President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Bulgarian, Hellenic, Czech Ambassadors

UN statement says 200 boat people rescued in Myanmar waters are believed to be young Bangladeshis

Study seeks Yangon residents’ views on city heritage

Red tape stalls EU-backed development project for Myanmar aquaculture industry
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses settlement of land confiscation disputes

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Tuesday was overwhelmed with the implementation of the report of the investigating commission to prevent losses from confiscation of farmland and other types of land.

Representative of U Aung Thein Lin said that it is necessary to confiscate land after issuing land confiscation orders and compensating land owners for their land at the prevailing prices, adding that land that is not used for permitted purposes must be confiscated while confiscated land must also be returned to former owners if it is not used for the purpose of confiscation.

Representative U Khin Maung Yi discussed that the process for returning land lacks transparency and timeframe for the settlement of land confiscation disputes should be set. In addition the representative pointed out that state and region governments are compensating for land differently and standards should be set for land compensation.

Representative U Hla Swe was of the view that a few areas of land that have not been returned to former owners in Magway Region should be returned to them.

MNA

Ministry of Health provides snake anti-venom to rural health centres, station hospitals

Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May — The Ministry of Health has distributed snake anti-venom to rural hospitals and health centres for treatment of farmers and residents during growing season, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Tuesday, at the 52nd-day session of the Lower House.

The deputy minister explained the distribution of anti-venom in reply to Dr Win Myint of Maungyang constituency, who asked about management of foreign aid for snakebite treatment.

Dr Win Myint said Myanmar Pharmaceutical Enterprise, under the Ministry of Industry, is receiving technical assistance and materials from the WHO, Australia and Brazil for production of anti-venom. U Myint Thein of Mya Don Constituency asked about modernization of railroads and whether new coaches from Japan would be operated on the Mawlamyine-Ye route. Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung said priority is being given to improvement of Yangon’s circular railroad and other high-usage routes and there is no plan to use new Japanese coaches on the Mawlamyine-Ye section.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Govt monitoring, assisting ethnic armed groups in line with peace deal

Deputy Minister at the President Office U Aung Thein.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May — Authorities are monitoring the Karen National Union and other ethnic armed groups and cooperating with them in accordance with an agreement between the government and the armed groups, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Aung Thein told the Amyotha Hluttaw session on Tuesday.

The deputy minister gave the explanation in response to a question from a representative on whether authorities have a plan to monitor activities of the KNU, which is cooperating with the government for peace, in their areas.

Authorities will raise objections over activities that contravene conditions of the peace deal, the main national causes of the Tatmadaw, and the rule of law and security, according to the deputy minister.

In addition, the deputy minister said authorities are helping KNU troops by establishing farms for their resettlement.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Tha Htwe, in response to a question on increasing the budget for the Shweli (3) Hydro Power Project, said the ministry is discussing low-interest loans for the project from international financial institutions including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, since the government budget cannot accommodate the K150 billion needed for the project every year.

The deputy minister also added that road and bridges are also being re-inforced to transport large machinery for the project.

In response to a question about eucalypt cultivation, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung said eucalypt is economically beneficial, as it can be turned into plywood within five years and can be used for firewood, charcoal and other needs.

The deputy minister pointed out that the tree can contribute to greening projects as it grows quickly and can be cultivated on unfertile land, adding that advantages and disadvantages of the tree will be disseminated through the media and talks.

MNA

UN statement says 200 boat people...

(from page 1)

Mr. Maung Maung Ohn, and other representatives from the State government, as well as under-took a visit to Ale Than Kyaw Village to inspect the situation of the disem-barked migrants.

The UN commended both the Union Government of Myanmar and Rakhine State Government for the important rescue of over 200 migrants in Myanmar wa-ters on 21 May. Of these rescued migrants it is believed that 200 are young Bangladeshi males, 19 of whom were minors between 15-17 years of age. The migrants were taken ashore by the Myanmar Navy, and provided food, water, and temporary accom-modation by the Myanmar government, local community, and Myanmar Red Cross Society, with support from the UN and INGOs.

Mr. Nambiar recognized that the rescue had been undertaken with great seriousness and respecti-vity of the nationality of the stranded migrants. The Myanmar government was urged to continue the search and rescue opera-tions as there are believed to be many more migrants still stranded at sea. Both sides discussed the seri-ousness of the situation of migrant smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration affecting both Myanmar and the broader region. They agreed on the need for concerted action against the brokers and criminal syndicates involved in perpetrating such activities throughout the region. The UN has offered support to the government of Myanmar to address these issues and both sides agreed of the importance of tackling these challenges both nationally but also at the regional level. The UN therefore welcomed the confirmation that the Government of Myanmar will participate in the Regional Meeting to be held in Bangkok on 29 May to discuss this issue and to identify areas for regional cooperation.

Inevitably, much me-dia attention has been fo-cused on conditions in the countries of origin of these migrants as well as the root causes leading to people to undertake such dangerous journeys by sea. The UN appreciates the recent improvements in the conditions in Rakhine, includ-ing efforts to improve the situa-tion of the IDPs. The Government has started to enable IDPs to return to their places of origin and is assisting with livelihood enhancement, health and education. The Government is requesting the UN and international community for assistance to help scale up the ongoing im-provements, both for the IDPs and for all people of Rakhine State.

Notwithstanding these welcome improve-ments, more work needs to be done to address the daily issues of discrimina-tion, restricted freedom of movement, and depriv-a-tion of fundamental rights faced by the IDPs and other Muslim populations.

The UN Delegation emphasized that the citi-zenship process and legal status, in particular, need urgent and comprehen-sive solutions, not only in Rakhine State, but also for other groups in My-anmar. The UN reiterated that efforts to address these rights need to be combined with concerted measures to urgently ramp up development initiatives for all commu-nities of Rakhine State so that the critical chal-lenges facing the state of extreme poverty, depriva-tion and exclusion are tackled through a compre-hensive approach.
President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Mr Pericles Boutos, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Mr Jaroslav Dolecek, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Czech Republic.—MNA

Bangladeshi boat people want to go back home as soon as possible

Deputy Director-General U Wai Lwin Than of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Taungpyo Letwe, 26 May—Bangladeshi boat people temporarily provided shelter on humanitarian grounds at temporary relief camp in Ale Thanyaw Village were relocated to a temporary relief camp in Taungpyo Letwe Township on Monday so that they can be repatriated to their country more conveniently, according to U Wai Lwin Than, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deputy Director U Saw Naing of Maungtaw District Immigration and National Registration Department said the Bangladeshi consul asked the addresses and phone numbers of the boat people and checked whether they are Bangladesh citizens.

On Tuesday morning, Bangladeshi Consul Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman and an assistant consul interviewed the boat people at the temporary camp to make sure that they were Bangladesh citizens by checking whether their addresses were correct.

The Bangladeshi consul confirmed that all 200 boat people were from Bangladesh. They said they wanted to go back home as soon as possible.

Min Min Zaw (MNA); Photos: Maung Po Htaung

Red tape stalls EU-backed...

(from page 1)

U Tun Hein who is also chairman of Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association, blamed “red tape” for the continued delay in forming the committee.

Given that the EU explicitly asked the Myanmar side to form the committee as a requisite for the project, it should be assembled as soon as possible, he added.

The committee will be comprised of representatives from the MFF, Fisheries Department and academics from universities connected with marine science studies in Myanmar, according to discussions at the MFF’s regular Tuesday meeting.

“We are working to develop the new project, funded as part of a 1 billion euro EU aid package to Myanmar, as aquaculture is very important for Myanmar,” EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia told The GNLM earlier this month.

Since admitting Myanmar to its Generalized System of Preferences in 2013, the EU has become an important market for the country’s marine products, and wishes to help develop the country’s aquaculture sector in order to increase the volume of Europe-bound fisheries exports, he added.

Based on its studies of the country’s shrimp and fish farming operations, the EU suggested cultivation of saltwater tiger prawn, fresh-water shrimp farming and tilapia fish farming as key aquaculture businesses in Myanmar, the MFF said.

The MFF said the EU-backed project could also help Myanmar compensate for its decreasing sea catch and meet local demand for fish and prawn.

Along with funds for the aquaculture sector and technical assistance from EU experts, a training programme for more than 30 Myanmar youths is also included in the project, the federation added.
Construction of govt staff housing nears completion in Thazi Tsp

**THAZI, 26 May —** Ngwe Taung Oo and Yadana Bon Companies are constructing two housing complexes for government staff with funds from the Mandalay Region government near Kanswe Village in Thazi Township.

The three-storey buildings are each 102 feet long, 29 feet wide and 30 feet high.

The companies are trying to complete the construction tasks within the month.

Each building will have 12 two-bedroom apartments. — Maung Ko (Thazi)

Training course enhances capacity of sports officers

**MANDALAY, 26 May —** A training course for Instructors at Mandalay’s Sports and Physical Education Institute began here on 25 May.

Principal of the Institute, under the Sports and Physical Education Department, U Myo Myint Aung, introduced lecturers. Retired SPED director-general U Aung Din was among the speakers at the three-day course at the institute. — Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mobile clinic provides healthcare to residents in Tatkon Tsp

**TATKON, 26 May —** Secretary Daw Tin Tin Win of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) and medical officer Dr San San Hlaing of Myitta Sanyay Clinic of the association and party opened a mobile clinic in Shadaw Village, Tatkon Township, on 24 May to provide health care services to local residents.

The medical officer and party gave a talk on health knowledge to the residents at the Basic Education High School in the village.

The mobile clinic treated 290 local residents and provided nutritious foods to 109 older persons and 38 pregnant women. The chairperson of Ottara District MCWSC and officials provided necessary assistance to the mobile clinic.— Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Pageant finalists demonstrate talent in Mandalay

**MANDALAY, 26 May —** Finalists in the Miss Golden Land Myanmar pageant showed their skills in the talent contest section of the competition at Oriental House, here, on 25 May.

“We shortlisted 31 finalists from more than 670 entrants,” Chief Executive Officer Ko Wai Yam Aung of the Miss Golden Land Myanmar organization said. “We have trained them to be able to show their skills and talents in the contest.”

The 31 young women have been undertaking training, as well as taking part in philanthropic tasks and tourism promotion in Sagaing and Myinmu townships. — Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Farmers receive good price for summer paddy in 2015

**NATTALIN, 26 May —** Summer paddy plantations are thriving in Nattalin Township, Bago Region.

A local farmer said, “We grow paddy in the irrigated area of Taunggyo Dam. We spent K150,000 per acre on cultivation of summer paddy. Farmers spend K40,000 per acre for use of combine harvesters. Merchants are waiting for purchase of paddy.”

Paddy was sold at K380,000 per 100 baskets last year but this year’s price rose to K450,000 per 100 baskets.

The Yadana Toe paddy strain yielded 130 baskets per acre. Nattalin Township has planted paddy on 1,200 acres of farmland. — Kyemon-071

Storm victims receive donations of cash, supplies

**MYINGYAN, 26 May —** A ceremony to donate cash and necessities to people whose homes were damaged by storm was held at Basic Education Primary School in Shwebontha Village, Myintmya Township, Mandalay Region, on 23 May.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan presented K50,000 and assistance to each house.

Powerful winds hit Nabuaing, Chaungle, Shwebontha, Myintma and Kanchaw villages on 17 May. So far, repairs to schools damaged by the strong winds are at 90 percent completion.

The ceremony was also attended by deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung, Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung, Deputy Director U Aye Myint of Township Development Affairs Committee and officials. — Zaw Min Naing (Myintma)

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Cambodian parliament chief urges citizens to join fight against corruption

**Phnom Penh, 26 May** — President of the Cambodian National Assembly Heng Samrin on Tuesday called on Cambodian people to actively join the fight against corruption, which is a major obstacle to socio-economic development. **Xinhua**

He said the workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to understand the progress of the Anti-Corruption Law and to exchange views and experiences in preventing and eliminating corruption in the country. "The National Assembly and the Senate have played an important role in fighting against corruption through passing laws and monitoring law enforcement," he said.

The Southeast Asian nation promulgated the Anti-Corruption Law on 17 April, 2010. The ACU was launched in the same year. ACU’s Chairman On Nheung said his agency has received about 1,000 complaints a year, and has investigated a number of corruption cases and brought many corrupt officials to the court of law for legal punishment.

He said besides the crackdown on corrupt cases, the ACU has been working to educate young generations to avoid committing corruption. "We have included an anti-corruption subject in the high school curriculum — the first-ever in our history," he said. "Some 70,000 text books and teacher manuals will be used to teach students later this year."

A police official and a company source told Reuters that Islam worked at a subsidiary of the company, an employee of IBPL, a Coca-Cola unit, said it was aware of the case, confirmed the arrest man was the head of IT, and said he had been absent from work for several days.

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In a statement, the subsidiary said it was aware of media reports that the employee, whom it named as Aminul Islam Baig, had been arrested. "We will fully cooperate with the law enforcement agencies as required," it said. **Reuters**

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Vietnam’s “ceramic king” has 100,000 antiques

**Ho Chi Minh City, 26 May** — After nearly 25 years of collecting and now owning nearly 100,000 antique ceramic items, a 48-year-old man of Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City has been dubbed a "ceramic king," local online news portal Vietnamnet reported on Tuesday.

Dinh Cong Tuong began collecting antique ceramics at the age of 24 after his aunt gave him an ancient bowl and plate as gifts. After two decades, he now has over 100,000 ceramic items of all kinds, mostly antiques with some unique ones.

His collection includes ancient pottery items of Vietnam, China, Singapore, France and Japan dating back from the 12th century to the early 20th century. In 2011, the Guinness Book Centre of Vietnam branded Tuong as the owner of the largest collection of ceramic antiques in Vietnam, with more than 80,000 items. He was also recognized as the owner of the largest collection of ancient vases in Vietnam. **Xinhua**

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Malaysia refuses entry to Hong Kong pro-democracy student activist

**Kuala Lumpur, 26 May** — Malaysian immigration authorities on Tuesday denied entry to Hong Kong student activist Joshua Wong, who had been invited to the South Asian nation to participate in academic talks on democracy in China and last year’s protests in Hong Kong.

Wong was one of the main leaders of the Hong Kong protests, which shut down key roads in the city for 79 days and presented China’s Communist Party leadership with one of its biggest political challenges in decades.

Online news portal Malaysiakini said Wong was detained soon after arriving at the airport on the northern island of Penang on Tuesday morning, and then put on a plane back to Hong Kong.

“Malaysia’s government doesn’t allow me to enter, now on my way back to Hong Kong,” Wong posted in Mandarin on his Facebook page at about 0500 GMT.

A Malaysian immigration official had said it was a “government order” to deny him entry, Wong wrote.

Penang immigration authorities declined immediate comment, when contacted by Reuters. **Malaysiakini**

Malaysiakini reported that Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he had no knowledge the 18-year-old had been denied entry to Malaysia.

Wong was dragged away by immigration officers, and was heard shouting, “Don’t use violence,” Malaysiakini added.

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Student leader Joshua Wong is scolded by government supporters (L) during a promotional event on electoral reform in Hong Kong, China on 25 April, 2015. **Reuters**

Wong’s Facebook page showed he had been invited to participate in a series of seminars in the cities of Ipoh, Johor Bahru, and the capital, Kuala Lumpur, besides Penang.

Human rights activist Ng Yap-hwa, an organizer of the event at which Wong had been invited to speak, said he was angry at Wong’s treatment.

“We are still demanding that the government make clear why they stopped Joshua Wong from coming here,” he said.

“We’re angry at the government’s actions because there’s no reason that the Malaysian government should stop us from organizing any international talk on the democracy movement,” Ng said.

In 2013, Malaysian authorities deported Australian senator Nick Xenophon after refusing him entry over his participation in an illegal street rally for electoral reforms in 2012, saying that he was considered a “security risk.” **Reuters**
China to boost offshore military capability: defence strategy paper

BEIJING, 26 May — China outlined a defence strategy on Tuesday to boost its naval capabili- ty farther from its shores, saying it faced a grave and complex array of security threats including in the dis- puted South China Sea.

In a policy document issued by the State Coun- cil, the Communist-rulled country’s cabinet, it vowed to continue growing its “open sea protection” and criticized neighbours who take “provocative actions” on its reefs and islands.

The document comes as tensions rise over Chi- na’s increasingly assertive posture in the disputed wa- ters of the South China Sea, where Beijing has engaged in land reclamation in the Spratly archipelago.

China, which claims most of the South China Sea, criticized Washing- ton after a US spy plane flew over areas near the reefs last week, with both sides accusing each other of stoking instability in the region.

It has overlapping claims with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taipei and Brunei in the South China Sea, through which $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year.

Yang Yujun, a spokes- man for the Ministry of Defence, said in a briefing on Tuesday China’s rec- lamation activities in the Spratly archipelago were comparable with construction of homes and roads on its mainland.

“From the perspective of sovereignty, there is ab- solutely no difference,” he said. He said some coun- tries with “ulterior moti- ves” had unfairly charac- terized China’s military presence and sensational- ized the issue. Surveillance activities in the region were increasingly common, and China would continue to take “necessary measures” to respond, Yang said.

“There are also border issues in the South China Sea affairs; a few tiny maintain close-in air and sea surveillance and recon- naissance against China,” the strategy paper said in a thinly veiled reference to the United States.

It also said China’s air force would shift its fo- cus from territorial air de- fence to both offence and defence, and building air- space defence with stron- ger military capabilities.

The People’s Libera- tion Army’s nuclear force, known as the Second Ar- tillery Corps, would also strengthen its capabilities for deterrence and nucle- ar counterattack as well as medium- and long-range precision strikes, the pa- per said. It also said the military would strengthen security in areas critical to China’s overseas interests, without giving details.

Reuters

Australia to strip citizenship of dual national terror supporters

SYDNEY, 26 May— The Australian government will strip the citizenship of dual nationals who engage in terrorism under pro- posed new legislation an- nounced on Tuesday.

Under proposed changes to the Citizenship Act, to be introduced into parliament within a few weeks, dual nationals who fight with or support groups such as Islamic State or so-called ‘lone-wolf’ ac- tors, both in Australia and on foreign soil, will be stripped of their citizenship by the country’s minister of immigration and border protection.

We will be ensur- ing that as far as we can, humanly make it, no one becomes stateless and any decision by the minister to strip someone of their citizenship, to strip a dual national of Australian citi- zenship, will be subject to a judicial review,” Prime Minister Tony Abbott told a Press conference.

There are current- ly about 100 Austra- lians fighting with terrorist groups in the Middle East and up to half of those are dual citizens, according to Abbott.

Minister of Immigra- tion and Border Protection Peter Dutton, appearing alongside Abbott, said he would rely on intelligence information to form judg- ment.

The legislation will apply to those who commit or prepare to commit an act of terrorism, raise funds to support terrorism, provide financial support for terror- ists or indoctrinate young people into extremism, Dutton said.

The new powers will bring Australian laws clos- er to those of Britain, Can- ada, France and the United States, according to the government. Last Septem- ber, Australia’s terrorism level was raised to high.

Also in September, two policemen were stabbed by a terror suspect in Mel- bourne, while in December, a siege at a Sydney cafe resulted in the death of two victims and the gun- man, a self-styled Islamic

DPRK building artillery positions near inter-Korean sea border: S Korea

SEOUL, 26 May— The Democratic People’s Re- public of Korea (DPRK) is building artillery positions in an uninhabited island just above the inter-Korea- an maritime border, South Korea’s military said on Tuesday.

Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a press briefing that the DPRK’s military is con- structing facilities in the island of Gal, just some 4.5 km north of the South Korea’s border island of Yeonpyeong.

Given the Gal island’s geopolitico-political position and the close distance from the Yeonpyeong island, the DPRK facilities would pose a serious threat to the South Korean military’s operation near the North- ern Limit Line (NLL), Kim said.

The NLL, which was drawn by the US-led forces after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a ceasefire, has served as a de-facto maritime border between the two Koreas, which the DPRK claimed must be redrawn farther south.

Xinhua
UK’s Cameron tells EC president that Europe must change

LONDON, 26 May — British Prime Minister David Cameron told the president of the European Commission that the UK needed a new deal on Europe, before he presses his case for reforms to the bloc with other national leaders this week.

Cameron and EC President Jean-Claude Juncker over dinner on Monday discussed reforming the European Union and renegotiating the UK’s ties with Brussels, a government spokeswoman said.

“The prime minister underlined that the British people are not happy with the status quo, and believe that the EU needs to change in order to better address their concerns,” she said.

Cameron had promised he wanted to find a “fair deal for the UK and would seek to help,” he said, and they agreed more discussions would be needed to find a way forward.

Cameron promised before the British national election this month that he would renegotiate Britain’s role in Europe, and hold a referendum on the country’s continuing membership of the bloc by the end of 2017.

He launched his reform drive at a summit of EU and ex-Soviet states in Latvia last week, saying he was confident of winning concessions although it would not be easy.

Cameron has said changes to rules on welfare benefits were an absolute requirement in any renegotiation. He wants to force EU migrants to wait four years before accessing a range of welfare benefits in Britain, and to win the power to deport out of work EU jobseekers after six months.

Cameron will embark on a tour of five European capitals later this week to hold talks with key EU leaders over his reform plans.

The British leader will travel first to Denmark for a working break-fast with Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt on Thursday before heading to the Netherlands for talks with Prime Minister Mark Rutte. He will have dinner with French President Francois Hollande at the Elysee palace in Paris.

On Friday, Cameron will meet Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz in Warsaw and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin.

Cameron hopes to speak with all 27 EU leaders individually before a European Council meeting at the end of June where he is expected to set out his reform plans in more detail.

Earlier on Monday the government said most citizens of other European Union countries living in Britain will not get to vote in the referendum.

Cameron’s office said only those eligible to vote in British national elections, plus members of the upper house of parliament and Commonwealth citizens in Gibraltar, will get a say in the EU referendum.

That means British, Irish, Maltese, Cypriot and other Commonwealth citizens aged over 18 and resident in the UK, as well as UK nationals who have lived overseas for less than 15 years will be able to vote, but no other EU nationals.

“This is a big decision for our country, one that is about the future of the United Kingdom. That’s why we think it’s important that it is a British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens that are the ones who get to decide,” a source in Cameron’s office said.

Cameron referenced the EU referendum.

Citizens of other EU nations living in Britain are allowed to vote in local council and European elections.

The government will introduce its EU referendum legislation to parliament on Thursday as Cameron aimed to hold early talks with Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

US President Barack Obama

ABINGDON, (Virginia), 26 May — President Barack Obama heralded the first US Memorial Day without ground war in 14 years.

Obama, who is a veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, said the US military was helping to bring about a “groundhog day” in the Middle East.

The US president said the US military had been hurt by a lack of support from the international community.

Obama, whose campaign was fueled by a desire to end the war in Afghanistan, said the US military would no longer be engaged in a “groundhog day” war.

The US president said the US military had been working to bring about a “groundhog day” in the Middle East.

Obama said he was encouraged by the progress made in the war in Afghanistan.

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**Opinion**

**Techno south and triangular cooperation discussed gender issue, so-day.**

Hotel Amara, here, on Monday and Indonesia, kicked off at Races Department, UNDP conducted by Progress of angular cooperation, jointly through south-south and triangular participation in social cohesion. The remaining one is the only private university in Singapore and is highly funded by the government.

Established in 2005, the university started as a result of the Singapore Government mandate to set up a university for working adults. In 2012, it is announced that UniSIM will be granted National University status and later became the republic’s 6th national university. The university in 2012 admitted only part-time students but began to offer full-time publicly funded university places starting 2014. In October 2013, it is announced that UniSIM has been selected to house Singapore’s third law school. Despite being a private university, eligible students are able to enjoy government tuition fee subsidy, government loans and bursaries for their undergraduate education. The university is managed separately from the SIM Global Education arm of the Singapore Institute of Management Group (SIMG).

Announcement of publicly funded Full-time programmes

UniSIM, together with SIT, has launched full-time publicly funded degree programmes in 2014. New programmes offered by both universities take on the new ‘Applied Degree’ pathway which heavily emphasizes practice-orientated teaching. UniSIM first offered programmes in Accountancy, Finance and Marketing. Academic schools

SIM University currently offers more than 50 academic programmes through four academic schools, namely School of Arts & Social Sciences, School of Business, School of Human Development & Social Services and School of Science & Technology.

Admissions

A candidate applying to SIM University must either be a Singapore Citizen, Permanent Resident or a resident in Singapore. In addition, the candidate must meet the relevant entry requirements. Conclusion

The quest for knowledge and learning began as early as 1964. In its early days of economic development, Singapore was in dire need of professional leadership and managerial know-how. In 1964, Dr Richard Eu Keng Mun [the first Chairman of Singapore Cancer Society (from 1964 to 1971) and Governing Council of Singapore Institute of Management (Nov 1964-1995)] was invited by the Economic Development Board (EDB) to spinoff and grow its management training unit through the formation of a dedicated management institute. Against this backdrop, the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) started operations with the social mission of advancing management excellence and developing manpower in support of Singapore’s growth. Since then, SIM has grown in tandem with Singapore, responding and innovating to meet manpower needs at different phases of its development. Today, SIM is a leading private institution for higher education and an embodiment of lifelong learning, reputed for its commitment to a high standard of professionalism and quality, relevance to industry and integrity.

As industry partners, total of (55) large organizations have agreements to work in cooperation with the university. The most interesting point is that SIM receives extensive support from different organizations in the form of provision of strategic plans, programme feedback, scholarships and sponsorships for students, provision of infrastructure, and case studies development for programmes as well as networking opportunities.

The author of this article would like to sum up in simple and plain presentation of SIM University in two aspects for the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar and to those interested in the educational field. The first stands out in developing the required manpower in support of growth of the country, and the second salient point is the successful creation of a nexus between the university and industrial partners including many renowned organizations.

The author can safely draw a conclusion that the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) could be termed as a leading provider of higher education and professional training in Singapore.
Election sub-commission offices announce voter lists

Mandalay launches School Enrolment Week

Mandalay Region Sub-commission clarifies preparations for 2015 general elections

Fire Services Department supplies drinking water to rural residents
Zimbabweans go hungry as drought hammers southern Africa

STIYAGUMA, 26 May— Even in the best of times, life is harsh in Stiyaguuma, a desolate village in southwest Zimbabwe. After the worst regional drought in nearly a decade and the failure of nearby crops, it is likely to be even harsher. For 31-year-old Mejury Tererai, whose maize and cotton crops have been decimated, that means feeding her children nothing but coarse maize and groundnuts.

She would be lucky to get 50 kilos of maize this year—enough for just over a month. Her cotton is a write-off and she owes $27 (£17.47) to the firm that provided her with chemicals. If she fails to pay, they will sell her single goat or chickens or rip the corrugated iron roof from her two-roomed house, she said.

She hopes President Robert Mugabe’s government can provide basic support, but it is far from clear that it has the means.

“Our request is that we need help with food so that our children are able to go to school and concentrate,” she said in the village, 400 km (250 miles) southwest of the capital.

“Last year we had a good harvest but this year we got very little. It was too hot and we received little rain,” she added, as her two-year-old son slept on her bosom. The drought is likely to damage harvests across southern Africa— from southern Angola to Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia, the World Food Programme (WFP) says. The impact is looking particularly serious for Zimbabwe, where the economy has been struggling for five years to recover from a catastrophic recession that was marked by billion percent hyperinflation and widespread food shortages.

Baghdad | Washington, 26 May — Islamic State inched closer on Sunday to retaking the city of Ramadi that it had seized in May last year, and was preparing for battle against security forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad on the frontline of Aleppo’s Sheikh Saeed neighbourhood.

In Ramadi, the Syrian air force struck at buildings captured by the Sunni militant group, whose arrival has raised fears that the city’s famed Roman ruins will be destroyed.

The air force levelled Islamic State “hideouts” and killed a large number of its members around Palmyra’s military air base, Syrian state media said.

Islamic State has killed at least 217 people execution-style, including children, since it moved into the Palmyra area 10 days ago, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Police sources said Iraqi forces supported by Iran-backed Shia militiamen and locally recruited Sunni tribal fighters had retook parts of al-Tash, 20 km (12 miles) south of Ramadi.

In Ramadi, residents said trucks carrying Islamic State fighters arrived on Sunday evening.

Abu Saed heard a command to reinforce their defensive lines around Baghdaadi, a settlement northwest of Ramadi that controls access to a major Iraqi air base. Islamic State attacked Baghdaadi with seven suicide car bombs on Sunday.

The government and foreign relief agencies are still assessing needs but an official said up to 1.8 million people—more than a tenth of the population—may require food aid.

The 2015 harvest is forecast at 950,000 tonnes of maize, the staple, far less than the 1.8 million tonnes Zimbabwe’s people need.

Harare has plans to import 700,000 tonnes of white maize, which would cost $168 million, according to the latest spot prices from GranSA, a farmers’ body in neighbouring South Africa, the region’s top producer. But the government is already struggling to pay for expenses as basic as civil service salaries and did not plan for the imports in its 2015 budget.

That means the burden is likely to fall on the shoulders of international donors, who have been distributing food since 2004 despite broad economic sanctions imposed by the West after the seizure of thousands of white-owned farms from 2000 and a violent election in 2002. WFP director for Zimbabwe Sory Ounae told Reuters the United Nations agency was looking for $60 million for local food aid.

Another resident said that came after the death of 40 fighters who had jumped out of three trucks that arrived in the southern al-Tamim district on Sunday evening.

They were carrying weapons and wearing mostly khaki dress with ammunition belts wrapped around their chests,” said Abu Mustaz. “They were talking in an Arabic dialect, they were not Iraqi.”—Reuters

Islamic State faces battle in Iraq, US reassures Abadi

CAIRO, 26 May — Hundreds of Libyan tribal leaders met in Cairo on Monday with Egyptian authorities hoping to enlist their help in preventing Islamist violence from spilling over their shared border.

Islamic militants have thrived in chaos of Libya, a North African oil producer that now has two competing governments backed by armed factions that four years earlier joined in an uprising that toppled autocrat Muammar Gaddafi.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi sees ascendant Islamists in Libya as a major security threat and is trying to secure the cooperation of tribal leaders to tackle it.

Analysts say that Sisi would like Arab states to carry out a Yemen-type intervention in Libya to combat Islamic State jihadists and other radical factions that have taken advantage of the lawlessness to recruit and train in the vast desert country.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri inaugurated the tribal conference, which runs through Thursday, by highlighting the positive role the tribes could play in restoring stability to Libya.

Egypt had invited the tribal leaders to talks because they were the “backbone” of society and main guarantor of Libyan stability, security and territorial integrity, Shukri said.

“Egypt will not hesitate to support her brother Libyans until they achieve security and reconciliation among themselves,” he said.

But achieving consensus among the hundreds of tribal leaders on how to tackle Islamic extremism could be a long process.

Libya’s two governments depend on various tribes and militias to support their claims to power.

The country’s internationally recognised government, which Egypt backs, has operated out of eastern Libya since a rival armed faction called Libya Dawn seized the capital Tripoli in August and set up its own government. Analysts say most of the tribes in attendance in Cairo were known supporters of the internationally recognised government, with supporters of its Tripoli-based rival not well represented.—Reuters

A rebel fighter fires a weapon as a fellow fighter covers his ears during clashes with forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad on the frontline of Aleppo’s Sheikh Saeed neighbourhood on 23 May, 2015.
Asian shares turn higher as China rallies, dollar up

Tokyo, 26 May — Asian shares turned higher on Tuesday, reversing earlier losses on the back of gains in Hong Kong and China, while the dollar extended highs seen in holiday-thinned trading in the previous session and pushed to an eight-year high against the yen.

But European markets were seen opening broadly lower on the first day of the trading week for several countries after a holiday weekend, with Greece’s ongoing debt drama in focus and after a poor local election result for Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

Financial spread-betters expected Britain’s FTSE 100 FTSE to open 4 to 8 points higher, or around 0.1 percent, Germany’s DAX DAXI to open 40 to 45 points lower, or 0.4 percent, and France’s CAC 40 .CFCHI to open 14 to 17 points lower, or 0.3 percent.

“A bright spot for Euro-pean equities could come from a weaker euro as EUR/USD is now below 1.1000 and could come under further selling pressure,” Stan Shamu, a market strategist at IG in Melbourne, said in a note to clients.

European shares had a weak finish in thin trade on Monday, with many markets in the region closed, US markets were closed for Memorial Day. MSCI’s broad-est index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan MIAJ300000UP was up 0.4 percent in late-after-noon trade, after eking out a late gain in the previous session. Australian shares AXJO rose 0.9 percent. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index HSIX jumped 1.3 percent, flirting with seven-year highs, on expec-tations of more money inflows from the main-land following Beijing’s fresh moves to expedite cross-border investment. Mainland bourses also rose, with the CSI300 Index.CSI300 and the Shanghai Composite In-dex .SSEC both rising 1.6 percent to fresh seven-year highs.

China announced over the weekend that it would allow funds domiciled in Hong Kong and China to be sold in each others’ market starting 1 July, in Beijing’s latest step to fa-cilitate cross-border investment.

Japan’s Nikkei stock index .N225 ended up 0.1 percent, logging its eighth straight gain and at a fresh 15-year high, though some strategists said that investors might start taking profits at the current lofty levels.

“Whether it’s a political risk in the euro zone, volatility in the bond mar-ket or the timing of a US rate hike, we can’t ignore these risks,” said Norihiro Fujito, a senior investment strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities, explaining why investors might unwind some of their bullish positions.

The dollar hit a fresh one-month high against a basket of major currencies, extending a rally triggered by Friday’s comments from Federal Reserve Chair Ja-net Yellen, who rekindled market expectations that the US central bank was gearing up to hike interest rates.

Yellen said she ex-pected economic data to strengthen and noted that some of the US economy’s weakness at the start of the year might be due to “sta-tistical noise.”

The dollar index .DXY rose as high as 96.734, and was last up about 0.7 percent at 96.719.

Fed Vice Chair Stan-ley Fischer said in Israel on Monday that too much im-portance was being placed on the central bank’s first rate hike, and that the process of returning to more normal levels of interest rates will take a few years.

While markets largely expect the first rate hike in September, it will be deter-mined by data and not by date, he said.

Investors await the lat-est batch of US data later on Tuesday that could provide more clues on the strength of economic recovery, in-cluding May durable goods and April consumer con-fi-dence.

Greece’s debt crisis kept pressure on the euro. Time is running out for Greece to reach an agree-ment on reform with lend-ers and there will be no further funds for Athens without it, the head of the European Stability Mech-anism, Klaus Regling, told Germany’s Bild newspaper on Tuesday.

The Greek political saga will remain in the spotlight as the deadline for payments to the IMF approaches”, strategists at Barclays wrote in a note to clients. “A light data cal-endar and continued polit-ical uncertainty in Greece should continue to weigh on EUR/USD from hereon out.”

The euro skidded about 0.5 percent to $1.0917 EUR=, breaking below its overnight nadir and falling to its lowest levels since late April.

The dollar surged 0.6 percent against the Japa-nese currency to 122.36 yen JPY=, breaking above the 122 level for the first time since March 10 and reaching an eight-year peak.

Crude oil firm-ed, ex-tending gains made in Monday’s thinned trading as firm global demand offset the effects of a stronger dollar.

Brent crude LCO1 = was up slightly at $65.54 (43 pounds) a barrel, while US crude CLc1 added 0.2 percent to $59.86.

Tokyo, 26 May — Japan will urge Indonesia to lower its tariffs on Japanese automobiles as agreed under a bilateral free trade pact that entered into force in 2008, Japanese trade minister Yoichi Miyazawa said on Tuesday.

Miyazawa said Japan and Indonesia are expect-ed to hold bilateral discus-sions on the matter possi-bly within this month. “It is true that (Indonesian) auto tariffs are not at the agreed levels. Naturally we will dis-cuss the matter in our consultations,” the minister told a regular Press confer ence.

Under the deal, Indo-nesia has agreed to cut its 45 percent tariffs on some Japanese passenger cars to Indonesia totaled some 40 billion yen ($328.60 million).

Jakarta has explained that it has not been able to adopt the agreed tariff rates due to procedural errors, the ministry said.

The two countries launched free trade negoti-ations in July 2005. Japan’s key export items include automobiles and other in-dustrial goods, while Indo-nesia ships natural gas and petroleum products.

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*Reuters*

Brazil set to see more dengue fever cases

Rio de Janeiro, 26 May — The number of dengue fever cases in Brazil is ex-pected to further increase, Health Minister Arthur Chioro said on Monday.

“We have 745,000 reg-istered cases from January to 18 April, and we know that these figures will in-crease as new reports keep coming. Brazil has a situation of epidemic, con-centrated in nine states,” Chioro said.

Brazil registered a high number of dengue cases this year, but the majority of them are located in Sao Paulo state, the most popu-lated in the Southern American nation. The cases in Sao Paulo amount to about half of the cases registered in the entire country.

In other eight states, the incidence of dengue this year also reached ep-idemic level. According to the World Health Orga-nization, an incidence of 300 cases for every 100,000 in-habitarnts can be considered an epidemic.

Chioro urged the coun-try’s hospitals to keep vig-ilant and asked the popu-lation to collaborate with government agents who visit households in an effort to identify areas in which Aedes aegypti, the mosqui-to that transmits dengue, can be reproducing.

Dengue is a potential-ly lethal disease. Brazil has registered four types of den-gue, and a person can have each one of them one time. In addition, the Aedes ae-gypti mosquito also transmits other diseases, such as yellow fever, chikungunya fever and zika virus, all of which have been registered in Brazil.

*Xinhua*

Japan to urge Indonesia to cut auto tariffs as agreed in FTA

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*Kyodo News*

Higher altitude linked to slightly increased SIDS risk: study

WASHINGTON, 26 May — Babies who live at high altitude may face a slightly-increased risk of sud-den infant death syndrome (SIDS), a US study said on Monday.

The study, published in the US journal Pediatrics, examined birth and death registries of nearly 395,000 infants in the US state of Colorado from 2007 to 2012, and com-pared the records with the altitudes of the children’s homes.

Colorado is the highest state in the US with eleva-tions ranging from 3,315 feet (1,010 metres) above sea level to 14,433 feet (4,393 metres).

Compared with infants who lived below 6,000 feet (1,828 metres), infants who lived at an altitude higher than 8,000 feet (2,438 me-tres) had a 2.3 times higher rate of SIDS, according to the study led by David Katz, the University of Colora-do professor cited as a risk fac-tor for SIDS.

However, despite dou-bling the risk, the absolute risk remains very low, it was stated. In six years, they studied, there were only 0.8 SIDS deaths for every 1,000 infants who lived above 8,000 feet.

The study suggested that high altitude hypoxia, or low oxygen levels, may explain the increased SIDS risk. Hypoxia has been pre-viously linked to the risk fac-tor for SIDS.

SIDS is defined as the sudden unexplained death of an infant less than one year of age. Globally it resulted in about 15,000 deaths in 2013, down from 22,000 deaths in 1990.

*Reuters*

A pedestrian walks past an electronic board showing the Japan’s Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, on 26 May, 2015. (Reuters)
Donor fatigue hits Nepal one month after mega earthquake — UN

New Delhi, 26 May — The international community’s response to devastating earthquakes in Nepal has been disappointing, a United Nations official said on Monday, adding that donors were focusing more on reconstruction than much needed aid such as food and shelter.

The impoverished Himalayan nation is reeling from a 7.8 magnitude earthquake which struck on 25 April, disrupting the lives of almost a third of the 28 million population.

A second quake of 7.3 magnitude struck on 12 May, worsening the situation and further hampering efforts to get aid to survivors in remote regions. Over 8,600 people have died.

“I am disappointed in the sense that there was such an impressive response in terms of search and rescue — all the teams that came in to do the work, they did very impressively and comprehensively — and maybe they think that’s the job done,” said Jamie McGoldrick, UN resident coordinator in Nepal.

“The talk now is about reconstruction, but we are trying to remind people that in between search and rescue and recovery, there is a phase called relief and we can’t forget that,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Kathmandu.

In the weeks following the earthquake, scores of international agencies and foreign governments rushed to send search and rescue teams, doctors and relief materials to the country which is sandwiched between India and China.

The UN appealed for $423 million to be able to provide up to two million survivors with basic relief such as tents or tarpaulin sheets, dry food rations, safe drinking water and toilets for the next three months.

As of Monday, the UN Financial Tracking System showed $92.4 million has been raised, 22 percent of the required funds.

McGoldrick said the slow response was partly due to donor fatigue where governments were being torn between competing humanitarian crises across the world such as the civil conflict in Syria or in Yemen.

Nepal’s traditional donors were also more “development” focused and were likely holding back funds for long-term reconstruction and recovery projects, he added.

But he warned that there was only a small window of opportunity to buy and get relief supplies delivered to survivors in remote mountain hamlets ahead of the annual monsoons which run from June to September.

The heavy rains in areas which were already damaged by the earthquakes would “complicate relief efforts all the more as they would trigger more landslides and block roads, hampering the delivery of aid by trucks,” he said.

China breaks ground on lighthouse project in South China Sea

Beijing, 26 May — China hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the building of two lighthouses in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea in a still image from video taken by a P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft provided by the United States Navy on 21 May, 2015.

The reefs are known in English as Cuateron Reef and Johnson South Reef. The Ministry of Transport did not answer calls for comment.

Last year, the Philippines accused China of reclaiming land on Johnson South Reef, apparently to build an airstrip.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year, and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

China has called on the United States to end a decade-old standoff in the South China Sea. It did not elaborate.

In recent weeks, the United States has clashed with China over Beijing’s construction activities in the South China Sea. The Pentagon believes the work is aimed at cementing China’s claim to the vast majority of the South China Sea — an area thought to have significant energy reserves and rich fishing grounds.

Washington is particularly concerned that China may at some point declare an exclusion zone in the sea that could limit free movement of ships and aircraft.

On Monday, China’s foreign ministry said it had lodged a complaint with the United States over a US spy plane that flew over parts of the South China Sea on Tuesday, a move that is “unwarranted US interference” and “weakened the foundation of trust and cooperation” between the two countries.

McGoldrick said the US action was a “stronger commitment” to its ally with activities in the South China Sea — an area apparently to China over Beijing’s claims.

But he warned that there was only a small window of opportunity to buy and get relief supplies delivered to survivors in remote mountain hamlets ahead of the annual monsoons which run from June to September.

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Washington Post reporter goes on trial behind closed doors in Teheran

Dubai, 26 May — Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian went on trial on espionage charges behind closed doors in Iran on Tuesday, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

The Post’s Tehran bureau chief, an Iranian-American, was detained in his home in July and taken to Teheran’s Evin prison.

The Iranian authorities have not elaborated on the charges press released that with the case in the face of calls for his release from US President Barack Obama, family members and rights groups.

“He has been charged with espionage for collecting confidential information ... and handing it to hostile governments, writing a letter to Obama and acting against national security,” lawyer Leila Ahsan told Tasnim.

His wife and other family members have been barred from attending the Revolutionary Court session, his brother Ali told Reuters Television on Monday.

“I think the only reason you could possibly imagine that the trial would be closed would be to prevent people from seeing the lack of evidence,” Rezaian said.

“It’s like the Iranian court system, Iranian government, to keep things private when they can go out and use propaganda up against people.”

Ali Rezaian said the family had hoped that Rezaian’s wife, journalist Yeganeh Salehi, and his mother would be allowed to attend the trial. He said his brother had lost 40 pounds (18 kg) in prison.

Rezaian, who is from Marin County, California, was arrested at his home in Teheran alongside his wife and two Iranian-US friends who have not been named.

Salehi was freed on bail while the couple were released. The three have not been publicly charged.

Douglas Jehl, the Post’s foreign editor, called the charges baseless. “What Jason did was act as a journalist, which involves gathering information, verifying information, and ultimately publishing it,” he told Reuters Television.

Obama has called the
Two pilots die in China
Navy aircraft crash

BEIJING, 26 May — An instructor and his student died in a Navy aircraft accident on 13 May in northeast China's Liaoning Province, the Navy said on Tuesday.

The Navy released the news on its microblog, saying the two pilots were killed after failing to engage their parachutes after they had successfully avoided crashing in a densely populated area.

After discovering that the aircraft's engine was on fire shortly after taking off, the two pilots turned the aircraft away from villages, residential buildings, hospitals and a business area and dived into woods.

It was only 17 seconds between observing the fire and the crash. There was not enough time or sufficient height for the two pilots to parachute from the aircraft, according to the Chinese Navy. The instructor was Jiang Tao, 27, and the student was Lu Pengfei, 22. They were both from the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy Flight School.—Xinhua

US fighter jets escort Air France flight to New York after threat

NEW YORK, 26 May — An Air France (AIRC.FA) flight from Paris was escorted by two US F-15 fighter jets to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on Monday after an anonymous threat was made against the flight, the US military said.

Air France flight 22, travelling from Charles de Gaulle Airport, landed safely in New York, officials said.

The anonymous threat came in a telephone call to a Maryland State Police barracks on Monday morning, and the caller made a bomb threat involving commercial aviation, Maryland State Police said.

Two US Air Force F-15 jets were launched as a precaution to monitor the flight as it approached New York, said Navy Lieutenant Commander Richlyn Ivey, a spokeswoman for US North American Aerospace Defence Command and Northern Command.

The plane was cleared in New York with no incidents or hazards reported by passengers or crew, said J Peter Donald, an FBI spokesman.

The New York Post reported 165 passengers and 11 crew members on board the Air France Airbus 330 though those figures could not be confirmed.

Air France could not be reached for comment.

Separately, New York's WNBC television reported that a threat had been made against a separate American Airlines (AAL.O) flight headed to JFK, but that threat was deemed not credible and the flight was cleared.

That report also said an Arizona Airlines flight was being checked out due to an unspecified threat, and that threats had been made against three other flights at Newark Liberty International Airport.

The FBI was not immediately available to comment on the WNBC report.

The US military spokesperson said the command had not received information about additional threats against commercial airliners.

It was the first time US military aircraft had escorted a private air plane or commercial aircraft since 13 February, when two F-15s followed a general aviation aircraft that was out of contact while flying in a restricted area near San Francisco.

The aircraft eventually re-established communication and was followed by the jets until it landed at Half Moon Bay.—Reuters

38 dead in China rest home fire

NEW YORK, 25 May — Thirty-eight people killed and six others injured after a fire broke out in a rest home in Lushan County, Pingshingan City, central China's Henan Province on 26 May, 2015.

Thirty-eight people were killed and six others injured in the fire which broke out at 7:55 pm on Monday in an apartment building of the privately-owned Kangleyuan rest home.—Xinhua

A journalist works at the accident site after a fire broke out in a rest home in Lushan County, Pingshingan City, central China's Henan Province on 26 May, 2015. Thirty-eight people were killed and six others injured in the fire which broke out at 7:55 pm on Monday in an apartment building of the privately-owned Kangleyuan rest home.—Xinhua
Johnny Depp, 51, landed in hot water earlier this month after flying into Australia with his two dogs. — PTI

US blues legend BB King performs onstage during the 45th Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux in this file 2 July, 2011 photo. —Reuters

A local groomer and photos of the pups were taken to a local vets. —PTI

Two of King’s children, Karen Williams and Patty King, alleged that he was administered foreign substances. I believe my father was murdered,” each woman said in statements contained in documents submitted to the AP by their lawyer.

An attorney for King’s estate called the allegations unfounded and disrespectful, AP said. —Reuters

Lady Gaga has been preparing for her role on “American Horror Story: Hotel”, including dying her hair blond.

Johnny Depp, 51, landed in hot water earlier this month after flying into Australia with his two dogs. — PTI

Homicide probe to be launched into BB King’s death: officials

Los Angeles, 26 May — Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp could be facing jail time over his decision to illegally bring his two dogs into Australia.

An Australian Senate committee said if the matter goes to court and the “Pirates of the Caribbean” star is found guilty, he could face up to 10 years in jail or a maximum fine of USD 265,000, reported People magazine.

Depp, 51, landed in hot water earlier this month after flying into Australia on a private jet with his Yorkshire Terriers — Pis-

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Blatter misled us all, says Platini

PARIS, 26 May — FIFA president Sepp Blatter misled the world of football by reneging on a commitment to step down in 2015, UEFA president Michel Platini said on Monday.

Platini backed him in the 2011 election on that basis but is angry that Blatter, 79, is seeking re-election on Friday for a further term.

“I am mostly disappointed for the European federations, whom I had asked to support Sepp in 2011, on the basis of a promise he had made,” the former French international told the sports newspaper L’Equipe.

“It was more than a promise actually, it was a true commitment. He had asked us ... to support him for what would be his last term. And now he’s back on again as if nothing had happened. “Maybe I’m too naive, sensitive or idealistic but I have the unpleasant feeling that my commitment was based on a lie and that I indirectly have lied to the federations.”

Platini reiterated that he would be supporting Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, the only other candidate in Friday’s election.

Battle ropes become popular go-to fitness tools in US gyms

“The ropes show you how you’re moving,” he explained. “You see the physical manifestation of the body movement as you watch the ropes. If you do them well, your body is moving well.”

Posture and coordination are inherent elements of the workout, Ross said. Battle rope workouts also pack a calorie-burning cardio punch.

A study published in the April 2015 Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research showed that a 10-minute bout of rope training resulted in high heart rates and enough energy expenditure to increase cardio respiratory fitness.

Crunch, the national chain of fitness centres, has built a group fitness class around battle ropes.

“It’s great core training. The abs, back, and glutes (muscles of the buttocks) are all engaged,” said Donna Cyrus, senior vice president of programming at Crunch.

Powerwave Battle Roping fitness class at Crunch is seen in this 2013 handout photo in New York.

“Obviously there’s toning to the upper body and it burns a lot of calories.”

Rope classes typically include a warm-up segment followed by teams competing to see who can keep the wave, or movement of the rope, going the longest time.

Ross said battle ropes, which come in various diameters and lengths, require shoulder mobility and stability, so people dealing with shoulder issues should use them with caution.

“The longer the rope, the more challenging because you have to generate more force,” he said. “You want to see that move travel all the way down to that anchor point.”

Another mistake, he added, is pulling the ropes too tight.

“You can’t make a wave if the rope is tight,” he said.

Book your place for another celebration, Mourinho tells fans

LONDON, 25 May — Thousands of Chelsea fans turning out in west London to celebrate winning the Premier League title on Monday were told to prepare for more success next season by manager Jose Mourinho.

Addressing the supporters, Mourinho said: “Thank you for everything, for all your support. Book another place for the parade next season. I hope we can give you that.”

Chelsea last won the title in 2010 under Carlo Ancelotti. In Mourinho’s previous period in charge they were champions for two years running, in 2005 and 2006.

But he warned it would be harder to retain the title this time, telling Chelsea TV: “We have to be better if we want to be successful again. The other opponents are not going to accept this without a fight.”

“Next year will be more difficult, but because it’s difficult is one of the reasons why I came back to England. I will enjoy it again.”

Owner Roman Abramovich took part in the parade.

Among the players and staff enjoying the occasion on three special buses were goalkeeper Petr Cech and striker Didier Drogba, who have been part of all four title successes.—Reuters

China’s Huawei wins bid to build Malaysia-Cambodia-Thailand undersea communications cable

PINOM PENH, 26 May — China’s Huawei Marine Networks, a global submarine network provider, said on Monday that it won a bid to build the Malaysia-Cambodia-Thailand (MCT) undersea cable system.

Telekom Malaysia Berhad, Cambodia’s Telcotech and Symphonmy Communication of Thailand are the members of the consortium.

Spanning approximately 1,300 km, the MCT cable system will provide connectivity between Chereating in Malaysia and Rayong in Thailand with a branching unit connecting from the main trunk into Sihanoukville in Cambodia. Huawei said in a statement, adding that access to neighboring countries such as Laos and Myanmar will be achieved through further connection to terrestrial based networks.—Xinhua

Indonesia to host badminton super series tournament

JAKARTA, 26 May — Indonesia was scheduled to host international badminton tournament of 2015 In- donesia Open Super Series from 2 to 7 June, offering a total reward of 800 thousand US Dollars, a tournament organizer official said here on Monday.

The tournament sanctioned by BWF (Badminton World Federation) would be participated by around 500 players from 20 countries, Indonesian Badminton Federation (PBSI) Chairman Gita Wirjawan said.

“BWF has assessed that the organizing of Indonesia Open Super Series 2014 was one of the bests in the world. The PBSI was very proud to become the party trusted by the BWF,” Gita told a press conference here.—Xinhua
Myanmar women golfers to take part in 32nd Malaysian Ladies Amateur Open 2015

YANGON, 26 May—A women’s golfers team led by Daw Myint Myint Tha, central executive committee of Myanmar Golf Federation, left for Malaysia to take part in the 32nd Malaysian Ladies Amateur Open 2015 at Templer Park Country Club from 26 to 28 May. The Myanmar team included golfers Yin Myo Myo, My Oo Khaing and Phu Pwint Yati Khaing. Myanmar Golfers Federation manages participation of Myanmar golfers in the international golf tournaments for improving skills of players to be able to take part in the 28th SEA Games in Singapore in 2015.—GNLM

London, 26 May — A Myanmar women golfers team, left for Malaysia to take part in the 32nd Malaysian Ladies Amateur Open 2015. Myanmar Golf Federation manages participation of Myanmar golfers in the international golf tournaments for improving skills of players to be able to take part in the 28th SEA Games in Singapore in 2015.—GNLM

Didier Drogba will not play for another English team when he leaves Chelsea, according to Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard by ending his career in the United States. The 37-year-old former Liverpool and Chelsea forward played his final game for Chelsea when the Premier League champions beat Sunderland 3-1 at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

“There are some really fantastic teams in the Premier League but my love for this club, I can’t share it with another English team,” he told the Daily Telegraph on Monday.

“Since I put the news I am leaving Chelsea on social media, I was in the dressing-room and I was receiving some calls from teams which is really unusual.

“It showed that maybe I can still bring something to a team. Of course I’m interested in the USA,” added Drogba. “Now I’m going to have a few days and weeks to think about what’s good for me next but all I want to is play.”

His former Chelsea team mate Lampard, who was on loan with Manchester City in 2015, is about to start a new career with New York City FC.

Gerrard, who used to patrol England’s midfield alongside Lampard, played his last game for Liverpool on Sunday before joining the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Drogba was voted the club’s greatest-ever player by supporters in 2012.

Reuters

Sharapova and Murray show off title credentials

PARIS, 26 May — Maria Sharapova got back in the groove at her happiest hunting ground while Andy Murray’s growing love of clay blossomed as both posted easy first-round wins at the French Open on Monday.

Defending champion Sharapova was nursing a cold but opened her bid for a third Roland Garros title in four years with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Estonian Kaia Kanepi on a breezy Court Philippe Chatrier.

Men’s third seed Murray then took his winning streak on the red dust to 11 matches by overpowering Argentinian lucky loser Facundo Arguello 6-3, 6-3, 6-1, maintaining his unbeaten run since marrying long-term partner Kim Sears.

It was not a perfect performance, perhaps due to the cough that was troubling her, but she never looked in danger as she set up a meeting with fellow Russian Vitalia Diatchenko.

Sharapova left to a few boos though after declining an on-court interview.

“Unless I’m really in my coffin, I’m going to be out there,” she told reporters. “I got sick a week before the tournament, not earlier. I think it’s a little bit better timing but it’s just the way it is. I’m getting over it, hopefully it will pass soon.”

The world number two is in the opposite side of the draw to her old nemesis, top seed Serena Williams, and will need to be 100 per cent to negotiate her way through to the final.

Former runner-up Samantha Stosur, an easy winner against American Madison Brengle, could await in the third round while eighth seed Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain, tipped as a dark horse for the title, is a possible foe in the quarter-finals.

Suarez Navarro beat Monica Niculescu of Romania 6-2, 6-2 but several seeds tumbled on day two in swanky western Paris.

Spain’s Feliciano Lopez, the men’s 11th seed, became the highest casualty so far, losing 6-3, 7-6 (9), 6-3 to Russian Teymuraz Gabashvili while women’s 14th seed Agnieszka Radwanska’s slump continued as the former world number two succumbed 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 to Germany’s Annika Beck.

American veteran Venus Williams, seeded 15, also lost, although a 7-6 (5), 6-1 defeat by compatriot Sloane Stephens barely registered on the shock scale.

With nine-times champion Rafa Nadal and top seed Novak Djokovic keeping their powder dry until Tuesday, Murray joined Roger Federer in getting a head start with a confident display on Court Philippe Chatrier.

There were a few early nerves, a double-fault in the opening game giving Arguello a break point that he could not convert and again when he allowed his 137th-ranked opponent to recover from 3-0 down to level at 3-3 in the first set.

Once Murray, twice a French Open semi-finalist, broke in the eighth game though he was untroubled.—Reuters

Maria Sharapova of Russia plays a shot to Kaia Kanepi of Estonia during their women’s singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on 25 May, 2015. Andy Murray won 3-0. Xinhua

Real sack coach Ancelotti after mediocre season

MADRID, 26 May — Real Madrid have sacked coach Carlo Ancelotti after the world’s richest club by income failed to win major silverware this season and according to local media, Napoli’s Rafa Benitez is the favourite to succeed him.

The board of directors have decided this evening to relieve Carlo Ancelotti of his duties,” president Florentino Perez told a news conference on Monday.

“It was a very difficult decision … but we have not come to Real Madrid to take easy decisions but to take decisions that we believe are the best for an institution that is a reference point around the world,” added the construction magnate.

“The demands are huge and we believe it is the right moment to give fresh impetus that will allow us to win more titles and reach our optimum competitive level in a new phase.”

The club will announce a successor next week, Perez said, and will be in charge in 2013-14.

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Reuters

Chelsea’s Didier Drogba celebrates after winning the Barclays Premier League during Barclays Premier League at Stamford Bridge on 24 May, 2015.—Reuters

Ashes, 25 May — Andy Murray of Britain competes during the men’s singles first round match against Argentine’s Facundo Arguello at 2015 French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros, in Paris, France on 25 May, 2015. Andy Murray won 3-0. Xinhua

Missed ball in 2015.—GNLM