. The capsules are designed to burn up in the atmosphere after delivering their cargo.

Scientists turn smartphone into microscope for rapid parasite detection

WASHINGTON, 8 May — Researchers on Wednesday said they have developed a mobile phone microscope that can rapidly and accurately detect parasitic worms in the blood, an advance that may aid efforts to eradicate neglected tropical diseases such as river blindness and elephantiasis in Africa.

“We previously showed that mobile phones can be used for microscopy,” lead author Daniel Fletcher, professor at the University of California, Berkeley, said in a statement. “But this is the first device that combines the imaging technology with hardware and software automation to create a complete diagnostic solution.”

A drug called ivermectin has been used to treat and control the spread of the debilitating parasitic diseases river blindness and elephantiasis. However, while ivermectin is safe and effective for these two diseases, it has proven dangerous to individuals also infected with the parasitic worm Loa loa, which causes another disease, loasis, or African eye worm.

In patients with high blood levels of the worm’s larval form, called microfilariae, the drug causes brain damage and even death.

Mass health campaigns to administer the medication have been suspended in certain areas of West and Central Africa, where Loa loa infections are common, leaving millions left untreated for the two diseases.

A strategy to identify and exclude people highly infected with Loa loa from treatment has been recommended. However, the current gold standard method requires a conventional light microscope to manually count the worms in a blood smear, which can take a trained technician at least a day to complete.

To rapidly screen for Loa loa infections in community settings, the team from UC Berkeley’s CellScope Loa, a video microscope integrating an Apple iPhone 5s.

With the help of a custom app, the device automatically captures and analyzes videos of the characteristic “wriggling” motion of microfilariae, enabling quantification of microfilariae in blood from a finger prick in less than two minutes. No special preparation of the blood is required, limiting potential error and sample loss, and healthcare workers need minimal training to use the automated device, they said.

When used to screen 33 potentially Loa-loa-infected individuals in Cameroon, the device closely matched results from standard microscopy.

Although additional work is needed, the researchers predicted that a team of three workers could screen up to 200 people during the four-hour midday window when Loa loa circulates at its peak in the blood.

“This research is addressing neglected tropical diseases,” said Fletcher. “It demonstrates what technology can do to help fill a void for populations that are suffering from terrible, but treatable diseases.”

The researchers are now expanding the study of CellScope Loa to about 40,000 people in Cameroon.

The study, also involving researchers from the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and collaborators from Cameroon and France, was published in the US journal Science Translational Medicine.

Alibaba in talks to buy $1.2 billion stake in India phone maker Micromax

MUMBAI, 8 May — Alibaba Group Holding is in talks with India’s Micromax Informatics to buy an about 20 percent stake in the smartphone maker, helping the Chinese e-commerce giant expand in one of the world’s fastest growing markets for the devices, several people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The deal, if completed, would see Alibaba investing as much as $1.2 billion (117 billion yuan) in Micromax, the second-largest smartphone brand in India by sales, at up to $6 billion, two of the people said. India is the world’s third largest smartphone market and was the fastest growing in the Asia Pacific region in the third quarter of last year, according to industry research firm International Data Corporation.

Micromax and Alibaba began talks on the stake sale after discussions with investors led by Japanese telco SoftBank Corp started over differences in valuations, the sources said.

“SoftBank talks are not officially over, but it’ll be hard to get back on track,” said one of the people.

SoftBank is the largest shareholder in Alibaba.

All the sources involved in the process declined to be named as they were not authorized to speak to the media about ongoing talks.

Micromax, SoftBank and Alibaba declined to comment.

The sources said Alibaba wants to use the Micromax deal to tap into the boom in the number of internet users in India, which is also one of the world’s most rapidly growing smartphone markets.

Growth in India, and especially in mobile transactions, would help Alibaba offer an offset stiff competition at home from domestic rivals including JD.com Inc, as well as what appears to be growing e-commerce user saturation.

Strong revenue from mobile transactions helped the company report a 45 percent increase in quarterly revenue on Thursday.

“The talks are centered around using Micromax devices as a platform to get into a serious business of its own in India,” said one of the sources, referring to Alibaba.

Alibaba, for example, would be able to roll out services such as Alipay, its online payment platform, on Micromax phones. Ant Financial Services Group, which owns Alipay, is China’s largest payment service provider and is controlled by Alibaba’s executive chairman and founder Jack Ma.

The stake sale is aimed at helping Micromax raise capital as it expands into new business segments including personal computing.

The logo of Alibaba Group is seen inside the company’s headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province early on 11 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

The photo of Alibaba Group is seen inside the company’s headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province early on 11 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Huawei underpinned by Nokia’s Alcatel-Lucent deal

BRUSSELS, 8 May — China’s Huawei Technologies (HWT.U) is underpinned by the merger of telecoms equipment rivals Nokia and Alcatel-Lucent and will keep growing in Europe, its rotating Chief Executive Guo Ping told Reuters on Thursday.

The merged European entity will become the global No 2 in wireless behind Sweden’s Ericsson. It will also have a more complete product line encompassing both mobile and fixed-line operations, putting it in a stronger position to compete with Huawei, the leading telecoms equipment maker.

Finland’s Nokia announced its acquisition of France’s Alcatel-Lucent last month as it seeks to strengthen its position in telecoms equipment.

However, Huawei’s Guo welcomed the deal, saying it would spur investment and competition, and expressed optimism about his company’s ability to expand its own network gear business.

“The merged company will be much more competitive and for the industry as a whole this is a positive thing,” he said.

“This is combining one company that is very strong with another company that is very strong in fixed networks.”

Huawei expects lucrative opportunities for its network gear business as more people use smartphones, everyday objects are connected to the web and machines are linked to each other via the Internet, Guo added. He said there could be 100 billion new connections in the next ten years.

He also dismissed the effects of Huawei’s exclusion from the United States over cybersecurity concerns, saying its global growth would not be stymied as a result.

“Without the US market Huawei will still be able to develop well,” he said.

Huawei on Thursday announced plans for a new research institute in Brussells, signalling its intent to take part in Europe’s race to be at the forefront of the next generation of mobile broadband technologies.

Its sales in Europe, the Middle East and Africa grew 20 percent last year to 101 billion yuan ($16.7 billion), far higher than all other regions apart from China, where sales grew 31 percent, the privately held company’s published results said.

A worker adjusts the logo at the stand of Huawei at the CeBIT trade fair in Hanover on 15 March, 2015.—REUTERS

The study, also involving researchers from the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and collaborators from Cameroon and France, was published in the US journal Science Translational Medicine.—Xinhua

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Brazil increases pressure on Venezuela to set election date

BRASILIA, 8 May — Brazil urged Venezuela’s government on Thursday to set a date for a parliamentary election as soon as possible, stepping up pressure on its leftist ally and neighbour to resolve a simmering political crisis.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said he met with Venezuelan government officials this week and told them a date must be set quickly for the National Assembly election that is meant to be held before the end of the year.

“I insisted that elections should be called as soon as possible and held within the legal time frame,” Vieira said at a news conference.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro’s opponents see the parliamentary election as a chance to capitalise on widespread discontent over a deepening economic crisis and advance towards ending more than 15 years of socialist rule.

Surveys show Venezuela’s opposition leading in projections of voters’ intentions and Maduro’s popularity has slipped since he took office two years ago after the death of Hugo Chavez.

Dates for internal party primaries have been set, but the lack of a date for the parliamentary vote has led some opposition politicians to doubt whether the election will be held at all.

Vieira spoke to reporters after the wives of Venezuela’s two most prominent jailed opposition leaders visited Congress and were applauded by lawmakers, including members of parties in President Dilma Rousseff’s governing coalition.

Rousseff and her Workers’ Party have faced increasing criticism for their handling of the crisis.

Japan vows to advance steps to eradicate human trafficking

TOKYO, 8 May — Cabinet ministers on Friday vowed to implement measures to eradicate human trafficking in Japan in line with an action plan the government adopted in December.

Speaking to reporters after the first intergovernmental meeting on such trafficking, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga underscored the importance of promoting such measures given the expansion of the problem and the number of foreign visitors to Japan in the run-up to the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo.

The action plan calls for the enforcement of immigration controls, confirming the validity of travel-related documents, reviewing residence status, steps against fake marriages, measures to prevent illegal employment, and efforts to prevent prostitution.

“The government will make all-out efforts to eradicate trafficking in people,” said Suga, the top government spokesman, when he chaired the meeting. “We want to raise public awareness of the issue.”

The meeting, also attended by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Eriko Yamatani, head of the National Public Safety Commission, approved an annual report highlighting the current situation of victims and measures by government ministries and agencies to prevent human trafficking for purposes such as forced prostitution and forced labour.

The action plan says police and the Immigration Bureau of Japan will try to gain a thorough knowledge of establishments that employ foreign women, as well as construction sites and factories that employ foreign labourers, and to collect information concerning foreigners, brokers and employers perpetrating the crime of human trafficking.

The plan says human trafficking is “a grave violation of human rights and requires a prompt and appropriate response” as it “causes serious emotional and physical pain for the victims, especially women and children, and recovery from such damage is very difficult.”

—Kyodo News

Mexico nabs cop allegedly involved in disappearance of students

MEXICO CITY, 8 May — Mexican police arrested one of the senior police officers accused of involvement in the disappearance of a group of 43 student teachers last year, the country’s interior ministry said on Thursday.

Francisco Salgado, 41, was the deputy head of the police force in the southwestern city of Iguala, where 43 student teachers went missing in September last year. The government says the group was detained by corrupt police officers who handed them over to a local drug gang that killed them and then incinerated their bodies.

The incident shocked Mexico, sparking nationwide protests, and plunged Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto into his deepest crisis since taking office in 2012. In a statement, Mexico’s interior ministry said Salgado was captured in the central Mexican city of Cuernavaca, carrying AK-47 cartridges.

Statements from police in Iguala and the northern state of Coahuila indicated that on the night of 26 September, Salgado had ordered that roughly 13 of the student teachers should be handed over to members of the drug gang, the interior ministry said.

Witness statements also alleged that Salgado received $600,000 pesos ($39,187) a month from the drug gang in return for protection, the ministry said.

Since his disappearance, the ministry said he had been hiding in residences belonging to family members.

In November, Mexican authorities captured Joseph Luis Aburca, who was at the time of the incident mayor of Iguala, and his wife, Maria de los Angeles Pineda, in Mexico City. Aburca has since been charged with the kidnap- ping of the students.

—Reuters

Japanese astronaut Yui takes final exam before trip to space

MOSCOW, 8 May — Japanese astronaut Kiyoshi Yui and his crewmates underwent a two-day final examination through Thursday ahead of their trip to space scheduled for 27 May aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

Yui, a 45-year-old flight engineer, commander Oleg Kononenko from the Russian Federal Space Agency and another flight engineer Kjell Lindgren from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration took the exam in a full-size model simulator of the International Space Station at a training center in the suburbs of Moscow.

During the final examination, the three astronauts checked various kinds of operational procedures, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and other sources.

The crew are scheduled to depart in the early hours of 27 May local time from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, and are expected to stay on the ISS for about six months to carry out various experiments.

However, the planned mission could be postponed due to the failed launch of a cargo craft on 28 April, according to a report by Russian news agency Interfax.

The flight programme of the ISS expedition preparing for the mission may be adjusted depending on possible postponements of the dates of launches of cargo spacecraft and amendments to the ISS flight programme,” Interfax quoted a press release circulated at the training center as saying.

An expert at the Russian space agency has recommended that the launch of the crew to the ISS be pushed back by up to two months to focus on an investigation into the failed launch of the Progress M-27M spacecraft, the report said.

—Kyodo News

Relative of missing students of the Ayotzinapa Teacher Training College Raul Isidro Burgos stands in front of a monument of the number 43 during a protest to mark the seven months of the Ayotzinapa students’ disappearance in Mexico City on 26 April, 2015.
Singapore’s PM Lee Hsien Loong opens Indian Heritage Centre

SingapurE, 8 May — The Indian community has contributed to Singapore “in deep ways,” Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said here on Thursday. During the launch of the Indian Heritage Centre which is located at the heart of Little India and blends traditional Indian and modern architectural elements, Lee said that Indians have contributed a lot to Singapore and the four-story centre “affirms the importance and vibrancy of the Indian community in Singapore.”

The museum, which is the first one dedicated to Indian history, starts with the early interactions between South Asia and Southeast Asia, then goes on to feature the origins and movement of Indians from the 19th century to the 21st century. Singapore’s Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry S Iswaran, also the chair of the centre’s steering committee, said the museum was also “strongly endorsed” by Singapore’s founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Iswaran thanked the community for loaning or donating artefacts including family heirlooms. The Little India centre has received a total of 368 artefacts from a collection drive in 2011. More than 200 of these pieces are now on display. The centre cost the National Heritage Board 16 million Singapore dollars to build and another 5 million Singapore dollars to fit out.

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th MAY, 2015
Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Peru to promote investment opportunities in three Asian countries

LIMA, 8 May — Peru plans to tout investment opportunities in infrastructural and public services during a three-country tour in Asia, Peruvian investment promotion agency ProInversion announced on Thursday.

Peru’s 2015 Asia Road Show kicks off on 11 May in China’s Beijing, then travels to Tokyo, Japan for a 13 May presentation, and wraps up in Seoul, South Korea on 14 May, the agency said in a statement.

The show will mount expositions in each city and hold meetings with potential investors interested in public-private sector partnerships opportunities in Peru, the agency said.

“Companies in these markets have the technical and financial capacity, and the experience needed,” ProInversion said.

China, Japan and South Korea are Asia’s main economies, in terms of gross domestic product, and Peru is already associated with them through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), as well as through free trade agreements, the agency said.

For Peru, it is important to carry out “promotion in these three countries, providing entrepreneurs with the information that will allow them to decide whether to participate,” the agency said.—Xinhua

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"Kumamon," one of the most popular regional mascots created by Japan’s southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto, Kumamoto Gov. Ikuo Kabashima said on 7 May, 2015, that Kumamon will appear at the Japan Pavilion at the Cannes International Film Festival in France.—KYODO NEWS

File photo taken on 19 Nov, 2014, shows Kumamon, one of the most popular regional mascots created by Japan’s southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto, Kumamoto Gov. Ikuo Kabashima said on 7 May, 2015, that Kumamon will appear at the Japan Pavilion at the Cannes International Film Festival in France.—KYODO NEWS

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (L) and his wife Ho Ching attend the opening ceremony of Singapore’s Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), on 7 May, 2015. The Indian Heritage Centre, located in Singapore’s Little India, held an official opening ceremony on Thursday.—Xinhua
Los Angeles, 8 May — The much-anticipated rebooted version of “Mad Max” has seen cast members old and new unite on the red carpet with Mel Gibson, who starred in the original 1979 action film, making a surprise appearance.

The actor and director, 59, played anti-hero Max Rockatansky in the Australian movie, directed by George Miller.

Gibson joined the cast of the fourth instalment of the franchise “Mad Max: Fury Road”, also directed by Miller, at the film’s Hollywood premiere, posing for pictures on the red carpet. The film stars British actor Tom Hardy as Rockatansky and Oscar winner Charlize Theron as female lead Furiosa.

“We needed someone equal to Max in this story and that was Furiosa and it was cool to do it and Charlize was up to it,” Miller said at the premiere on Wednesday night.

Guy Carawan, known for civil rights anthem ‘We Shall Overcome’, dies

New York, 8 May — Guy Carawan, whose rendition of the song “We Shall Overcome” became an anthem of the US civil rights movement, has died at his home in Tennessee, The New York Times reported. He was 87.

Carawan, a white folk singer, did not write the song, which has a long oral history that can be traced back to a church hymn in the late 19th Century that was taken up as a rally cry among labour activists in the 1940s.

Carawan first performed “We Shall Overcome”, to a group of black students in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1960 — and it quickly became the anthem of the civil rights movement, the New York Times said on Thursday.

It was sung at demonstrations and rallies throughout the 1960s, including the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery led by slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. In the decades since, it has been performed by Tiananmen Square protesters and not always ideal hours can be a huge reason why he is so happy.

The 45-year-old Oscar-winning actor said she loves him a lot, reported E!Online.

“Now I get to wake up next to someone who I know loves me the way she does — my wife — who gave birth to our three beautiful, healthy children,” he said.

“I get to live in a nice place, and I have things to look forward to every day — work, play, and sometimes nothing at all. I look forward to Mondays. It’s very rare to have a career where I don’t need days off. I love going to work,” he added.

While he continues to book new roles for the big-screen, McConaughey hopes the long shoots and not always ideal hours can be a teachable moment for his kids.

Zayn Malik requests fans to stop abusing him online

London, 8 May — Singing sensation Zayn Malik, while asserting he loves his fans, has asked them to not abuse him for fighting with his former One Direction member Louis Tomlinson.

The 22-year-old musician, who quit the band this March, slammed Tomlinson after he indulged in a war of words with producer Naughty Boy, who is working with Malik on his solo material.

“Remember when you were 12 and you used to think those Mac filters for your pictures were cool haha! Some people still do,” Tomlinson tweeted earlier, while poking fun at a picture of the singer and his producer friend Naughty Boy. The producer responded, “@Louis_Tomlinson and some people can’t even sing, but who’s complaining when there’s auto tune.”

Tomlinson, 23, took a dig at Naughty Boy, saying, “@NaughttyBoyMusic Jesus forgot you were such an in demand producer… How does it feel to be riding on the back of someone else’s career?”

This supposedly angered Malik as he then asked Tomlinson to mind his business, “@Louis_Tomlinson remember when you had a life and stopped making bitchy comments about mine?” — PTI
China’s Huawei hires James Rodriguez for brand promotion in Colombia

BOGOTA, 8 May — The multinational Chinese telecom company Huawei announced on Thursday that it signed up Colombian football player James Rodriguez as its brand ambassador to Colombia for the next two years.

The Real Madrid football ballplayer scored six goals for Colombia at 2014 World Cup in Brazil and won the Golden Boot.

The company chose Rodriguez as “the new official face of the Premium line of mobile devices”, according to the company, as the footballer was idolized by Colombian football fans as the representative of the dedication, the determination and the ability that Colombians have to make their dreams come true. “Rodriguez will help Huawei to attract more consumers and we look to the future with optimism and determination,” said Maria Fernanda Chinchilla, Director of Terminals Marketing at Huawei’s Colombian company.

Huawei revealed that last year their sales were worth 678 million US dollars in Colombia, which meant an increase of 40% year on year.—Xinhua

Former Brazil football great Pele undergoes prostate surgery

SAO PAULO, 8 May — Brazilian football legend Pele has undergone prostate surgery and is in stable condition, a Sao Paulo hospital said on Thursday.

This is the second time Pele, 74, has been hospitalised in six months.

In a statement, the Albert Einstein Hospital said Pele had undergone a transurethral resection of the prostate. According to the US National Institutes of Health’s website, the procedure involves removing an internal part of the prostate gland in order to treat an enlarged prostate.

Earlier in the day, local news site Globo Esporte said Pele had a prostate condition known as hypoplasia, which it said increases the risk of a urinary infection. The report did not cite sources.

Pele, whose given name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, was released from the same hospital in early December following a two-week stay with kidney problems. With more than two-week stay with kidney problems. With more than

Major El Nino event imminent, to lift global temperatures

CAMBERRA, 8 May — Australian climate scientists have reportedly confirmed that a major El Nino event, which will lift global temperatures and lead to lower rainfall, is set to hit south east Asia and Australia.

Fairfax Media reported on Friday that Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology will announce on Tuesday the imminent arrival of the latest round of El Nino.

El Nino is the warm phase of a major climate system that occurs in the South Pacific, which sees sea surface temperatures anomalously warm or cold for long periods. As warm waters spread from the west Pacific to the east Pacific, it takes the rain with it, causing extensive drought in the western Pacific and rainfall in the normally dry eastern Pacific.

Australia’s threshold for an El Nino episode is sustained warmth of sea-surface temperatures 0.8 degrees Celsius above average.

“You can see a warming in the eastern Pacific, which looks to be a classic El Nino event,” Dr Agus Santoso, an El Nino modeler at the University of New South Wales, told Fairfax Media on Friday.

Santoso said if the El Nino conditions continue rising through winter and peak in summer, “a big El Nino” could be the potential result.

Santoso said it was quite rare that the build up of unusual warmth in the eastern Pacific was happening so early in the year. Regular El Nino years begin in or after July.—Xinhua

Nadal breezes past Bolelli into Madrid quarters

MADRID, 8 May — Local hero Rafa Nadal raced into the last eight of the Madrid Open when he brushed aside unseeded Italian Simone Bolelli 6-2, 6-2 on Thursday to set up a quarter-final clash against Bulgarian 10th seed Grigor Dimitrov.

Chasing a third straight title at the clay Masters event in the Spanish capital, and a fifth overall, third seed Nadal needed little more than an hour to see off an outclassed Bolelli, saving both break points he faced on his serve.

The Majorcan has a good chance of claiming another Madrid crown as world number one Novak Djokovic pulled out to rest and Roger Federer, who took over from the Serb as the top seed, fell to Australian Nick Kyrgios in the second round on Thursday.

After struggles with injury and illness, Nadal is attempting to Rediscover his best form on his favoured surface before he makes a bid for a record-extending 10th French Open singles title in Paris starting at the end of the month.—Reuters

More storms headed for Great Plains after tornadoes kill one, injure 12 in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, 8 May — Thunderstorm and flash flood warnings were issued for several Great Plains states on Thursday, a day after a series of tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma, causing one death, injuring 12 and flattening buildings.

One woman who sought safety in her home’s storm shelter died when it flooded in Wednesday night’s storms, Oklahoma police said.

The weather system battered a region from Texas to Nebraska and spawned dozens of reported tornadoes on Wednesday.

Large parts of Oklahoma, Kansas and North Texas were under flash flood and severe thunderstorm watches on Thursday. A tornado warning was issued for the area around the North Texas town of Jacksboro, the National Weather Service said.

Six people from a mobile home park damaged by a tornado southwest of Oklahoma City were taken to a hospital in the region, including an 80-year-old woman in critical condition with hip injuries, hospital spokeswoman Brooke Cayote said.

Thousands of homes and businesses in Oklahoma were without power on Thursday morning, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission said.—Reuters

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Wer Phaw strike puts Myanmar in final

Ho Chi Minh City, 8 May — Striker Naw Arlo Wer Phaw’s solitary strike in the second half was enough to put Myanmar in the final of the AFF Women’s Championship after beating the Under-20 team of Australia 1-0 in the first semi-final that was played this afternoon at the Thong Nhat Stadium.

Wer Phaw scored the only goal of the game in the 51st minute.

“We know that the Australians were tactically stronger but I thought that our girls managed to raise the level of their game,” said Myanmar coach Thet Thet Win.

“Now that we are in the final, it really does not matter who we play against. The target is to win the cup, so we must be able to beat any one.”

The Australian girls who had been so dominant in the group matches seemed to be a little off colour on the day even though they tried hard through the wily Alexandra Chidac.

But it was Myanmar who controlled most of the pace with Wer Phaw and also Yee Yee Oo the driving force in their attacks.

And had it not been for the hard work and timely interception of goalkeeper Teagan Mi-gah, the score would not have been a deadlock at the end of the first half.

But just six minutes in, Myanmar duly went forward when Wer Phaw tapped in the cross from Khin Marlar Tun.

“I have no complaint,” said Australian coach Ante Juric afterwards. “They are still young girls and I thought that they played really well. They never give up.”

Thais beat hosts Vietnam in extra-time to make final

Ho Chi Minh City, 8 May — Thailand made the final of the AFF Women’s Championship after beating hosts Vietnam 2-1 in extra-time in the second semi-finals that was played here at the Thong Nhat Stadium.

With the win, the defending champions will take on Myanmar in the final match of the tournament this year in two days at the same venue.

“I thought that we were lucky,” said Thai coach Nuengratui Sritheongvian. “We had a few chances to score but we managed to find the back of the net twice. The game was very long so credit to the players for their commitment.”

With several thousands supporting the Vietnamese girls from the stands, it was no surprise that it was the home team who were the early aggressors. And it was Vietnam who scored first in the 31st minute when off a Tran Thi Thuy Trang corner, striker Nguyen Thi Lien headed in the ball from the far post.

Thailand maintained their cool all the way into the second half and just seven minutes after the restart, they got their equalizer when Nisa Ronmyat beat her marker Nguyen Hai Hoa to score. The game went into higher after that but neither side could find the winner which forced the game into extra-time. And just two minutes in a long ball from deep, saw Nisa racing forward to lob the ball past the oncoming Vietnam keeper Dang Thu Kieu Trinh.

With cramps seeping into the Thai squad, the game was stopped several times and where at one point, they even had to play with just nine players on the field. But in the end, it was just too late for Vietnam to change the inevitable.

Dnipro snatch draw at Napoli, Higuain frustrated

NAPLES, Italy, 8 May — Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk substitute Yevhen Seleznyov snatched a late equalizer to earn a 1-1 draw at Naples whose striker Gonzalo Higuain spurned several chances in their Europa League semi-final, first leg on Thursday.

David Lopez put Napoli ahead early in the second half on a frustrating night for their Argentina international Higuain, who saw four second half efforts saved before Seleznyov struck.

A frustrated Higuain was thwarted by goalkeeper Denys Boyko as the Serie A side pressed for a second goal.

Seleznyov then took advantage of slack Napoli defending to snatch an equaliser with nine minutes left to put the Ukrainians in pole position for a place in the final in Warsaw.

Holders Sevilla beat Fiorentina 3-0 in their first leg in Spain to take charge of the tie ahead of next week’s return. Napoli coach Rafael Benitez suggested Dnipro’s goal was offside, telling reporters: “Everyone saw what happened with the goal that changed the game. But we have to bear in mind our excellent performance in the second half when we created a lot.”

Napoli, whose only European triumph was lifting the UEFA Cup in 1989, struggled to break down a stubborn Dnipro defence in the first half in Naples and, on the only occasion they got through, Lorenzo Insigne’s shot struck the post.

The hosts appeared to have done the hard part when Spaniard Lopez headed them in front in front five minutes after halftime.

A second goal looked imminent as gaps began to appear in the Dnipro defence, but Dnipro keeper Boyko had other ideas. Higuain twice got clear on the right but Boyko saved both efforts with his legs, and did the same when the Argentine got free on the left for another chance.

The Dnipro stopper then tipped a rising shot over the bar after Higuain worked an opening on the edge of the area. Dnipro, playing their 17th match of a campaign which began in the third qualifying round on 30 July, hit back against the run of play with nine minutes left.

Artem Fedetskiy sent in a low cross from the right, the Napoli defence failed to clear and Seleznyov turned it in at the back post to completely change the complexion of the tie.

“As a result of this campaign we got closer to the title. And we need to stay focused to win it,” said Dnipro coach Yuriy Norsky.