President extols virtues of modern fruit and vegetable cultivation techniques during visit to cold storage facility

Myanmar Railways holds third public consultation meeting on Yangon circle rail upgrading

Union demands recruitment firms pay compensation over sunken Russian trawler
Nav Pi Taw, 12 May
— Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Tuesday approved borrowing US$400 million loan from the World Bank.

Aung Naing (Retired) Maj-Gen U Nu, a member of Joint Public Accounts Committee, suggested the loan should be agreed as the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development is carrying out compulsory services for livelihoods of rural populace, while it is promoting the capabilities of government staff, the early response system to natural disaster and the emergency management.

He added that the ministry needs the loans to expand implementation of people-centered projects for rural people. Daw Khin San Hlaing, MP from Pale Township constituency, said service charge of 0.7 percent on the loan for more than 30 years will cost millions of dollar, adding that the loans should be used effectively.

U Kyaw Khang Win, a member of Pyithu Hluttaw’s Banks and Financial Development Committee, said the management of the World Bank has agreed the proposed plans which will be implemented by this loan.

He also urged the ministry should submit the criteria and reasons to the Hluttaw for implementing the projects in selected townships.

Pyithu Hluttaw

No discrimination against degree holders of universities of distance education, according to chairman of UCSB

Nav Pi Taw, 12 May
— Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye explained arrangements for water supply at the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Tuesday.

The government was able to build 4,208 water supply facilities for 3,949 villages in 2014-2015 fiscal year and a total of 3,957 villages in 2015-2016 fiscal year, the deputy minister said.

Another question at the session concerning discrimination against graduates from universities of distance education, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board U Kyaw Thu said that the board has never discriminate between degree-holders of universities of distance education and those of other universities in its written tests, interviews and all those who are qualified for good civil servants are chosen for government posts.

For the question whether the government has plans to extend the pension age of experienced workers, professors, teachers and law officers, Chairman U Kyaw Thu said that pension age of civil servants in Myanmar has been designated based on requirements of Myanmar as well as on those of other ASEAN countries and extension of pension age in Myanmar may result in fewer opportunities for promotion of civil servants while it will encourage youth employment. The chairman said it is inappropriate for Myanmar to extend the pension age at the moment.

The session put on record the proposal by a representative to amend the anti-human trafficking law. Representative at the session were also informed at the session of the appointment of U Ko Ko Naing (Retired Maj-Gen) as a member to the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses agricultural issues

Nav Pi Taw, 12 May
— Amyotha Hluttaw session on Tuesday focused on questions on agriculture sector and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than responded to the questions.

One of the representatives asked whether the government has plans to suspend one year to repay agricultural loans in Kyangin and Myanmar Townships in Ayeyawady Region as farmers there did not earn enough from failed crops due to shortagess of rainwater and adverse weather conditions.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than said that Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank may suspend loans when crops are damaged due to natural disasters and losses are reported to the bank on time. Although the bank can suspend loans with the recommendation of local authorities at different levels, new loans will not be available for farmers who fail to repay their old loans under the rules and regulations of the bank, the deputy minister added.

In addition, the farmers may be subjected to interests and fines as Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has to borrow money from Myanmar Economic Bank to issue loans for farmers, according to the deputy minister.

State Councillor and Secretary General of China’s State Council donates computers to Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No 7, visits Bagan NyaungU

Nav Pi Taw, 12 May—Mr Yang Jing, State Councillor and Secretary General of the China’s State Council and party arrived at No 7 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township on Tuesday.

After conversing with students, the guests donated 23 sets of computer, 23 laser printers, seven scanners, six projectors, 10 sets of epidiascopes, 15 sets of potable players, three DVDs and 15 white boards and sports gears to officials of the school.

The Chinese guests visited the Gems Museum of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and viewed jewellery displayed at the museum.

In the afternoon, they left for Bagan NyaungU and paid homage to Shwezigon, Ananda and Thabyinyunyi pagodas and made cash donations.

At Nanmyint Tower, they enjoyed scenic beauty of sunset in Bagan.

Myanmar Railways holds third public . . .

(from page 1)

In his presentation of EIA and SIA processes, U Tin Aung Moe of the Japan International Cooperation Agency’s study team, which is providing technical assistance to MR for the project, said no land seizures are needed to implement the project.

According to a social survey tracked along the eastern side, the team identified 10 buildings and two kitchen plantations in which 48 of 63 affected persons need to be relocated, the official said.

One of the 48, shopkeeper U Thant Zin, expressed his hope that he would be properly compensated for the relocation.

The MR general manager said the upgrading project for the loop network is expected to start following the public consultations.
President extols virtues of modern fruit and vegetable cultivation...

(Myanmar Shwe Fruit Company exports Myanmar-grown Seintalone mango, watermelon and muskmelon to Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai and Malaysia daily. At present, the company plans to export 10 tons of Seintalone mangoes a day.

The president received Singapore's Attorney-General Mr V K Rajah, SC and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, the same day to hold talks on cooperation in legal affairs between the two countries.

They also discussed rule of law, sending Myanmar scholarship students to study international law to Singapore, and human resources development in Myanmar’s legal sector.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham praises 2015 basic literacy movement

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Tuesday attended the 2015 launch ceremony of the basic literacy movement in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region.

The ceremony was attended by union ministers, the chief minister of the region, parliamentary representatives, departmental heads, academics, students, NGOs and education partnership organizations.

The vice president said the ceremony was aimed at encouraging teachers and students from Hinthada University who took part in the literacy movement.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the literacy rate is directly proportional to the prosperity of a country, urging the promotion of literacy for the benefit of the economy and society as a whole.

Myanmar initiated the first literacy movement in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, during the 1964 summer school holidays, and has won awards from the International Literacy Movement in 1971 and 1983.

The government resumed the literacy movement in 2013. More than 2,000 teachers and university students taught more than 22,000 illiterates that year, and more than 4,600 volunteers taught nearly 50,000 illiterates.

In 2015, more than 3,000 volunteer university teachers and students have been teaching reading and writing to more than 26,000 people, with the programme running from 1 April to 15 May across the country.

Following the vice president’s address, the Chief Minister of Ayeyawady region U Thein Aung and Education Union Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi gave speeches about the movement.

The vice president and government officials then visited Hinthada Public Hospital and looked around medical wards and an operating theatre.—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw meets State Councillor and Secretary General of China’s State Council

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received State Councillor and Secretary General of the China’s State Council Mr Yang Jing and party at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, on Tuesday.

They exchanged views on bilateral ties and cooperation between Myanmar and China. Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen Thura U Aye Myint, U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Swe and U Hla Myint Oo, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Chinese delegation was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan.—MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with State Councillor and Secretary General of China’s State Council Mr Yang Jing.—MNA
**Farming workshop promotes climate-friendly agriculture**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May—A climate-friendly agriculture (CFA) course began at the agricultural station in Kyaukchet village in Zeyathiri Township on 11 May morning.

Department of Agriculture Deputy Director U Htin Aung Shein gave lectures on water conservation and grass management, use of natural fertilizers, selection of quality seeds and protection of farmers’ rights.

Altogether 39 trainees are attending the course until 15 May.—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myaw)

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**Erosion destroys bridge on Mohnyin-Kadu laterite road**

MOHNYIN, 12 May—The 40-foot-long Okkhon-Pyin Bridge on Mohnyin-Kadu laterite road in Kachin State was destroyed by erosion of the creek one year after its completion.

As the authorities have not yet built a new bridge, local residents will face transport difficulties in the coming rainy season. “An engineer from Township Development Affairs Committee built the bridge with K12.8 million from the Department of Rural Development, but the bridge and approach structures were eroded by the creek in the last monsoon,” a local resident said.

An official of the Department of Rural Development said it submitted a report on the loss of the bridge in erosion to the Kachin State Department of Rural Development.—GNLM-001

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**New library opens in Hinthada Township**

HINTHADA, 12 May—A new library opened in Kyetkaywaygyi Village, Hinthada Township, on 9 May.

Abbot of the village monastery U Pandita, Township Administrator U Tin Aung Win and Daw Aye Aye Mar of Hinthada District Information and Public Relations Department formally opened the Panditayama library.

Daw Aye Aye Mar of the district IPRD gave talks on development of the library while writers shared their knowledge about literary works.

Abbot Bhaddanta Pandita and local residents donated K7 million for construction of a 27-foot-long and 19-foot-wide library building.—Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

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**Roadwork for inter-village link reaches completion in Myeik Tsp**

MYEIK, 12 May—Myeik Township Department of Rural Development has completed construction of the Pathaung-Shantaung-Salun inter-village road.

The Township Department of Rural Development commissioned Yoe Mann Ah Company to build the road, providing K60.97 million for the task.

The road provides year-round access to Myeik, Taninthayi and Kyunsu townships.—Myint Oo (Myeik)

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**Shwehsandaw Pagoda Board of Trustees in Pyay, Bago Region, will hold 4th cash donation at the sacred tooth relic chamber on the platform on 24 May morning to spend the fund on maintenance of the pagoda, expansion of platform and construction of new Dhammayon. GNLM-017**

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Kachin State Gov’t to take action against contractors for unfinished construction works

Mohnyin, 12 May—The Kachin State government will take action against construction contractors that fail to complete projects satisfactorily, state finance minister U Nyunt Aung told district and Mohnyin Township departmental officials at a meeting on 7 May.

He said companies must take responsibility for damage they cause in the course of construction work, while government officials must submit reports to keep their superiors informed of the status of projects.

The minister said action would be taken against companies that do not finish projects within three months of the schedule completion date.

A 300-foot-long and 30-foot-wide reinforced concrete bridge for which the Kachin State government paid Thein Than Htay Company K1,049.7 million from the fiscal 2014-15 budget remains less than 50 percent complete, he said.

Likewise, another company has yet to rebuild two wooden bridges on Mohnyin-Kadu road that were eroded by creeks within a year of their construction.—GNLM-001

Students of Yezin University of Agriculture visit paddy, organic vegetable farms

Nyaungshwe, 12 May—A 110-member team comprising students and faculty members from Yezin University of Agriculture visited a farm owned by U Win Shwe in Tilaw village in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, on 10 May.

They viewed thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy for production of seeds, cultivation of organic vegetables, use of fertilizers and diverse paddy plantations.

Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Zaw Win Tun explained that the department is supplying hybrid paddy seeds to local farmers at fair prices. He added that organic vegetable plants are safer for consumers.

Nay Myo Thurein

Construction of inter-township roads depends on budget

Ayadaw, 12 May—Township authorities and departmental officials held a meeting on plans for construction of inter-township roads and bridges in fiscal 2016-16 in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region, on 7 May.

Staff Officer (Civil) U Lwin Myo Than discussed plans to build Myinnu-Ayadaw-Naunggyaing-Budalin and Monywa-Ayadaw-Shwebo roads for which K3.633 billion has been allocated.

Departmental officials emphasized the need for proper drainage along both sides of the inter-township roads.

Chairman of Township Development Committee U Tin Tun focused on construction of the local roads with conduits. District Engineer (Civil) Daw Hwe Nge Myint explained funds will be allotted for construction of roads and bridges depending on the budget in the coming fiscal year after holding meetings with construction companies.

Township IPRD

Fire brigade members receive uniforms

Zalun, 12 May—The Ayeyawady Region government provided uniforms to members of the auxiliary fire brigade in Zalun Township on 10 May.

At the Township General Administration Department, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Hla Khaing and Township Administrator U Tun Hsan Win presented 1,083 sets of uniforms to fire brigade members.

Ngwe Than (Township IPRD)

Vets provide eye drop vaccination for livestock

Dawei, 12 May—The government gives encouragement to development of poultry farming tasks to increase income of rural people.

Under the arrangement of Taninthayi Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, veterinarians administered the I1 eye drop to poultry to protect them from new cases of disease in rural areas.

A veterinarian team led by Head of Dawei District LBVBD Dr Tin Htay and Head of Launglon Township Department Dr Thein Zaw and staff provided the I1 eye drop free of charge to more than 2,500 hens in Wedi village and more than 3,500 hens in Sakhangyi village on 10 May.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)
Puerto Princesa City, (Philippines), 12 May — The Philippine military’s top priority is to build a naval base on the country’s western coastline, opposite the disputed Spratly islands, although the plans have been delayed by fund- ing bottlenecks. The Philippine armed forces chief told Reuters, General Gregorio Catapang, said US, Japanese and Vietnamese naval vessels would be allowed to make port calls once the facility at Oyster Bay on the Philippine island of Palawan was finished. Developing the island paradise into a military facility could exacerbate tensions with China, which claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, including the Spratlys. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also claim parts of the vital waterfront. Palawan, part of the main Philippine island chain, is about 160 km (100 miles) from the Spratlys, where China’s rapid land reclamation around seven reefs is causing alarm among some Asian countries and drawing increasing criticism from Washington. “We feel this is the one number priority because of the emerging security situation,” Catapang said in an interview late on Monday at a military base in the Palawan capital, Puerto Princesa City, after taking reporters to a Philip- pine-held island in the Spratlys. “As soon as we have the money, we will pour re- sources there,” he said. China last month offered a detailed defence of its reclamation in the Spratlys, saying the new islands would provide civilian facilities such as weather forecasting and search and rescue facilities that would benefit other countries. Catapang said 800 million pesos ($18 million) was needed for the initial development of the naval facility and then 5 billion pesos to turn it into a major operating base. While plans had been drawn up, they were stalled by a lack of funds, he said. “There is nothing there yet, we are still constructing an access road and upgrad- ing the water and oil depots that would service ships. There’s still much work to do,” he said. Japan, which is helping Manila boost its maritime capabilities, might fund infrastructure around the base but not the facility itself, a Japanese source with knowledge of the plan said earlier this year. Washington has asked for access to Philippine military bases in eight locations to rotate troops, air- craft and ships for training as Washington shifts more of its forces to Asia, Cata- pang said last month. Security ties between the Philippines and Vietnam are also growing in light of China’s assertiveness. The Philippine navy has said it planned to base two former US Coast Guard cutters at Oyster Bay, a sheltered cove within the much larger Ulugan Bay, once the facil- ity was finished. — Reuters

Four killed, buildings collapse in fresh Nepal earthquake

KATHMANDU, 12 May — At least four people were killed in a central Nepal town on Tuesday after a 7.3 earthquake shook the Himalayan nation, just weeks after a devastating temblor killed more than 8,000 people and dam- aged hundreds of thousands of buildings. The four people died in Chautara in Sindhupalchowk district, north of the capital Kathmandu, after several buildings collapsed, a spokesman for the International Organization for Migration said.

Separately, a district official there said 12 people had been injured in Sindhupalchowk, which suffered the heaviest death toll in last month’s quake. The new temblor also triggered at least three big landslides in the district.

“The latest earthquake has left us shaken. I am still trem- bling,” said the official, Diwakar Koirala. The US Geological Survey said Tuesday’s earthquake was centred 68 km (about 42 miles) west of the town of Namche Baz- zar, close to Mount Everest and the border with Tibet. A magni- tude 7.3 quake, it was felt as far apart as New Delhi and Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

Residents in the Indian town of Siliguri, near the border with Nepal, said chunks of concrete fell off one or two buildings. People in Kathmandu, pan- icking-striken after the 25 April quake, rushed outdoors, Reuters reporters said.

Parents could be seen clutching children tightly and hundreds of people were frantically trying to call relatives on their mobile phones. Shopkeepers closed their shops and the streets were jammed with people rushing to check on their families.

“I’m heading straight home,” said Bishal Rai, a man in his 20s, who said he was trying to contact his family in the north of the cap- ital. The quake’s epicenter was about 117 people stranded in trekking villages after quake

The Nepali army has rescued 117 people from three remote mountain villages north of the capital Kathmandu, including two US citizens who had been searching for a missing relative, a military official said on Tuesday.

The 115 Nepalis and two Americans were evacuated on Monday from Syangjan, Beni and Langtang Village, where hundreds of people were killed in a huge landslide and avalanche triggered by last month’s earth- quake. All of those rescued were stranded in the three popular trek- ing villages in Rasuwa district, about 60 km (35 miles) north of Kathmandu, after the 7.8 earth- quake struck on 25 April, killing at least 8,046 people and injured more than 17,800.

A series of avalanches and bad weather in the area had slowed the military’s efforts to reach those cut off.

“The entire Langtang Valley has turned Into a rocky and snowy ruin due to avalanches,” Uddhav Bhattacharai, Rasuwa’s dis- trict administrator, told Reuters.

On Sunday, the continuing avalanche risk led officials to suspend their search for some 200 bodies believed to be bur- ied beneath the rock and snow in Langtang Village. As of Monday, 128 bodies had been recovered there.

“Rescuers have been unable to go there to look for bodies since the weekend because aval- anches continue to fall and make it dangerous,” Bhattacharai said.

The US citizens rescued on Monday were with a Nepali guide, a military official said, and were brought to the district cap- ital of Dhunche along with the Nepalis who were rescued.

Reuters

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Serbia not interfering in others’ internal affairs

BELGRADE, 12 May — Serbia does not interfere in internal affairs of other countries, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic told Belgrade-based daily Danas.

Asked to comment on the situation in Macedonia, Vucic said: “We do not interfere in other countries’ internal affairs.”

The village Divo in Kumanovo, northern Macedonia, saw clashes between Macedonian armed forces and terrorists last week, following an attack on police officers carried out by Albanian terrorists.

In a two-day operation by the Macedonian police forces, eight officers lost their lives, as well as 14 terrorists, while more than 37 policemen were wounded. Macedonian officials stated on Sunday evening that “the most dangerous terrorist group in the region has been eliminated.”

Also, as of 5 May, street protests have been held in several Macedoni-an towns, as the opposition demands the resignation of Prime Minister Gruevski.

Third blogger hacked to death in Bangladesh — police

DHAKA, 12 May — A blogger was hacked to death by machete-wielding attackers in Bangladesh on Tuesday, the third killings of a critic of religious extremism in the Muslim-majority nation in less than three months.

Ananta Bijoy Das, a blogger who advocated secularism, was attacked by four assailants in the northeastern district of Sylhet on Tuesday morning, senior police official Mohammad Rahamatullah told Reuters. Rahamatullah said Das was a 33-year-old banker.

Das wrote for ‘Mukto Mon’ or ‘Free Mind’, a website propagating rationalism and opposing fundamentalism that was founded by US-based blogger Avijit Roy.

Roy himself was hacked to death in February while returning with his wife from a Dhaka book fair. His widow, Rafida Bonya Ahmed, suffered head injuries and lost a finger. In an interview with Reuters in the United States published on Mon-day, Ahmed called her husband’s killing “a global act of terrorism”.

Religious militants have targeted secularist writers in Bangladesh in recent years, while the government has tried to crack down on hardline Islamist groups seeking to make the South Asian nation of 160 million a shar-ia-based state.

On 30 March, Washiqur Rahman, another secular blogger who aired his outrage over Roy’s death on social me-dia, was killed in similar fashion on a busy street in the capital, Dhaka.

Their deaths followed the similar killing in 2013 of Ahmed Rajib Haider, who backed calls to im-pose the death penalty on Islamist leaders accused of atrocities in Bangladesh’s 1971 war of independence. Reuters

S Korea’s Park calls North’s missile launch “serious challenge”

SEOUL, 12 May — South Korean President Park Geun-hye expressed alarm on Tuesday over North Korea’s testing of a submarine-launched ballis-tic missile on the weekend, calling the move a “serious challenge” to stability on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia.

Park discussed North Korea’s missile launch in a meeting with senior aides in charge of foreign affairs and national security, and ordered “watertight preparedness” against Pyongyang’s military provoca-tions, the presidential office said.

Park was also quoted as saying that any military provocation from the North will be met with “stern punishment”.

Separately, the South Korean Foreign Ministry urged North Korea to honor the UN Security Coun-cil resolution banning the North from launching bal-listic missiles.

North Korea said on Saturday it successfully test-launched a ballistic missile from a submerged submarine.

The North Korean move has raised concerns in South Korea that Pyongyang could deploy SLBMs in a year or two after completing the last stages of de-velopment.

“North Korea should faithfully abide by the UN Security Council resolu-tion,” South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said during a Press conference.

The UN Security Council adopted a resolu-tion in 2006 condemning North Korea’s nuclear tests and banning it from launch-ing ballistic missiles.

South Korea is “mulling various responses with its allies, including the US” over the North’s mili-tary action, Noh said.

Kyodo News

US announces plan to station Osprey aircraft at Tokyo base

WASHINGTON, 12 May — The US military will deploy CV-22 Osprey transport aircraft at Yokota Air Base in a Tokyo suburb beginning in 2017, the Defense Department said on Monday.

The first deployment, on the Japanese mainland of the tilt-rotor aircraft, cur-rently used only in Okina-wa, is expected to meet opposition from residents living near the base amid lingering concerns over the aircraft’s safety.

The US military plans to send three CV-22s to Yokota in the second half of 2017 and seven others by 2021, according to the department.

“The CV-22 Osprey is a highly advanced aircraft with unique capabilities and an excellent operational safety record,” the Pentagon said.

The deployment re-flects Washington’s “stead-fast commitment to defend Japan” and to put its most advanced technologies for-ward as part of the policy of rebalancing in the Asia-Pa-cific region, it said.

In Tokyo, Japanese Cabinet ministers on Tues-day stressed the importance of the deployment and sought to allay public fears.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a news conference that the deploy-ment will “lead to boosting the deterrence of the Japan-US alliance and also contribute to peace and sta-bility in the Asia-Pacific re-gion.”

In a nod to the senti-ments of local residents, Kishida vowed that the government will “carefully explain” the deployment to local governments near the base and continue efforts to gain their consent.

In a separate Press confer-ence, Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said the CV-22 is safe to fly.

As part of efforts to ease public concerns, the central government began briefing local government officials about the matter on Tuesday.

“We have received explanations from the US side that night drills and low-al-titude training flights no lower than 150 metres will be conducted,” Nakatani said.

The Osprey has a record of serious accidents in-cluding fatalities. A Marine from the crew of an MV-22 was killed in an accident in October last year in the Per-sian Gulf after the aircraft apparently lost power sud-denly, according to the Pen-tagon. In 2012, crew mem-bers were killed and injured in two crashes involving the Osprey in Florida and Mo-roccon.

The US Marine Corps has already stationed 24 units of the MV-22 at the Futenma Air Station in the southwestern Japan island of Okinawa.

The Japanese govern-ment has already said the Ground Self-Defense Force will procure 17 of the Os-prey aircraft mainly to en-hance defence capability in remote islands.

The US military had originally considered sta-tioning the CV-22 at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa but the US and Japanese governments have decided that there is a need to lessen the burden on the island prefecture. Home to the bulk of US forces in Japan, Okinawa has yet to resolve a long-stalled plan to relo-cate the Futenma base to a less crowded area but still within Okinawa.

The local government and community remain op-posed to the Japan-US ac-cord on Futenma relocation and want the base outside Okinawa.—Kyodo News

Photo taken in July 2014 shows the US military’s CV-22 Osprey transport aircraft leaving Yokota Air Base in Tokyo suburb, Japan.

Source: Kyodo News
A short introduction to Community Colleges in some countries

By Sayar Mya

Community Colleges across the world

A community college is a type of educational institution. The term can have different meanings in different countries.

Australia

In Australia, the term community college is not used. Analogous to community colleges are colleges or institutes of Technical and Further Education (TAFEs); institutions mostly regulated at state and territory level. There are also an increasing number of private providers of varying social esteem; often these are colloquially called “colleges”.

TAFEs and other providers carry on the tradition of adult education, which was established in Australia around mid 19th century when evening classes were held to help adults enhance their numeracy and literacy skills. The majority of Australian universities can also be traced back to such forerunners, although obtaining a university charter has always changed their nature. In TAFEs and colleges today, courses are designed for personal development of an individual and/or for employment outcomes. Educational programs cover a variety of topics such as arts, languages, business and lifestyle; and are usually timetabled to be conducted in the evenings or weekends to accommodate people working full-time. Funding for colleges may come from government grants and course fees; and many are not-for-profit organizations. They are located in metropolitan, regional and rural locations of Australia.

Learning offered by TAFEs and colleges has changed over the years. By the 1980s many colleges had recognized a community need for computer training and since then thousands of people have been up-skilled through IT courses. The majority of colleges by the late 20th century had also become Registered Training Organizations; recognizing the need to offer individuals a nurturing, non-traditional education venue to gain skills that would better prepare them for the workplace and potential job openings. TAFEs and colleges have not traditionally offered bachelor’s degrees, instead providing pathway arrangements with universities to continue towards degrees. The American innovation of the associate degree is emerging at some institutions. Certificate courses to IVO, diplomas and advanced diplomas are typically offered, the latter deemed equivalent to an undergraduate qualification, albeit typically in more vocational areas. Recently, some TAFE institutes and private providers have also become Higher Education providers in their own right and are now starting to offer bachelor degrees programs.

Canada

In Canada, the term community college is not widely used. There are 150 institutions that could be roughly equivalent of the US community college in certain contexts. They are usually referred to simply as “colleges” since in common usage a degree granting institution is almost exclusively a university. In the province of Quebec, even when speaking in English, all colleges are often incorrectly called Cégeps, the French acronym for the public system: “College d’enseignement général et professionnel”, meaning “College of General and Vocational Education”. The word College can also refer to a private High School in Quebec.

Colleges are educational institutions providing higher education and tertiary education, granting certificates, and diplomas. Associate’s degrees and bachelor’s degrees are granted by universities, but, in some courses of study, there may be an agreement between colleges and universities to collaborate on the education requirements toward a degree. Only in Western Canada is the term Associates degree used as a qualifier for a two-year part of Canada a degree is usually attained as a 4 year study program, and to a much lesser degree now (except in Quebec, where it is the norm), in 3 years.

Each province has its own educational system reflecting the decentralization of the Canadian provinces and the flexibility of the education system. However, most of the colleges began in the mid-1960s to provide education and training for the then-emerging baby boom generation and for immigrants from around the world who were starting to enter the country.

Canadian community college systems

• Nova Scotia Community College
• New Brunswick Community College
• Red River Community College
• Ontario colleges
• College education in Quebec

India

In India, 98 community colleges are recognized by the University Grants Commission. The courses offered by these colleges are diplomas, advance diplomas and certificate courses. The duration of these courses usually range from six months to two years.

Malaysia

Community colleges in Malaysia are a network of educational institutions whereby vocational and technical skills training could be provided at all levels for school leavers before they entered the workforce. The community colleges also provide an infrastructure for rural communities to gain skills training through short courses as well as providing access to a post-secondary education.

At the moment, most community colleges award qualifications up to Level 3 in the Malaysian Qualifications Framework (MQF) (Certificate 3) in both the Skills sector (the Malaysian Skills Certificate) as well as the Vocational and Training sector. However, the numbers of community colleges that are starting to award Level 4 qualifications (Diplomas) are increasing. This is two levels below a Bachelor’s degree (Level 6 in the MQF) and students within the system who intend to further their studies to that level will usually seek entry into Advanced Diploma programs in public universities, polytechnics or accredited private providers.

Community colleges in other countries

In the United Kingdom, except for Scotland, a community college is a school which not only provides education for the school age population (11–18) of the locality, but also additional services and education to adults and other members of the community. This education is often referred to as lifelong learning, but is not limited to sports, adult literacy and lifestyle education. Usually at the age of 16 when students finish their secondary school studies, they move on to a sixth form college where they study for their A-levels (although some secondary schools have integrated sixth forms). After the 2 year A-level period, they may then proceed to a college of further education or a university.

United States

In the United States, community colleges, sometimes called junior colleges, technical colleges, two-year colleges, or city colleges, are primarily two-year public institutions providing higher education and lower-level tertiary education, granting certificates, diplomas, and associate’s degrees. Many also offer continuing and adult education. After graduating from a community college, some students transfer to a four-year liberal arts college or university for two to three years to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Before the 1970s, community colleges in the United States were more commonly referred to as junior colleges, and that term is still used at some institutions. However, the term “junior college” has evolved to describe private two-year institutions, whereas the term community college has evolved to describe publicly funded two-year institutions. The name derives from the fact that community colleges primarily attract and accept students from the local community, and are often supported by local tax revenue.

(To be continued)
National Council for Road and Traffic Safety meets

Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at coordination meeting of National Council for Road and Traffic Safety.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief visits Serbian president, 204th Air Brigade

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Serbian President Mr Tomislav Nikolic at his office at the Novi dvor on Monday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed maintaining good relations between the two countries and promotion of bilateral ties.

Mr Nikolic also expressed appreciation for Myanmar’s assistance whenever it was needed.

Myanmar and Serbia established diplomatic relations in 1950.

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbia Mr Bratislav Gasic welcomed the visiting Myanmar commander-in-chief at the parade ground of the ministry before a discussion on military ties between the two countries.

Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw and Serbian State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Mr Joran Djordjevic signed an agreement to promote relations between the two militaries.

The senior general and party visited the booth of Yugoimport Company in Nikinci and viewed artillery and tanks.

Head of Development Division Mr Mamir Djurkovic hosted a lunch on to the senior general and party.

Gov’t troops control three more hill posts of Kokang insurgents

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May—Offensive attacks of government troops could seize three important hill posts of Kokang insurgents on Monday and Tuesday.

The insurgents took positions at the eastern hills of Mar Lu village before they were attacked by the military in the first week of April.

The government troops controlled Point 1607 and Point 1709 on Monday, and Point 1742 on the following day. After the attacks, seven bodies of Kokang insurgents were found together with weapons and ammunition, while some soldiers were killed and some senior military officers were injured.

The military sources said that the government troops are following the insurgents to be able to restore peace and stability in Laukkai area.—Myawady

Union minister meets special adviser to Japanese PM

Yangon, 12 May—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint who is also Chairman of the Dawei Special Industrial Zone Projects Implementation Committee, held talks with Mr Hiroto Izumi, special adviser to the Japanese Prime Minister at the Prime Hill Business Square on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, on Tuesday.

They discussed participation of Japan in Dawei SEZ Development Company Ltd (Special Purpose Vehicle-SPV) established by Myanmar and Thailand, sending of two experts by JICA to SPV, feasibility studies for construction of a highway from the SEZ to Myanmar-Thai border, assistance of Japan for drawing an engineering comprehensive strategic plan for Dawei SEZ, and soonest signing of the Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with participation of Myanmar, Thailand and Japan in implementation of SEZ.

Myanmar, Singapore to cooperate in legal affairs

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May—The Emerging Offences Workshop, jointly organized by the office of the Attorney-General of the Union and the Singapore’s Attorney-General, kicked off at Royal ACE Hotel, here, on Tuesday.

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and Singapore’s Attorney-General Mr VK Rajah, SC spoke on the occasion.

In the afternoon, they held talks at the office of the Attorney-General of the Union. Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin spoke about organization setup of the office of the Attorney-General of the Union, advocate-general offices in regions and states, plan to send outstanding law officers to Singapore to make further studies, and cooperation in legal affairs between Myanmar and Singapore.

The Singapore’s Attorney-General explained functions of his office in detail.—MNA
IMF mission, Serbian government reach agreement

Belgrade, 12 May—
The IMF mission and the Serbian government reached on Monday an agreement to complete the first review of the precautionary Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) approved to Serbia.

The IMF mission has reached staff-level agreement with the Serbian authorities subject to approval by the IMF Management and Executive Board on the set of policies needed to complete the first review under the precautionary SBA, Zuzana Murgasova, IMF representative, told a press briefing.

The completion of the review will make available an additional EUR 146 million, although the Serbian authorities have indicated that they do not intend to draw the resources available under the arrangement, Murgasova said.

The economic outlook is somewhat improved, she said, stressing that the authorities’ steadfast implementation of sound economic policy and structural reforms is essential to foster robust growth in the coming years.

Fiscal performance in the first quarter of 2015 was fully in line with the programme targets, Murgasova said, adding that most of the fiscal consolidation measures underlying the 2015 budget have been implemented as planned.

The Serbian Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic expects positive economic growth to be achieved by the end of this year and May saying that the fiscal consolidation in Serbia has proceeded successfully so far. The “growth projections have been amended from minus 0.5 to zero. The fiscal consolidation is a difficult thing, but so far we have implemented it successfully and it is exceeding all expectations,” Vujovic told a Press conference in the Serbian government building after an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission concluded its official visit to Serbia.

Room is emerging for easing the monetary situation as a result of the success in the fiscal policy, Vujovic said, adding that room is also emerging for financial growth and job creation.

The IMF supports the programme of the Serbian government and the state deficit is below two percent at the end of the first quarter, Vujovic noted.

Privatization has been postponed one year for certain companies.

Vujovic stated that the government will respect the deadline for privatization on 31 May, but it will also allow postponement of this process for certain companies up to 31 October.

Vujovic told a news briefing that the government’s goal will be to carry out privatization in the shortest time possible, adding that privatization arrangements are being drafted for every company individually. “Every company is an extension of the state, and it is one of the main reasons Salman was skipping the summit was his dissatisfaction with Obama's diplomacy,” he told reporters in a pre-summit briefing.

The Saudi government said one of the main reasons Salman was skipping the summit was because it overlapped with a five-day humanitarian ceasefire in neighbouring Yemen. A Saudi-led coalition is waging a bombing campaign against Iran-allied Houthi rebels.

Britain will be constructive but firm with EU: Osborne

London, 12 May—
Britain will be constructive but firm with Europe, the new British government has promised, after Prime Minister David Cameron begins to appoint his cabinet on Monday about a potential increase of pensions and public sector salaries, and that the goal of the economic programme being implemented by Serbia is fiscal sustainability, which the government has achieved by cutting salary and pension expenditures over the medium term.

Under the cost cuts programme, the total salary and pension expenditures should be reduced to 7 percent and 11 percent, respectively, Murgasova said at a press conference with Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic.

Responding to questions about the possibility of salaries and pensions being restored to previous levels, Vujovic said that this will take some time to implement this, Murgasova said, adding that the implementation of all arrangements must continue in order to achieve these goals.

The government is fully committed to implementing the policy from its programme and we did not discuss any potential increase, Murgasova said.

Tanjug

US rejects notion that Gulf rulers snubbing Obama summit

Washington, 12 May—
The White House confirmed on Monday to counter perceptions that the Saudi king’s absence from a summit later this week could undermine US efforts to assure Gulf monarchs, while the others are expected to send lower-ranking officials.

King Salman’s abrupt decision to skip the US-hosted regional talks shows how Gulf rulers, displeased by what they see as US indifference to Iranian meddling in the Arab world, may hesitate to support any nuclear deal that President Barack Obama reaches with Teheran.

Some analysts and diplomats in the Middle East and Washington interpreted the decision to stay away from the meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat as a diplomatic snub, despite denials from US and Saudi officials.

Riyadh announced the monarch’s no-show on Sunday, only two days after the White House had said that Obama had spoken by phone to Salman on Monday, apparently trying to show that relations remained on a solid footing.

Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser, said the administration was convinced that the president would have said “the right group of people around the table” at Camp David. “These are the people responsible for the security portfolios,” he told reporters in a pre-summit briefing.

The Saudi government said one of the main reasons Salman was skipping the summit was because it overlapped with a five-day humanitarian ceasefire in neighbouring Yemen. A Saudi-led coalition is waging a bombing campaign against Iran-allied Houthi rebels.

The leading Gulf Arab power has complained for years that Washington does not take its concerns seriously. It thinks a focus on settling the dispute over Teheran’s nuclear programme has distracted the United States from more urgent problems and raised questions about broader security commitments to the region.

Seeking to reassure the Gulf allies, White House officials said on Monday that the summit would produce announcements on integrating ballistic missile defence systems and increasing joint military exercises.—Reuters
Saudi-led air strikes hit Yemen capital hours before ceasefire

CAIRO, 12 May — Saudi-led air strikes pounded the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Tuesday, hours before a five-day truce was set to begin between the alliance of Gulf Arab nations and the Iran-aligned Houthis militia which controls much of the country.

Residents said three air strikes hit a base for army units loyal to the Houthis in the north of the capital, sending up a column of smoke.

In the southern port of Aden, witnesses said the alliance bombed Houthi positions, and local armed groups were still fighting the rebels in the city and throughout Yemen’s south. On Monday, they also exchanged heavy artillery fire on the border.

Backed by Washington, the Saudi-led coalition has been bombing Houthi rebels and allied army units since 26 March with the aim of restoring exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The ceasefire was set to take effect at 11 pm to allow the shipment of food and medicine to the blockaded country, which aid groups warn faces a humanitarian catastrophe.—Reuters

Drought-hit Southern Africa at risk of food shortage — WFP

Zimbabwean women harvest maize from a field in a peri-urban suburb of Mbareka in Harare, on 10 April, 2014.—Reuters

UNITED NATIONS, 12 May — A UN attempt to work out a ban on nuclear weapons in the Middle East was in jeopardy after Egypt complained on Monday about the lack of progress and demanded the resignation of the Finnish coordinator of the initiative.

Western officials said Arab proposals drafted by Egypt for a major non-proliferation conference at United Nations headquarters in New York could torpedo the process and push Israel away.

Israel neither confirms nor denies the widespread assumption that it controls the Middle East’s only nuclear capability. It insists the programme is peaceful. It was negotiating with world powers to curb its enrichment drive.—Reuters

Middle East nuclear weapons ban proposal stumbles at UN

Brussels, 12 May — About 5.1 million Syrians are living in areas at high risk from explosive weapons, some of which fail to detonate and so will pose a deadly threat for years to come, aid group Handicap International said.

The global charity examined 78,000 violent incidents in Syria’s war between December 2012 and March 2015 and found that more than 80 percent involved highly destructive weapons like rockets, mortars and bombs, rather than light arms. “Syria will inherit the deadly legacy of explosive weapons for years,” said Anne Garella, Regional Coordinator of Handicap International.

The conflict is in its fifth year, having killed more than 220,000 people, according to a UN estimate. More than 1.5 million people have been injured, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an organization that monitors the war.

Diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a political solution have been stalemated where. A range of insurgent groups have been battling the Syrian military and allied fighters. US-led air forces have been bombing harshly hardline Islamic State militants since last summer.

The Handicap International study found that three-quarters of the incidents it recorded took place in populated areas like larger towns and cities.

“This suggests that bellicons have no intention of effectively distinguishing between civilians and combatants — which constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law,” said the group, which provides aid to disabled people in conflict and disaster zones.

The heavily-populated western provinces of Aleppo, Deraa, Homs, Lilib and Rural Damascus were the most affected, the study found. The research was based on news reports, social media and data from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.—Reuters
**US returns stolen Hanuman monkey god statue to Cambodia**

Pravuth Chhun, 12 May — The United States on Tuesday returned to Cambodia a statue of Hanuman, the Hindu monkey god, that was looted from the Southeast Asian country decades ago.

At the hand-over ceremony, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sok An said the statue was taken from Prasat Chen temple at the Koh Ker historic site in Preah Vihear Province, his body brutally severed from the pedestal.

It was then transported across the border, shipped to Europe and taken to the United States.

According to Sok An, the Hanuman will join five other Koh Ker statues recently returned from the United States, including the Duryodhana statue from Sotheby’s in New York which decided to settle the case after almost two years of legal battle.

Sok An noted that no single country can fight alone against the illicit trade and transfer of ownership of cultural property, saying that joint international efforts are required in tackling such cases that require complex exercise.

Kong Vireak, director of the National Museum of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, said the statue will be sent to the museum on Wednesday for public display.

He said that since 1996, about 60 statue pieces have been returned to Cambodia from different countries and individuals after they were looted during the civil war that lasted from the late 1960s through 1990s.

Chan Tani, Cambodian secretary of state of the Office of the Council of Ministers, said, “The voluntary return of the Hanuman demonstrates the Cleveland Museum of Art’s sensitivity to the importance of Koh Ker to the Cambodian people.”

He said the development also “highlights the serious looting that has occurred in our country.”

When asked how many Cambodian statues remain in the United States, he said there are many but could not give a specific number.

William Griswold, director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, said at the ceremony, “We are pleased to welcome a new chapter in our long collaboration with Cambodia.”

*Kyodo News*
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electric Power
Myanmar Electric Power Project (MEPP)
Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: Myanmar Power Sector Study of Electricity Tariffs and Subsidies Mechanisms
Reference No.: MEPE CS-4

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of increasing capacity and efficiency of gas fired power generation and strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Electric Power.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include study of Myanmar Power Sector study of Electricity Tariffs and Subsidies Mechanisms over a period of 12 (Twelve) months.

The Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the above Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The short-listing criteria are:

(i) The interested consultants should have previous experience in the area of electricity tariffs design, analysis and modeling;
(ii) A minimum of 10 years of experience in carrying out consulting services as a consulting firm in the field of assignment; and
(iii) At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 10 years.


Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection Method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 16:00 hours of 02 June, 2015.

Attention:

Director General
Department of Electric Power (DEP)
Street Address: Building No. 27, Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) Floor/Ground No.: Ground Floor ZIP Code: 15011 Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Tel: +95 (67) 410256 Fax: +95 (67) 410256 Email: ecoplandep@gmail.com

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13TH MAY, 2015: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be scattered in Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State, isolated in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

Mt Hakone’s volcanic tremor area streamed live online

Tokyo, 12 May — Volcanic earthquakes continued at Mt Hakone southwest of Tokyo on Monday, while a local government started online streaming from a camera installed in the Owakudani hot springs area subject to an evacuation advisory. The Kanagawa prefectural government said it is responding to requests from tourists and citizens by making a video feed public through a link on its government website from a camera set up by a nature conservation center for the management of an Owakudani trail. An alert for a possible steam eruption remains in effect in Owakudani. By 3 pm, the number of volcanic earthquakes in the area totaled 36 on Monday, including one quake perceptible to humans. On Sunday, a total of 206 volcanic earthquakes were logged, the highest number ever recorded in one day, including six tremors strong enough for people to feel, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.
Lena Dunham stars in Taylor Swift’s ‘Bad Blood’

LOS ANGELES, 12 May — Actress Lena Dunham will be seen in pop star Taylor Swift’s upcoming video of her latest single “Bad Blood”.

On Sunday, hours after revealing that Hailee Steinfeld would play The Trinity in the video, Swift tweeted that Dunham would appear as Lucky Fiori.

Swift, 25, and 28-year-old Dunham’s best friendship is a known fact.

The singer recently said in an interview that she wrote “You Are In Love” about Dunham’s relationship with Jack Antonoff. —PTI

US actor Tom Hanks walks as he arrives for the photocall of the movie ‘Inferno’ in downtown Florence on 11 May, 2015. —REUTERS

Florence, (Italy), 12 May — Tom Hanks reprises the role of Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon in the film version of Dan Brown’s thriller “Inferno,” unlocking more mysterious codes as the world-famous character he describes as “the smartest guy in the room.”


The plot sees Langdon follow a trail of clues about the poet in a race to save the world’s population from a deadly artificial plague.

Principal photography has begun on the film as production gets under way in Italy, with many of the scenes being shot in many of Florence’s most renowned buildings and piazzas.

“I like it because... there is a degree of mystery and at the same time a great amount of predictability that goes along with it,” Hanks said during a photo call for the film in Florence on Monday.

Hanks compared the role of Langdon to playing Sherlock Holmes.

“...As a selfish actor, I don’t mind playing the smartest guy in the room. I don’t get to play the toughest guy, I don’t get to play the best-looking or... the tallest, but I do get to play the smartest guy in the room as Robert Langdon.” —Reuters

Tom Hanks returns as symbolologist Robert Langdon in ‘Inferno’

Actress Lena Dunham will be seen in pop star Taylor Swift’s upcoming video of her latest single “Bad Blood”. —PTI

Invitation for Open Tender (3/2015)

[TENDER NO. MPPE/JET AL/T/1 (2015 — 2016)]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET AL (282,000 bbl ± 10%) for the year 2015.

3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 26 - 5 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs


5. Tenders documents and details are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 11 - 5 - 2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(s) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Contact Phone No. 096-411487/411486/4111280

Claims Day Notice

MV DAI DUONG SUNRISE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVDAI DUONG SUNRISE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

Claims Day Notice

MV AMAL SERI VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AMAL SERI VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S F.H BERTLING CHARTERING & SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

Claims Day Notice

MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO (013E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO (013E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: THE SHIPPING CORP. OF INDIA LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice

MV KULNATEE VOY NO (03/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (03/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S KULNATEE CO
Phone No: 2301186

Claims Day Notice

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (101N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (101N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185
El Nino has emerged, Asia braces for crop damage

SYDNEY, 12 May— In 2009, the El Nino brought the worst drought in four decades to India. It razed wheat fields in Australia and damaged crops across Asia. Food prices surged. A closely watched forecast by Japan on Tuesday confirmed its return this year.

A strong El Nino will roar economies that are heavily dependent on agriculture, particularly India which is already reeling from bad weather. It would also unhinge supply chains of commodities such as rice, corn and palm oil. In fact, the heat is already up in some places in the Asia Pacific. “We’ve already been hit by a three-month dry spell. We could not plant anything since January. All of us here in Tauculen are praying for more rains,” said Benny Ramos, a rice farmer in North Cotabato in southern Philippines.

Prayers for rains in Asia, however, may not be answered as weather forecasts show an intensifying El Nino has set in.

The El Nino, or a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific, can lead to scorching weather across Asia and east Africa but heavy rains and floods in South America.

This year, the El Nino arrived in spring and is likely to continue into autumn, said the Japan Meteorological Agency, which was the first bureau to project the emergence of an El Nino in 2015.

Forecasts in May tend to be more accurate as weather models become more dependable here onwards, said Paul Deane, senior agricultural economist at ANZ Bank, Melbourne.

“We now are getting to a point that you start having more confidence in those models,” he said.

Grain prices have, however, not yet factored in the threat to supplies from an El Nino, largely because similar calls for bad weather in 2014 did not come to pass. In fact, good crops replenished stocks last year.

In the absence of a weather premium, prices of grains such as wheat and rice remain near multi-year lows. Wheat futures Wc1, down a fifth so far this year, are near five-year lows, while Asia rice RI-TBKN5-P1 is at its weakest since June.

The last El Nino led to tens of billions of dollars in economic damages in the Asia Pacific. This year, a strong El Nino could take an even bigger toll in certain countries, analysts said. For India, it would be a double whammy. — Reuters

US female rower readies for solo Pacific 
Ocean odyssey

WASHINGTON, 12 May—Sonya Baumstein lays in bed one sleepless night and wept softly as she pondered her upcoming attempt to cross the Pacific Ocean alone in a rowboat.

“I was just thinking about the fact that I’m going to be leaving everything that I love for a really long time,” Baumstein said of her planned 6,000-mile (9,600 km) odyssey. “And I don’t know the consequences.”

The 30-year-old from Port Townsend, Washington, has undertaken endurance feats in the past but her journey from Japan to San Francisco, expected to start around 18 May, is her most daunting adventure yet.

The four- to six-month trip is an endeavor no woman has ever accomplished solo. Despite 16 attempts to row solo across the Pacific, only two men have successfully completed the journey - Frenchmen Gerard d’Aboville in 1991 and Emmanuel Condore in 2005, according to Ocean Rowing Society records.

“Once she leaves Japan, the next person she’ll see will be in San Francisco,” said Andrew Cull, the journey’s operation manager. “Unless maybe someone in a fishing vessel stops by to say ‘Hi’ in the middle of the ocean.”

Baumstein will take off on her custom-made 23-foot (7 meters), 775-pound (350 kg) boat with 1,200 pounds (544 kg) of freeze-dried food, 180 high-carbohydrate drink supplements and a cache of olive oil that she will consume in hopes of retaining as much weight as possible.

The carbon and kevlar boat weighs in at a light 660 pounds (300 kg) and will have on board an electric water maker that desalinations seawater for drinking.

Baumstein, who was recruited as a rower by the University of Wisconsin-Madison before a car accident derailed her collegiate athletic career, expects to burn up 10,000 calories a day and has gained 40 pounds (18 kg) for the trip. Her bathroom on board will be a bucket.

She has a team that will aid her from land via satellite phone, she will be tracked by GPS, and will have an emergency beacon in case of trouble, but there will be no support vessel. She will be rowing up to 16 hours a day in a boat without a motor or sail.

“Sonya’s not crazy,” said Cull. “She’s driven. Maybe a little bit bullheaded. She gets an idea in her head and will do anything necessary to get it done.”

Baumstein has a master’s degree in non-profit management, yet Cull said she has spent three years doing nothing but preparing for the trip, which is funded largely by commercial sponsors.

“Only other woman to attempt to row from Japan to San Francisco was a Briton named Sarah Outen. But she was blown northward and after 149 days ended her 2013 journey in the Aleutian Islands.

That was her second attempt. A tropical storm damaged her boat so severely during her first try a year earlier that she had to abandon the trek.

Sonya Baumstein sits in her 23-foot (7.01 meter) carbon and kevlar solo rowboat in this handout picture courtesy of Andrew Cull in Port Townsend, Washington on 12 April, 2015. Reuters

USJ, JAL join hands to attract more visitors

Yoshiharu Ueki (L), president of Japan Airlines Co, and Glenn Gunpelle, chief executive officer of USJ Co, the operator of Universal Studios Japan, shake hands during a signing ceremony in Osaka on 11 May, 2015. Kyodo News

OSAKA, 12 May — The operator of Universal Studios Japan in Osaka and Japan Airlines Co said Monday they have formed a partnership to attract more visitors to the theme park and increase air passengers by making the most of USJ’s customer base and the airline’s flight network.

Under the partnership, JAL, which becomes the official airline of the amusement park, will sell package tours including airfares and tickets to shorten waiting times for some of USJ’s popular attractions.

JAL will also set up a lounge in the theme park and hold a “premium night” event on 24 September allowing its 2,400 customers exclusive access to the attractions.

USJ Co Chief Executive Officer Glenn Gunpelle said after a signing ceremony that JAL knows regional markets in Japan and the rest of Asia, where USJ is aiming to boost visitors. JAL President Yoshiharu Ueki said at a joint press conference that the partnership will enable the two companies to propose travel services with higher value. USJ also expressed hope to attract visitors to a planned new theme park in Okinawa, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Japan, through the tie-up with JAL. — Kyodo News

**Reuters**
Real staring down the barrel before Juve clash

LONDON, 12 May — Arsenal’s hopes of catching Manchester City for second place in the Premier League suffered a setback after a late Bafetimbi Gomis header, verified by goalline technology, handed Swansea City a 1-0 win at the Emirates on Monday. Substitute Gomis struck five minutes from time, meeting Jefferson Montero’s cross with a header that crossed the line before it was scooped up by keeper David Ospina, the goal confirmed almost immediately to the referee by the goalline technology system.

Arsenal, who have three games left to play, remain on 70 points, three points behind City who have two games left and sit in pole position for automatic entry to next season’s Champions League group stage.

Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski frustrated his former side, the Poland international making several good saves in the second half to thwart the home side.

Arsenal, unchanged for fifth successive game, had rarely tested Fabianski in a tepid opening half.

It took almost an hour for Arsenal to muster their first shot on target with Olivier Giroud shooting straight at Fabianski. Olivier Giroud shooting

Barring an early loss in Rome, Nadal should manage to stay in the top eight but the possibility of a quarter-final meeting with Murray, Djokovic or world number two Roger Federer looms.

Madrid could see their last chance of silverware slip away if they are unable to overturn a 2-1 deficit in Wednesday’s Champions League semi-final, second leg at home to Juventus.”

Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after missing a chance to score against Valencia during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, on 9 May, 2015.

Reuters

Spain’s Rafael Nadal looks up during the coin toss before his final match against Britain’s Andy Murray at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, on 10 May, 2015. — Reuters

London, 12 May — Rafa Nadal’s slide down the ATP rankings means if he wins a record-extending 10th French Open title early next month it would go down as one of the greatest achievements of his illustrious career.

The Spaniard dropped three places to seventh on Monday as a consequence of his 6-3, 6-2 drubbing at the hands of Britain’s Andy Murray in the final of the Madrid Masters the previous day.

And with another 600 points to defend at this week Rome Masters, the 28-year-old could fall to his lowest ranking for 10 years by the time play begins at Roland Garros on 24 May.

Not since April 2005, just before his maiden French title, has Nadal been lower than seventh.

The Spaniard insisted after losing to Murray that he was beginning to feel the “old sensations” again after struggling to find his best form in the wake of the wrist injury and appendicitis issues that undermined him last year.

But the fear factor that once inhibited opponents on the red clay appears to have disappeared.

“Above all we need to deliver trophies on a regular basis. An exodus of players is also a possibility, with local media speculating that top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo and captain and goalkeeper Iker Casillas could be on their way. Real’s hopes of getting past Juventus into June’s showpiece in Berlin hinge on cutting out the errors and inconsistency that have dogged them in recent weeks. Injuries have also played their part and Ancelotti is hoping to have France striker Karim Benzema back for the clash at the Bernabeu, while a suspected injury to Germany midfielder Toni Kroos on Saturday looks to have been nothing more than a scare.

“Above all we need to keep a cool head, be patient, and not go crazy,” defender Dani Carvajal, who conceded the penalty Carlos Tevez converted to win the first leg, said on Real’s website on Monday.

Wednesday, 13 May, 2015

Tepid Arsenal sunk by late Gomis header

President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw presents K 20 million to silver medalist players of Myanmar women’s football team on 11 May. Chairman of Victory Committee for Women’s Football Sports Zwekabin F.C. owner U Hla Htay also awards USD 3,100 to the players.— MFF

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