The New Light of Myanmar
MYANMAR'S OLDEST ENGLISH DAILY
Volume XXII, Number 18 | 11th Waxing of Kason 1376 ME | Friday, 9 May, 2014

8th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN discusses external relations ahead of summit

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May— Three days before the start of the ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday, high-ranking officials from member states convened the 8th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the 3rd Meeting of the High Level Task Force on Economic Integration Working Group on a post-2015 Vision, with a Myanmar official saying the talks were productive.

Following Thursday's meetings, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to ASEAN Hau Khan Sum said, "The talks focused on enhancing ASEAN external relations among other issues, and were quite fruitful."

Details of the talks remained confidential, but according to Hau Khan Sum, "Everyone expressed the same view."

He also said the delegates were impressed by the development of Myanmar's administrative capital. "It is the third time now that Myanmar is hosting the CPR meeting and the foreign dignitaries said that everything has been going smoothly during Myanmar's chairmanship," he said.

On Friday, a wide range of preparatory meetings, including those of ASEAN Senior Economic Officials, will take place, with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Preparatory Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers among the highlights on Saturday.

The summit on Sunday will begin with an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. in which President U Thein Sein will officially welcome the ASEAN Heads of State.

The CPR supports the work of the ASEAN Community Councils and ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and coordinates with ASEAN National Secretariats. It facilitates ASEAN cooperation with external partners and performs other functions determined by the ASEAN Coordinating Council.

Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to ASEAN Hau Khan Sum. PHOTO-AMS

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ASEAN Summit to focus on ASEAN Community setup, ASEAN Vision

News crew of Myanmar News Agency

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at closing of XXIV ASEAN Summit and handover of ASEAN Chairmanship to Myanmar on 10 October 2013.—MNA

Myanmar will host the 24th ASEAN Summit and its related summits in its capital city of Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 11 May, sources said. They are the first summits to be hosted in Myanmar, which assumes the ASEAN chair this year. In an interview, Director General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs U Aung Lin told the Myanmar News Agency about points to be discussed and ASEAN Vision.

U Aung Lin said the summits are of great importance because decisions important for ASEAN will be made, adding that the first summit will see attendance from ASEAN countries with the second allowing ASEAN partners. According to ASEAN Charter, the country that takes on the ASEAN chairmanship is to host two summits a year.

Prior to the ASEAN Summit, separate meetings between high-ranking officials, ministers for foreign affairs, ministers for economy and ministers for culture had taken place, he said.

As told by U Aung Lin, the summits will focus on political, security, economic, social and cultural issues, which will serve a basis for the emergence of ASEAN Community.

In his response to the question of ASEAN Community, he said discussions are being made as regard the 'Post 2015 ASEAN Vision', following the summit hosted in Brunei last year.

When asked about the topics President U Thein Sein is likely to discuss at the summit, U Aung Lin said the president will place his focus on issues that reflect the current situation of the country and measures to be implemented in ASEAN countries. U Aung Lin continued the national issues deal with the bridging of the development gap between rural and urban areas as wells as poverty alleviation while the ASEAN issues are concerned with 'Initiative for ASEAN Integration' and 'ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan'.

Director General of Department of ASEAN Affairs U Aung Lin. MNA

Speaking of the regional issues to be dealt with at the summit, he said the summit will touch on such disputes as Korean Peninsular and South China Sea.

In addition, 'Treaty of Amity and Cooperation Southeast Asia (TAC)' is expected to be in discussion, he stated. The treaty requires ASEAN countries to respect each other's sovereignty and integrity, and uphold non-interference of each other's national affairs.

U Aung Lin said the president is scheduled to attend G-20 meeting on behalf of ASEAN, the details of which the president will give at the summit.

Trs: KTY

RAINDROPS FALLING DOWN ON STRAND ROAD, YANGON!

A woman with umbrella found braving a gust of wind while first rains of monsoon season pour down in downtown Yangon on Thursday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

A & I Ministry prepares to host 36th AMAF

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—As Myanmar will host the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in September 2014, U Ohn Than and U Khin Zaw, two deputy ministers for Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation shared experience from SOM-AMAF Leader Datuk Seri Hold Hashin of Malaysia, on Thursday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

SOM-AMAF Leader Datuk Seri Hold Hashin, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture Agro-based Industry of Malaysia, shared his experience on hosting the meeting.

SOM-AMAF Leader Datuk Seri Hold Hashin of Malaysia took responsibility for organizing the 35th AMAF in Malaysia in 2013.

MNA

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Thwin Myint Maung, Director-General of the Directorate of Industrial Planning under the Ministry of Industry as Director-General of the Directorate of Industries from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The President of the the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

	Name	Appointment
(a)	U Pe Zin Tun	Director-General Energy Planning Department Ministry of energy
(b)	Dr Myat Lwin	Rector Myanmar Maritime University Ministry of Transport

Sino-ASEAN relations to become closer, Chinese ambassador says

By *Aung Khin*

YANGON, 8 May—China will forge closer relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Yang Houland said during an exclusive interview with China's Xinhua News Agency.

Yang also confirmed the world's second largest economy and the Asian bloc expect new progress in their strategic partnership.

Yang said: "China and ASEAN are close neighbours sharing cultural similarities and common interests, which make them cooperation partners. China is the first major country out of the region that joined the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and is also the first country which has established strategic cooperative partnership and free trade area with ASEAN."

Bilateral trade increased five-fold to US $ 400 billion at present, and two-way investment has risen three-fold to more than $100 billion, the ambassador said. China is now ASEAN's biggest trading partner, and ASEAN is China's third largest.

China became the world's largest trading nation in 2013, surpassing the United States, and became the world's largest exporter of goods in 2009.

The annual trade in goods of the world's most populous country passed US $ 4 trillion for the first time in 2013 after its exports increased 7.9 per cent to US $ 2.21 trillion and imports jumped 7.3 per cent to US $ 1.95 trillion, according to official data.

The ambassador said the two sides should work for a higher version of the China-ASEAN free trade area and strive for a bilateral trade of US $1 trillion by 2020.

Citing Chinese data, the ambassador said trade between China and Myanmar increased 28.3 per cent on year to US $10.15 billion in 2013 when China's investment in Myanmar, including that from Hong Kong and Macao, exceeded US $21 billion, making China Myanmar's largest trade partner and source of foreign investment.

Deported journalist found holding business visa

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—A foreign correspondent was found participating in an unauthorized rally that took place in Magway on Thursday, followed by deportation the next day for violating the terms of his visa.

Watson Angus Roberzs, An Australian, entered Myanmar on 27 April through Yangon International Airport, holding a passport No. 899368 and a visa No. 08986/Business, and arrived in Magway on 7 May, reports said. Some foreign media described his arrest as a threat to press freedom. In response to these accusations, Deputy Information Minister U Ye Htut said no one under the name of Watson applied for a visa as a DVB journalist, adding that of four DVB journalists with visas in Myanmar, none is Australian. He pointed out his ministry has given out visas to eight correspondents working for DVB this year, with no denial so far.

The deputy minister remarked the Australian man should have applied for a journalist visa, calling the act unfitting. He also commented such incidents are likely to send wrong signals to other foreign correspondents who apply visas officially.—*MNA*

Australian Watson Angus Roberzs (L).
MNA

Myanmar Golf Tour continues third round

YANGON, 8 May—Yan Myo Aye was leading the professional level with 209 in the second leg of 2014 Myanmar Golf Tour (Yangon) at Yangon Golf Club in Insein Township on Thursday.

Zaw Zaw Latt (Han Golf Academy) stood second with 214 and Naing Niang Lin (Srixon) third with 215. Ye Htet Aung fired 220 strokes in the amateur level in the first position followed by Aung Kyaw with 227 and Min Naing Soe, 228.

In the women's amateur level, Yin May Myo struck 151 in the first, Khin Mar Nwe 154 and Phu Pwint Yati Khaing, 158.

Po Thaw Zin

Myanmar national team leaves for Thailand to compete in tune-up matches

YANGON, 8 May—As preparations for the AFC Challenge Cup, Myanmar national team left Yangon for Bangkok of Thailand.

The team led by Manager U Tin Aung and Head Coach Avramovic.

The players of the team are goalkeepers Thiha Sithu, Kyaw Zin Phyo and Van La Harwe; defenders Ye Win Aung, Zaw Min Tun, Aung Hein Kyaw, Hein Thiha Zaw, Thein Zaw, Pyae Phyo Aung, Aung Maw, Aung Theik, Sithu Aung and Khin Maung Lwin; midfielders Min Min Thu, Nay Lin Tun, Kyaw Min Oo, Nyein Chan Aung, Chit Su Moe, Htoo Htoo Aung, Yan Aung Win, Yan Aung Kyaw, David Dun and Yaza Win Thein; and forwards Yan Paing, Kyaw Ko Ko, Ye Aung and Kaung Sithu.

The Myanmar team will play two tune-up matches against a Thai club and Thai national team on 12 and 14 May.

Nyi Myat Thawda, Photo: Po Thaw Zin

Myanmar, US exchange views on national reconciliation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—Vice-President U Nyan Tun met the US delegation headed by Ms Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, to discuss matters on human rights and press freedom.

Both sides exchanged views on the national reconciliation, humanitarian assistance and relations between the two armed forces.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives US delegation headed by Ms Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights.—MNA

Political parties urged to work together as friends

Union Parliament Speaker and Speaker of People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann cordially meets local people.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—Union Parliament Speaker and Speaker of People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann told political parties to work together as friends without considering one another as enemies but in the interest of the parliament and the union.

Thura U Shwe Mann made a speech at a meeting with local people in Pinlaung, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone on Wednesday morning.

"All political parties are required to participate in a multiparty democracy system, and working together as friends rather than considering one another as enemies will be beneficial not only for the parliament but also for the union, U Shwe Mann said. Later in the afternoon, Thura U Shwe Mann continued to Nyaungshwe and met with local people there. He was accompanied by chairmen of People's Parliament Committees. —*MNA*

Commander-in-Chief holds talks with US delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with the US delegation led by Ms Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

They exchanged views on the role of Myanmar armed forces in democracy reform process of the nation, security and defence duty for the nation, cooperation with international organizations in prevention against recruitment of minors, ongoing process for eternal peace and the military codes of conduct.—*Myawady*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Ms Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights.—MYAWADY

Austrian guests meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, UMFCCI President

YANGON, 8 May—An Austrian delegation headed by Ms Doris Bures, Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the People's Parliament Rules of Law and Tranquility Committee on Thursday afternoon at her residence in Yangon.

In the morning, delegates visited the National Museum on Pyay Road and viewed round the Yangon-Insein circular railroad. They also visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

Myanmar-Austria infrastructure and technology workshop was held on Friday at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon, with a speech by Ms Doris Bures, Minister for Transport, Innovation and Techonology of Austria.

Entrepreneurs from the two nations discussed road infrastructure construction, technology and transport sector, and mutual economic cooperation.

MNA

Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology Ms. Doris Bures meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the People's Parliament Rules of Law and Tranquility Committee.—MNA

Union FM, US delegates meet

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received a delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Ms Sarah Sewall of the United States of America at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to development of Rakhine State, eradication of narcotic drugs and anti-human trafficking.—*MNA*

Myanmar-Laos bridge reflects friendly relations

YANGON, 8 May—Myanmar-Laos friendship bridge spanning Mekong river is located in Kenglek Sub-Township of Tachilek District in Shan State (East).

It will be built with reinforced concrete beam and RC floor. The bridge will be 691.6 metres long and 30 metres wide. It will have 8.5 metres wide motorway flanked by 1.2 metres wide pedestrian on either side. Its clearance will be 110 metres wide and 10 metres high, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The bridge will withstand 75 tons of loads.

The construction of the bridge started on 15 February 2013, according to the ministry.—*Soe Win-MLA*

Hlinethaya people try to overcome shortage of water

YANGON, 8 May—Township level authorities arrange supply of drinking water to the people of Ward 7, Inner Padan and Outer Padan villages of Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District.

As of 1 May, the officials supply 12000 gallons of water to the local people with the use of water tankers.

The local people face shortage of water due to hot summer.

Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)

KhinU residents get easy access to mini book corners

KHINU, 8 May—Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Kyi Hsan and staff have opened mini book corners in five places in urban area and five villages in KhinU Township of Sagaing Region as of 1 May.

Thanks to the mini book corners, local people including children have the opportunity to choose books as they like because the book corners are arranged with respective genres like politics, social, economic, education, health and other sectors for the readers.

KhinU Soe Wai

People young and old gave easy access to reading facility in KhinU.

Rural area of Tatkon Tsp get inter-village road, two bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—A ceremony to inaugurate two rural bridges and one gravel road was held to link three villages in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Wednesday morning.

Before opening the rural road, Kyetthunkhin Village was inaccessible to Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The village used the lane to pass Chaungcha village and Thabyetha village to reach the highway. In the past, the lane was poor conditions in rainy season and summer. Its width was just a way for vehicle.

Now, locals from three villages have easy access to Yangon-Mandalay Highways thanks to the inter-village road.

Aye Than

Aphyauk of Taikkyi Tsp urgently needs prevention against landslides

TAIKKYI, 8 May—Landslides cause at the bank of Ayeyawady River in Aphyauk of Taikkyi Township, northern part of Yangon.

Township authorities inspected causing landslides at the bank in Ward 4 of Aphyauk where townselder U Than Soe explained there are three areas of landslides in the ward. Each bank has been caused landslides about 500 feet long he added.

A total of 186 houses of 686 houses are located in the area of landslides. If the preventive measures cannot be taken in time, the houses will fall into the landslides. Now the area of landslides is about 30 feet to the houses.

Yangon Region Parliament MP U Soe Win Maung explained that he has demanded the fund from the region government to take preventive measures against the landslides. He said the fund will be allotted to the township in May.

Executive Officer U Soe Win of the township development affairs committee said that K 2.5 million for the first phase will be spent on prevention of landslides at Ayeyawady River bank before the rainy season.

At present, officials stockpile bamboo and posts to be used in building the retaining walls.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

Officials view landslides in Aphyauk of Taikkyi Township.

New transformer supplies electricity to residents

YANGON, 8 May—Head of Thingangyun Township Electricity Supply Board U Hla Myint, engineer and skilled workers substituted new transformer in the place of 500-KVA old one in Ward A of the township.

Thanks to their efforts, the local people enjoy fruits of electrification regularly.

Hmwe Hmwe

Crashed drones programmed to fly from North Korea and back: South Korea

SEOUL, 8 May — Three drones that crashed in South Korea had onboard flight programming that showed they were launched from North Korea and were meant to return after flying over military installations in the South, the defence ministry in Seoul said on Thursday.

South Korean and US officials jointly examined the three drones that were recovered in three different locations near the Korean border over a two-week period starting in late March.

The second was discovered soon after a three-hour artillery barrage between North and South Korea in waters near a disputed maritime border.

The drones' penetration of South Korean airspace raised questions about its air defence capabilities while Pyongyang clings to its hard-line stance against Seoul.

"North Korea's action is a clear military provocation that violates the armistice and the South-North non-aggression agreement," the South's defence ministry said in a statement.

Pyongyang has denied any involvement, calling the South's charge a fabrication.

In April, North Korea proposed a joint probe with the South but Seoul rejected the proposal.

South Korea's defence ministry also said in April some of the parts in the recovered drones were manufactured in China, Japan, the Czech Republic and the United States, but it offered no further details.

Photographs unearthed by the North Korea Tech blog showed a drone made by a Chinese company with an almost identical size and shape to some of the drones found in South Korea.

South Korea's defence ministry said it was aware of the Chinese-made drone and had sought explanations from the Chinese government. Repeated calls by *Reuters* to Taiyuan Hangyou Hangkong Technology Co Ltd, the company that produces the drones, were not answered.

China's foreign ministry also did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

So far this year North Korea has test-fired medium-range ballistic missiles, threatened to conduct a nuclear test, and fired more than 500 artillery shells that landed in disputed waters between the two Koreas.

Pyongyang has also recently conducted engine tests for an intercontinental ballistic missile that could potentially deliver a nuclear warhead to the United States, a US think tank said on Friday.

North Korea released TV footage last year of practice drones which had been modified to crash into predetermined targets, but it is not believed to operate drones capable of air strikes or long-range surveillance sorties.

North Korea's state media said last year leader Kim Jong Un had supervised a drill of "super-precision" drone attacks on a simulated South Korean target. Although the North has one of the world's largest standing armies, much of its equipment consists of antiquated Soviet-era designs.

It has focused its resources on developing nuclear and long-range missile programmes.—*Reuters*

A rocket is fired during a drill of drone planes assaulting targets and a firing drill of self-propelled flak rocket destroying "enemy" cruise missiles coming in attack in low altitude, conducted by the air force and air defence artillery units of the Korean People's Army in an undisclosed location in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency in Pyongyang on 20 March, 2013. KCNA said this picture was taken on 20 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Israel, US divided over Iranian nuclear enrichment deal

Israeli President Shimon Peres (R) shakes hands with US National Security Adviser Susan Rice at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, on 7 May, 2014. XINHUA

JERUSALEM, 8 May — Israel insists Iran be denied uranium enrichment capabilities under a potentially imminent nuclear deal, a demand that risks opening a new Israeli-United States rift, officials said on Wednesday.

The dispute, a major topic for a visit to Jerusalem by US National Security Adviser Susan Rice on Wednesday and Thursday, appeared part of Israeli efforts to weigh in on world powers' difficult talks with Teheran before a July 20 date for a deal.

Though not at the table, Israel matters in Western capitals given its fear of a nuclear-armed Iran and threats to attack its arch-foe preemptively if it deem diplomacy a dead end.

A November interim accord easing sanctions on Iran made clear Washington and five other world powers would let it enrich uranium on a reduced scale under a final agreement distancing it from the means to make a bomb. But Israel wants the Iranians to be stripped of all disputed nuclear projects.

Highly enriched uranium can fuel nuclear warheads. Iran says it seeks peaceful atomic energy and medical isotopes only.

"Are we going to agree on enrichment? No," an Israeli government adviser briefed on Rice's visit told *Reuters*. "We would be happy to see 20 July pass without a deal," the adviser said, adding that there was worry in Israel that Obama, facing possible gains by Republican rivals in the mid-term US elections of November, might be tempted to accommodate Iran now.

Reuters

Ousted Thai Prime Minister Yingluck to face impeachment

BANGKOK, 8 May — Ousted Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was on Thursday indicted by the National Anti-Corruption Commission over a widely criticized rice policy that her government introduced.

The NACC decided to indict Yingluck with a consensus, saying she intended to abuse her power in violation of the Constitution over the policy's implementation.

The NACC also said Yingluck acknowledged the corruption cases during the policy proceeding but she did not take action, which was seen as negligence.

The NACC will send the case to the Senate recommending her impeachment.

If Yingluck does not survive the impeachment, she will be banned from politics for five years. A separate criminal case in the Supreme Court could lead to a jail term.

Yingluck Shinawatra greets her supporters as she leaves the Permanent Secretary of Defence office in Bangkok on 7 May, 2014.—REUTERS

On Wednesday, Yingluck was ousted from office by the Constitutional Court for interfering in the transfer of a government official.

The rice-pledging scheme was a flagship policy platform that the ruling party, Pheu Thai, used to win votes from farmers in the campaign for the 2 February general election.

To finance the policy, the government ran up a huge bill in payments to rice farmers, who deposited their rice as a pledge to receive money.

The government later suspended payments to the farmers as the price of rice crops set for famers under the scheme was above the world market rate.

The anticorruption agency's investigation has turned up evidence of widespread corruption in the rice-pledging scheme.

Kyodo News

Japanese PM Abe meets Barroso, Van Rompuy in Brussels
(from L to R) European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy pose for photos at the EU headquarters in Brussels on 7 May, 2014, prior to their talks.—KYODO NEWS

Germany's Merkel warns Russia against "old patterns of thinking"

BERLIN, 8 May — German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Russia on Wednesday against falling back into "old patterns of thinking" about spheres of influences and said events in Crimea fell into this category. Speaking in Berlin at an event to commemorate the outbreak of World War One, she warned that those who whip up conflict over Ukraine's national integrity not only breach international law but also ignore the lessons of European history.

Since a pro-Russian president was ousted in Ukraine in an uprising in February, Russian President Vladimir Putin has overturned decades of post-Cold War diplomacy by proclaiming the right to send troops to Ukraine and seizing and annexing Crimea.

"In Crimea we're experiencing a regression into old patterns of thinking," Merkel said at the event attended by 400 young people from 40 countries.

"The answer to globalization is not old patterns of thinking or partition but developing common interests — that's what makes Europe appealing," she said.

"Those whose thinking revolves around their own sphere of influence may be stronger than us in the short-term but not in the end. In the end they will only damage themselves."

A rebellion in eastern Ukraine has raised the prospect that the country could be carved up or even descend into civil war.

"These days we are seeing that we cannot take peace and freedom for granted, even among our close neighbours," said Merkel, who recalled that Berliners a century ago cheered the outbreak of World War One, something that was unthinkable today. On Tuesday Merkel criticised Russian plans for a military parade in Crimea on Friday to mark the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany, citing the heightened tensions in Ukraine.—*Reuters*

Mexico ruling party official arrested on suspicion of gang links

MEXICO CITY, 8 May — A top ruling party politician in the troubled Mexican state of Michoacan was formally arrested on Wednesday for alleged links to organized crime, an official from the attorney general's office said.

Jesus Reyna Garcia, a member of President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, became interim governor of the western state last year, stepping in for the incumbent Fausto Vallejo when he fell ill.

Reyna was first detained in April and ordered held for 40 days while authorities investigated him for alleged links to organized crime.

"While he was being held, it was discovered that Reyna had had various meetings with members of criminal groups," Rodrigo Archundia, the head of Mexico's specialist organized crime investigative unit, or SEIDO, told reporters.

Michoacan has been ravaged by the Knights Templar drug cartel, which had an iron grip on much of the state until an uprising by armed vigilantes earlier this year.

Archundia did not say which group Reyna was involved with, but federal officials have previously stated the former acting governor of Michoacan had dealings with the Knights Templar.

When fighting broke out between the gang and the vigilantes, the government sent in reinforcements to pacify Michoacan. In ensuing weeks, it captured and killed several leaders of the Knights Templar after forging an alliance with the vigilantes.

Reuters

Interim governor of Michoacan, Jesus Reyna Garcia, gives a speech at the Michoacan state congress in Morelia on 22 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Four Cuban exiles arrested on terror charges

HAVANA, 8 May — Four Cuban exiles, the residents of Miami, Florida of the United States, have been arrested on alleged charges of planning terrorist attacks in the Caribbean island nation, local authorities said on Wednesday.

"The detainees acknowledged that they intended to attack military installations to promote violence," said the Cuban Interior Ministry in a statement published by the state daily *Granma* newspaper.

The four were arrested on 26 April, the ministry said, adding they had made several trips between Cuba and the United States " since mid-2013 ... to study and plan the carrying out" of the terror plot. The ministry said the four, identified as Jose Ortega Amador, Obdulio Rodriguez Gonzalez, Raibel Pacheco Santos and Felix Monzon Alvarez, acknowledged that the plans were being organized under the leadership of three terrorists who reside in Miami and have close links to another known terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles. Pasada is wanted by three countries — Cuba, Venezuela and Barbados — for his role in masterminding a 1976 airliner bombing that killed 73 people aboard a flight bound for Cuba.—*Xinhua*

NATO experts advise Ukraine on nuclear plant safety

BRUSSELS, 8 May — NATO experts have visited Ukraine to advise authorities there on improving the safety of nuclear power plants, gas pipelines and other critical infrastructure amid growing violence and fears of conflict with Russia, officials said on Wednesday.

Ukraine's Ambassador to NATO, Ihor Dolhov, said the NATO civilian experts had visited Ukraine last month to assess critical infrastructure such as nuclear plants, pumping stations for gas pipelines and hydro-electric plants.

"In any country, in any situation, there are plans and additional measures to protect infrastucture objects, including in Ukraine. So the purpose was to evaluate the performance of measures which are being implemented in Ukraine to protect such objects," Dolhov told *Reuters*.

Another objective was to make sure the installations would be safe in the event of an emergency, he said.

A NATO official confirmed that a small team of civilian experts from the alliance visited Kiev last month "to advise the Ukrainian authorities on their national civil contingency plans and safety measures in the context of possible threats to critical energy infrastructure."—*Reuters*

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa (R) meets with President of the United Nations General Assembly John William Ashe, who is in Colombo to attend the World Conference on Youth (WCY) 2014, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 7 May, 2014.
XINHUA

Hamas executes 2 Gazans for helping Israel

GAZA, 8 May — The Hamas authorities on Wednesday executed two Palestinians convicted of being collaborators with Israel in the Gaza Strip, an official statement said.

The statement from the Hamas-run Interior Ministry said that the two informants had guided the Israeli military to the locations of Palestinian resistance, government security establishments and metal workshops. They were executed on Wednesday afternoon, one being shot and the other hanged.

Hamas said the executions were meant to "preserve the societal security."

Earlier in March Hamas launched a campaign to combat collaboration with Israel, promising amnesty to any informants who turn himself in willingly during the two-month campaign.

Hamas, a militant group that took over Gaza in 2007 by force, suffers severe harm from information leaked to Israel. The latter launched two major offensives against Gaza in 2012 and in the winter from 2008 to 2009.—*Xinhua*

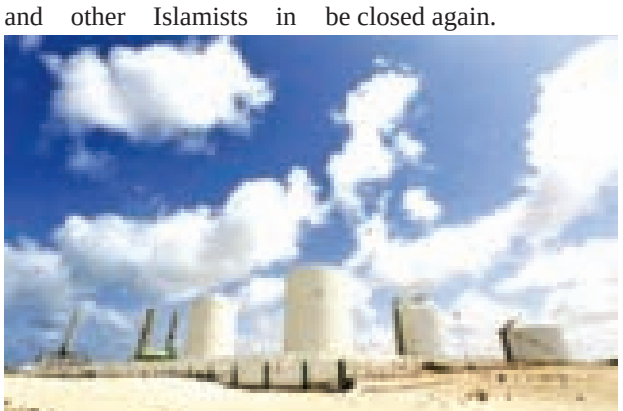
WORLD

Libyan rebels reject talks with PM, keep oil ports shut

BENGHAZI/TRIPOLI, 8 May — Rebels occupying major oil ports in eastern Libya said on Wednesday they would boycott Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq and keep two major export terminals shut for now, a blow to efforts to restore vital oil exports.

The rebels even warned they would take action if Tripoli did not fulfill its part of a recent agreement to reopen the oil ports, a veiled threat to close the terminals again.

"Nothing has been implemented," said Abd-Rabbo al-Barassi, self-declared prime minister of the rebel movement. He accused the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists in parliament of undermining the agreement and trying to take over the ports.



*A general view of the Zueitina oil terminal is seen in Zueitina, west of Benghazi on 7 April, 2014.—*REUTERS

The struggle over energy wealth is part of growing turmoil in the North African country three years after the overthrow of dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Maiteeq's predecessor, Abdullah al-Thinni, reached an agreement with the rebels to reopen four of the ports, although only the smaller facilities, Hariga and Zueitina, have been handed over to government forces.

Both sides agreed to hold further talks over the larger Ras Lanuf and Es Sider exports terminals.

Barassi said the rebels would not deal with Maiteeq, claiming he had not come to power legally. The businessman was sworn in on Sunday after a chaotic election in parliament that was disputed by many deputies. "Mr Abdullah al-Thinni needs to explain or appoint someone to say why there is this delay and why the agreement has not been implemented," Barassi told a rebel television station.

If the government did implement the deal, then the rebels might take unspecific "measures." Barassi did not elaborate, but rebel spokesman Ali al-Hasi said this would mean asking tribal elders whether the reopened ports should be closed again.

Barassi said more talks about "new conditions" were needed to reopen the Ras Lanuf and Es Sider ports. He did not say what these conditions would entail, but top leader Ibrahim Jathran said the group wanted a federal system sharing power and oil wealth between the regions, an impossible demand on the weak central government.

There was no immediate comment from Tripoli, which has struggled to assert authority over a country awash in arms and rival militias, some of which have seized oil ports and fields to make political and financial demands.

Reuters

Ukraine ready for talks with the east, not with 'terrorists'

KIEV, 8 May — Ukraine's government is ready to talk to political parties and regional officials in eastern regions on ways to resolve the country's crisis, but will not talk to "terrorists", the Foreign Ministry said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Wednesday for talks between Ukraine's new pro-Western leaders and separatists in the east, a move which Kiev said suggested his U-turn was evidence that international pressure on Moscow was working.

"The absolute priority for the government of Ukraine is a full-scale national dialogue with the participation of political forces, regional representatives and the public," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "But dialogue is impossible and unthinkable with terrorists."

Kiev calls the pro-Russian separatists, who now control swathes of eastern Ukraine, "terrorists" or "bandits" who are supported by Russia as part of efforts to destabilize Ukraine.

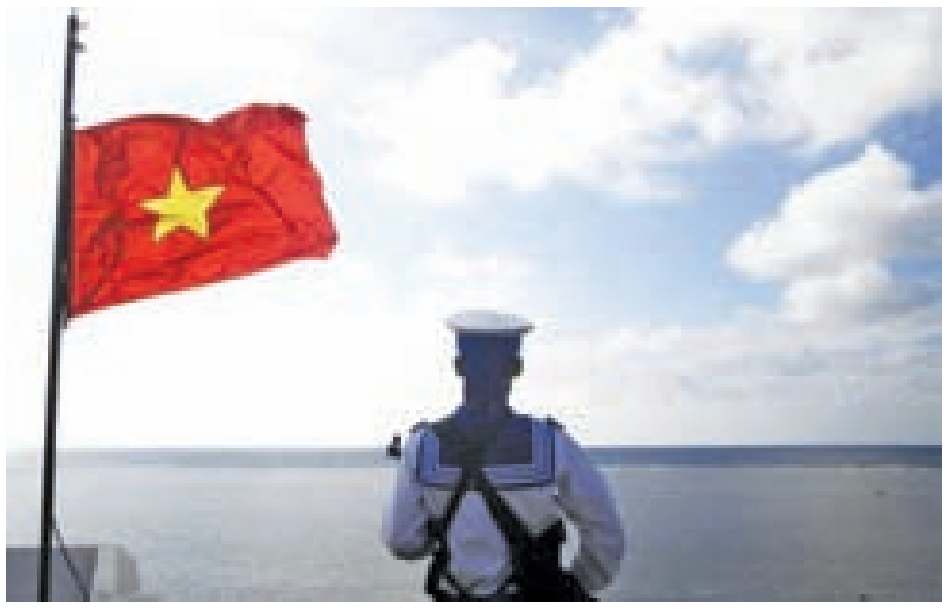
Russian President Vladimir Putin

Russia denies playing any role in the uprising in Ukraine's east, saying pro-Russian speakers are simply defending their rights against possible attacks by the pro-Western government.

But Putin's words on Wednesday could signal a softening of his position in the worst crisis between East and West since the Cold War. Putin also called on separatists to postpone a referendum on independence for 11 May and announced he was pulling Russian troops back from the Ukrainian border.

The ministry also said it was waiting for evidence that the troops had moved from the border.—*Reuters*

China Vice Foreign Minister says China-Vietnam sea incident not 'clash'



*A Vietnamese naval soldier stands quard at Thuyen Chai island in the Spratly archipelago in this 17 Jan, 2013 file picture.—*REUTERS

BEIJING, 8 May — Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping said on Thursday that China and Vietnam could resolve disputes at sea peacefully and that an incident between the countries earlier this week in a part of the disputed South China Sea was not a "clash". Vietnam said on Wednesday a Chinese vessel intentionally rammed two of its ships in an area where Beijing has deployed a giant oil rig, sending tensions spiralling in the region.

Cheng made the comments to reporters on the sidelines of a forum in Beijing.—*Reuters*

Philippine police defend detainment of Chinese fisherman

MANILA, 8 May — Philippine police chief Alan Purisima on Thursday defended the detainment of 11 Chinese fishermen caught poaching in Philippine waters in the South China Sea, after Beijing called for their immediate release.

The 11 Chinese nationals were caught on Tuesday in a boat in waters off Half Moon Shoal of the Spratly Islands with 120 live and 234 dead turtles. On Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying argued that China has "indisputable sovereignty" over the areas in the South China Sea where the fishermen were at before they were detained.

"That is their assertion. Our assertion is, that (area) is ours also. So that is Philippine territory. That's why there is a dispute," Purisima said in a news conference.

Police maritime group head Noel Vargas, whose personnel detained the fishermen, said at the same briefing that the operation was sanctioned by a Philippine law on the conservation and protection of wildlife resources. Vargas invoked the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets a 200 nautical mile (about 370 kilometres) exclusive economic zone for member countries, including the Philippines. He said the foreign vessel, which carried a Chinese flag, was around 105 km from Rizal town in the Philippines' westernmost island province of Palawan.

Vargas also denied reports in Chinese media that shots were fired.

Rejecting China's statement that the Philippine action was provocative, Purisima said, "That is their statement, but we're just doing our job."

The two officials said the case had been forwarded to an inter-agency body that will conduct further investigation and decide whether or not charges will be filed against the apprehended persons.

They also referred to the same body the issue of whether or not the suspects will be released, as demanded by China, saying handling of diplomatic intervention is beyond their authority.

The Philippine foreign affairs department had said that "the seizing of the Chinese fishing boat, carrying large numbers of endangered species, and the apprehension of its crew by the Philippine National Police Maritime Group Special Boat Unit were undertaken as actions to enforce maritime laws and to uphold Philippine sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone."—*Kyodo News*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 9 May, 2014

Myanmar on the move

By Myitzu Dwe

The ASEAN summit is just around the corner. Within days, Myanmar will be taking the chair of ASEAN summit for the first time after joining ASEAN in 1997, which is 17 years ago. Myanmar has set up the theme for 2014 ASEAN chair as "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community". According to the theme for ASEAN 2014, Myanmar has an intention of putting into context of forward, unity, peace and prosperity in their areas of primary concerns and it will fully integrate into the community so as to ensure the full implementation of the remaining tasks in realizing for the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

For the achievement of the above theme, continuation of building trust and reciprocity with key strategic partners within and without ASEAN are vital, inclusive of authenticating the voices of human rights and civil society groups. At the same time, Myanmar needs to recommit the ASEAN founding principles of unity and consensus to maintain the regional peace.

Myanmar has an experience after the Sea Games. Last year they had gained confident in SEA Games and got rising momentum from the ASEAN Foreign Minister' Retreat in Bagan, and from Summit BIMSTEC in Nay Pyi Taw.

As ASEAN summit 2014 chair, Myanmar will have an unprecedented opportunity to shine and one way or another Myanmar will definitely display its glorious history and ongoing reform process towards greater democratisation. Also, it will be a great opportunity in understanding Myanmar which is soon turning into one of the biggest miracles in Asia.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Myanmar spelling and pronunciation are being corrupted: intentionally or unintentionally?

Kin Mg Oo

Each and every one of the countries has its own characteristics: culture, customs and traditions, language, art and literature. Undeniably, these make us distinguishable from others. Socially-unacceptable ideas and habits used to and disappear naturally. But we need to keep our own image. Our nation owes its existence to our ancestors' maintenance of these characteristics, of which the language is an important factor. Here I would like to express my emphatic regret about our mother tongue, "Myanmar Language", though not being a linguistic expert. Somehow, what I am now going to say went undisclosed emphatically by our Myanmar scholars. I know they love the Myanmar Language more than us, and I believe in their abilities to deal with this problem. They may be seeking effective ways and means to cope with this. As a layman holding conventional views, I would not like to see our mother tongue deteriorating. But it is heartening for us to have occasionally heard discussions about Myanmar language in the literary chatroom (Readers' channel) led by Sayargyi Dr Khin Mg Nyo in MRTV-4. And sporadically, articles on Myanmar grammar and usages can be found in the Myanmar Dailies. Now my mind suddenly went back to sometime in the past, when the then only reliable mass media were newspapers—Botahtaung, Kyemon, Loketha Pyithu Nezin, the Guardian, the Working People's Daily and later the Hanthawaddy. Really they were important forums for various kinds of debates: politics, culture, literature, music, education, art and etcetera. Probably you will be itching to know what the above-said irritating problem is.

Lately, some TV commercials and interviews with celebrities and presentations by some presenters often made us unhappy. Some words were miserably pronounced. In a TV commercial, the actor wrongly articulated "Mo" for "Hmo" in describing a fungus infection. This may be attributed to his improper articulation or otherwise. Other frequently-made errors are "Myaw-lint" for "Hmyaw-lint" which is meant for "hope", and "Hmaw Gun" for "Maw Gun" which is meant for "record of a significant event meant to last. As in above-said Mo and Hmo, there can be many an error of mispronunciation noticed in the conversations of today's youths in our proximity, if we would notice. Especially they cannot distinguish "Sa" from "Hsa". You will come to know it well if they are asked to pronounce, "Hsa-lein". Their same answers will be "Sa-lein". I wonder why they do typical pronunciations. It is firmly believed that they can be trained to be able to articulate these pronunciations well. In my opinion, this should be taken into consideration as an important matter. Otherwise, our Myanmar Language will come to a ruin before we recognized it. For saying so, we may be regarded to be exaggerating in a pessimistic way. While I am at it, I want to point out some errors they frequently made. In reality, this should be discussed as an esoteric subject by our respected Myanmar savants. I would be much obliged if our scholars would come into our discussions willingly.

There is a difference between aspirated sounds and un-aspirated ones. All sounds can be made aspirated and un-aspirated. Aspirated sounds are where we breathe out at the same time. It is the strong burst of air, that accompanies either the release or, or the closure of some obstruents. Un-aspirated sounds are where we do not breathe out at the same time. Aspiration means the action of pronouncing a word with an/h/sound, as in house. Generally speaking, aspiration means "ha-hto" in Myanmar. To feel or see the difference between aspirated and un-aspirated sounds, one can put a hand or a lit candle in front of one's mouth, and say pin[phin] and then bin. One should either a puff of air or see a flicker of the candle flame with phin that one does not get with bin. In most dialects of English, the initial consonant is aspirated in phin and un-aspirated in bin. In our Myanmar language, Ka, Sa, Ta, Pa and La are un-aspirated sounds. Thus aspirated sounds include Kha, Hsa, Hpa, Hta and Hla.

The annoyances I found are as follows:

Destroy----- mispronounced as pyet-hsi/ hpyet-si
[Actual pronunciation is hpyet-hsi]
Break--------mispronounced as cho-pauk
[Actually it is cho-hpauk]
Hope---------mispronounced as myaw-lint
[Actually it is hmyaw-lint]

Here I would like to say about aspiration (ha-hto in Myanmar) at length. It is interesting.

Left-hand group	---	Right-hand group				
Ka	---	Ka	+	aspiration	=	Kha
Sa	---	Sa	+	aspiration	=	Hsa
Ta	---	Ta	+	aspiration	=	Hta
Pa	---	Pa	+	aspiration	=	Hpa/ Pha
Ma	---	Ma	+	aspiration	=	Hma
La	---	La	+	aspiration	=	Hla

Here I would like to say that continual repetition of the above-said consonant sounds and aspiration sound "ha" combination will make one sound drop to form a new one (aspirated sound), as in Syncope and Apocope of Phonetics. Thus Ta+ ha changes into hta, La+ ha into hla, and so on, like library, probably, cup of tea.

Left-hand group/Passive	---	Right-hand group/ Active
Be+ destroyed =pyet	---	Destroy = hpyet
Be+ broken =kyo-pyet/Kwe	---	Break = khyo-hpyet/ Khwe
Be+ torn =Sote/pyae	----	Tear = hsote/hpyae
Be+ frightened = kyauk/lant	----	Frighten = khyauk or chauk/ hlant
Be+ hoisted = myauk/myint/lwint	---	Hoist=hmyauk/ hmyint/ hlwint
Be+ lowered= kya	---	Lower =khya or cha
Be + opened= pwint	---	Open = hpwint
Be + moved = ywe/ yway	---	Move = hywe/hyway/ shwe/ shway
(NB –Move is ergative verb.)		
Be+ cooked=kyet	---	Cook = khyet/chet
Be + abridged = kyont	---	Abridge = khyont/ chont
Be + undone = pyi/pyoke	---	Undo = hpyi/hpyoke

It will take probably a few pages to describe as much as possible. Let me stop giving more examples. Not unlike any other living languages, new words including invented ones are coming into our Myanmar language. Concurrently, outdated, unacceptable and derogatory words are disappearing from our everyday expressions. And we, especially youths are eager to create the avant-garde. Among them are nonsensical words. They are spreading these meaningless words via face-book, for example- the` yin for thu nge gyin which is meant for friend, and bwa for bawa which is meant for life. It takes a country time to develop its language to the present state. All researchers who have studied the origin and development of the Myanmar script that its source was the Brahmi script which flourished in India from about 500 B. C. to over 300 A. D. The relationship of similarity between characters and letters forms suggests that there is no denying that Myanmar script had its source in Brahmi. The earliest Myanmar writing is from the Bagan period of the 11th and 12th centuries. Now I am highlighting these so as to convince our Myanmar youths that our well-established Myanmar language is a national heritage gained through our fore-fathers' arduous effort. We all, including authorities, scholars, writers, mass media and Myanmarsar lovers urgently need to persuade the youths to learn to admire the prestigious language, and not to follow suit wrongly.

Here I came to notice that all of the Myanmar verbs (mono-syllable) beginning with aspirated sounds are transitive verbs in active form, and when some of them are transformed into passive form, they have mostly to be pronounced as un-aspirated. Now let's make a conclusion like this: "All mono-syllable aspirated sound verbs are transitive verbs, but all transitive verbs are not mono-syllable aspirated sound verbs".

Myanmar language is said to be a mono-syllable one. So, each and every one of the syllables has its particular meaning. It can easily be seen in Myanmar nouns. Now let's analyze verbs.

1/ Hpyant-karr = outstretched
Hpyant+karr; As far as possible+ stretched
2/ Hpyant-wai = deliver
Hpyant+ wai; As far as it must reach+send/give
3/ Khote-htit = chop
Khote+ htit; Cut and chop

Ironically enough, a phonetics illiterate has been urging the young minds to promote our country's national heritage to the best of their caliber at their turn. Much as we are learning foreign languages, every individual need learn to love our mother tongue. At least, we must be mindful of our responsibilities to keep our language intact. In learning foreign languages, our teachers always tell us to lay emphasis on spelling and pronunciation. Nowadays Myanmar-Myanmar dictionaries are available everywhere. We should have a Myanmar spelling dictionary and a Myanmar-Myanmar dictionary within our reach so that we can consult at any time. As an ordinary being, I feel that we will never find it difficult as much as teaching a flower seller with a thick cockney accent to get the flow of upper-class society, to teach Myanmar students and youths how to properly articulate Myanmar words and Myanmar aspirated sounds. Would that enthusiastic teachers like Professor Henry Higgins in the famous musical film, My Fair Lady, would emerge in our country to launch a campaign for protecting our Myanmar Language from deterioration. Myanmar abounds with many scholars and learned men. Some 40 years ago, the Myanmar Dailies including English versions had seen articles and discussions of many well-known writers and artists such as Dagon U San Ngwe, U San Htun (Mandalay University), Sayargyi U Gon Ban, Aba (U Than Myint) and other respected ones. I humbly request all my respected persons to educate the young generation through class-rooms and mass-media to other than take our Myanmarsar for granted. Then, it is just a matter of time before face-book users cease to write corrupted Myanmar words. I beg your pardon in case there included a mistake in my writing, as I did it out of Cetana and in all simplicity.

May all learn to love their first language.

Ref: Myanmar-English Dictionary by Department of the Myanmar Language Commission, Ministry of Education, Union of Myanmar, 1st Edition 1993

Retaining walls built to prevent bank erosion in Kalay Tsp

KALAY, 8 May—In the last rainy season, erosion of Myittha River caused landslides in Natnan Village of Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

The Township Development Supportive Committee takes responsibility for construction of 620 feet long retaining walls to prevent bank erosions at the village.

In accord with the instruction of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, the region government allotted K20 million from its fund for construction of the retaining walls in 2013-14 financial year.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo supervises construction of the retaining walls for its timely completion.—*Joe Net*

Squalls fell trees down in Amarapura, Pyigyidagun townships

MYITNGE, 8 May—Squalls hit Pyigyidagun and Amarapura townships of Mandalay Region at 7 pm on Wednesday.

Not only the showers but hail stones dropped in the townships. In the incidents, trees in Taungmyint Ward near Yangon-Mandalay Highway fell down in the ward and some fallen trees blocked the motorway. Moreover, a Samsung advertisement board on Yangon-Mandalay Highway was destroyed in Natyaygan Village of Amarapura Township in the squall.

Likewise, tree broke branches in Myitnge of Amarapura Township in the squalls.—*Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)*

Two speed boats start journeys bringing smooth transport for locals

KYUNSU, 8 May—Kyan Taing Aung-3 speed boat was launched on 27 February 2014 and Gandamar-1 on 30 April in Kyunsu Township of Taninthayi Region for better transportation of the local people.

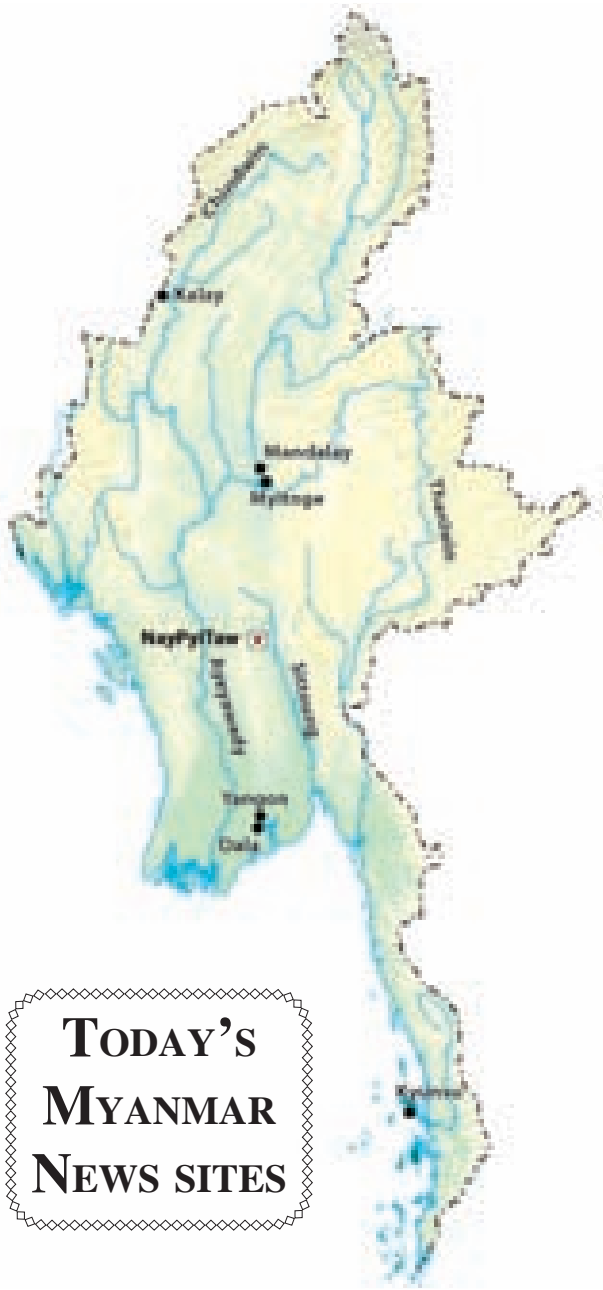
Kyan Taing Aung-3 speed boat ran free of charge at Pala footprint Pagoda festival in Palaw Township at a request of local people from Kyunsu Township.

Gandamar-1 speed boat introduced its operation on 30 April for transport of local people free of charge.

In a press conference, responsible persons of both transport services said that their activities were no purpose for overwhelming other services. Gandamar-1 has been running its transport K 1000 per passenger since 1 May.

Township administrator U Nyein Htwe urged responsible persons of both transport services to operate their runs in line with the prescribed rules and regulations.

Kyan Taing Aung speed boat can accommodate 108 passengers and Gandamar, 164 passengers.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)*



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Free potable water for locals in Dala

DALA, 8 May—Dala Township Water and Sanitation Section of Yangon City Development Committee supplies water drinking water to the local people free of charge in Dala Township of Yangon by water tanker on Wednesday.

The Township Development Affairs Committee runs supply of water to the locals of Thamada Beach Ward with four brick water tanks, Health Staff Ward with six tanks, Yazathingyan Ward three tanks and two water taps from 7 am to 12 noon.

Thanks to water supply facilities, the local people can easily enjoy potable water in the summer.—*Ko Ko Yupa*

Cost of Somali piracy slumps as attacks fall

The German Frigate 'Hamburg' (R) patrols after destroying two fishing boats (L) which were discovered floating keel side up in open waters off the coast of Somalia, in this undated handout photo made available to Reuters on 15 Aug, 2011.—Reuters

London, 8 May — The cost of Somali piracy to the global economy fell by almost half last year as attacks slumped, but piracy in West Africa was on the rise, an annual security report said on Wednesday.

The Oceans beyond Piracy report put the total cost of Somali piracy — by far the largest single threat to international shipping in recent years — at only $3.2 billion in 2013.

There were still at least 50 hostages in Somali captivity in desperate conditions, held on average for most three years each, the report said.

Gauging the level of threats in the Gulf of Guinea was difficult because of incomplete reporting but it was clear that rising numbers of seafarers were being kidnapped, it said.

At the height of Somali pirate attacks in 2011, up to a dozen or more merchant ships were being held captive at any one time, often for multimillion-dollar ransoms. Since then, growing use of private security details and the presence of international warships have largely prevented successful attacks. No large vessels were seized in 2013.

"The efforts of the international community and the shipping industry have considerably reduced the threat of Somali piracy," says Jens Madsen, one of the report's authors. "But we have yet to achieve the goal of ... zero vessels captured and zero hostages held."

Only a tiny proportion of the money spent on Somali piracy was being used for permanent solutions onshore, the pirates' launching pad for attacks on passing ships, the report said.

The lost majority of the funds was used for private security contractors and insurance premiums.

Reuters

Obama says kidnapping of Nigerian girls shows man's "darkest impulses"

Los Angeles, 8 May — US President Barack Obama issued a somber warning on Wednesday that the kidnapping of Nigerian girls and sectarian conflicts worldwide are a sign that "we have not extinguished man's darkest impulses." Obama accepted a humanitarian award from director Steven Spielberg at the University of Southern California's Shoah Foundation, a Holocaust museum founded by Spielberg after he made the film "Schindler's List."

Obama spoke about a variety of global conflicts including Ukraine, Syria, and the kidnapping of more than 200 Nigerian girls by the Boko Haram Islamist militant group.

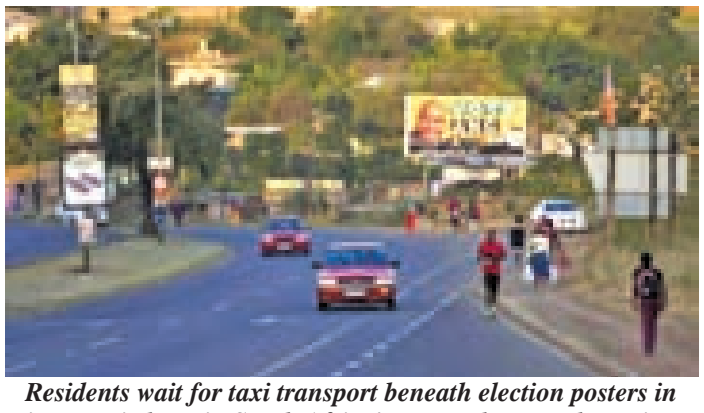
"We only need to look at today's headlines: The devastation of Syria, the murders and kidnappings in Nigeria, the sectarian conflicts, the tribal conflicts to see that we have not yet extinguished man's darkest impulses," Obama said.

He expressed alarm about a rising tide of anti-Semitism based on events such as a gunman's attack on two Jewish facilities in Kansas and the distribution of pamphlets in eastern Ukraine that demanded the registration of Jews. "None of the tragedies that we see today may rise to the full horror of the Holocaust," he said. However, he said "they demand our attention that we not turn away."

"We have to act even where there is sometimes ambiguity. Even when the path is not always clearly lit. We have to try. That includes confronting the rising tide of anti-Semitism in the world," he said.—*Reuters*

US President Barack Obama

South Africa's ruling ANC takes early election lead



Residents wait for taxi transport beneath election posters in Pietermaritzburg in South Africa's KwaZulu Nataal Province, in this picture taken on 29 April, 2014.—Reuters

Johannesburg, 8 May — South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) held an early lead as votes were counted on Thursday, a day after millions cast their ballots in the country's first "Born Free" election.

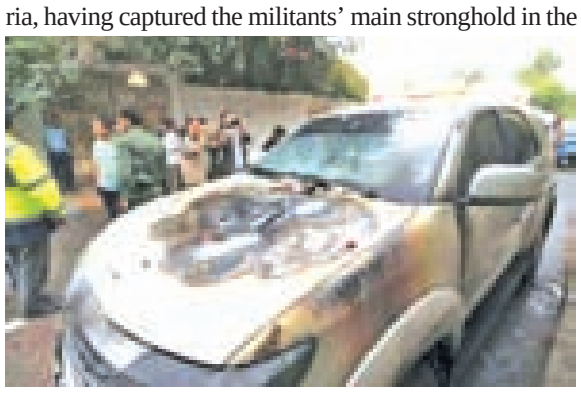
The ANC, the liberation party that swept to power under the leadership of Nelson Mandela at the end of apartheid in 1994, had 55.8 percent of the vote after the results from nearly 20 percent of polling stations had been counted, the electoral commission said.

The ANC's nearest rival, the Democratic Alliance, held 31 percent as it looks to make up more ground after polling 16.7 percent nationwide at the last general election in 2009.—*Reuters*

Yemen says kills militant behind attacks on Westerners

Sanaa, 8 May — Yemeni security forces on Wednesday killed a prominent Islamist militant suspected of masterminding attacks on Westerners, including a French security agent gunned down two days ago, the country's supreme security committee said. Security forces also detained five al-Qaeda suspects and captured weapons in raids across the capital, the state news agency reported.

The announcements came as Yemeni forces pushed ahead with an offensive against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, and its local offshoot, Ansar al-Sharia, having captured the militants' main stronghold in the south on Tuesday. Citing recent attacks against Western interests in Yemen, the United States suspended operations of its embassy in Sanaa to the public.



People look at a damaged car where a French man was assassinated, in Sanaa on 5 May, 2014.—Reuters

"We continue to evaluate the security situation every day, and we will reopen the embassy to the public once it is deemed appropriate," the State Department said in a statement on Wednesday, describing the step as "precautionary." Yemeni officials say al-Qaeda is behind a campaign of assassinations, including the killing of the Frenchman in Sanaa on Monday, to destabilize the US-allied country as it tries to emerge from political turmoil following 2011 protests that forced veteran President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down.

"Today, the government of Yemen announced the death of Wael al-Waeli, a terrorist ringleader — linked to AQAP — who planned and executed a number of criminal operations," the Yemeni Embassy in Washington said in a statement. As well as the Frenchman's killing this week, it said Waeli was responsible for the kidnapping of a Dutch couple last year who were released in December after six months in captivity, an assassination attempt on a German diplomat last month and an attack on a Sanaa jail that freed over a dozen AQAP militants.

Special forces killed Waeli and another suspect as they left a house in Sanaa on Wednesday morning, it said. They arrested a third man.—*Reuters*

Alibaba files for what may be biggest tech IPO

Alibaba's logo is seen at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 23 April, 2014.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 May—Alibaba gave investors a closer look at the scale and growth of the Chinese e-commerce juggernaut in an initial public offering (IPO) prospectus filed on Tuesday, the first step in what could be the largest technology debut in history.

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, which powers 80 percent of all online commerce in the world's second-largest economy, is expected to raise more than $15 billion, and could top the $16 billion pulled in by Facebook Inc when it listed in 2012.

The bulk of the proceeds will go to Yahoo Inc—which bought a 40 percent stake in Alibaba in 2005 for $1 billion and which must sell more than a third of its current 22.6 percent stake through the IPO. Alibaba also plans to sell new shares, people familiar with the plans have said, to bulk up a cash war chest depleted by a rash of recent acquisitions.

While the Alibaba brand is less well known in the United States than Internet companies such as Amazon.com and Facebook, the Chinese company's listing has stirred the most excitement in Silicon Valley and Wall Street since Facebook's record IPO. Alibaba will become the largest Chinese corporation to list in the US—on either the New York Stock Exchange or the Nasdaq.

Alibaba will debut later this year in a market where high-flying tech stocks like Twitter and Amazon have fallen in recent weeks in a sell-off that has divided analysts and investors, reviving doubts about soaring tech valuations.

Still, estimates of Ali baba's market value have soared in recent months, to even beyond $200 billion, underscoring Wall Street's eagerness to take a crack at a massive Chinese company with robust growth.

Alibaba handled more than 1.5 trillion yuan—about $248 billion—of transactions for 231 million active users across its three main Chinese online marketplaces in 2013, more than Amazon and eBay Inc combined. It did so with 20,884 full-time workers, fewer than eBay.

"If it's able to transport that kind of power to outside China, it has the potential to become a true global e-commerce powerhouse," said Roger Entner, lead analyst and founder of Recon Analytics. "Everybody thought Amazon could do it, but now we have to re-think Amazon in the light of being the most successful company in that field in the US — but not in the world."

Alibaba did not give any hints in its IPO prospectus about potential plans for the US e-commerce market. Analysts said it was unlikely Alibaba would adopt the model favoured by Amazon, which sells goods directly to consumers using a sprawling network of warehouses.

Alibaba, founded 15 years ago in a one-room apartment in Hangzhou and controlled by a 28-member partnership, boasts of building a company that will last "at least 102 years."

After the IPO, Alibaba said, the partnership will have the exclusive right to nominate a simple majority of the members of its board of directors.

Alibaba operates an online messaging service as well as a cloud computing business, but more than 80 percent of its revenue comes from its Taobao, Tmall and Juhuasuan online marketplaces. Top items sold on Taobao include prepaid phone and game cards as well as lottery tickets, home furniture and baby products, the company said.

Total revenue increased 62 percent to 18.75 billion yuan ($3.01 billion) in October-December of 2013 from a year earlier, while net income more than doubled to 8.27 billion yuan, according to the prospectus.—*Reuters*

Green house to be on Mars in 2021

BEIJING, 8 May —A plant-growth experiment will possibly be landed on Mars with the help of NASA's next rover in early 2021, according to the Space Reporter. com.

This programme, known as Mars Plant Experiment (MPX), will send seeds to Mars and watch them grow, said Heather Smith, its deputy principal investigator and member of NASA's Amers Research Centre.

The self-contained experiment, aiming at the buildup of a long-term sustainable base on Mars, will carry Earth air and about 200 seeds of a small flowering plant, according to Smith.

Placing organisms on Mars would test the environment, revealing how plant-life would deal with high radiation level and low gravity.

This programme could lead to further colonization of Mars, after NASA confirmed that Mars supported micro life billions of years ago.—*Xinhua*

Nearest bright "hypervelocity star" found

WASHINGTON, 8 May—Researchers from the United States and China said on Wednesday they have discovered the closest known "hypervelocity star" that is moving away from the center of the Milky Way at more than 1.6 million km per hour.

"The hypervelocity star can help us know our Milky Way better, ranging from the supermassive black hole at its heart to the halo of dark matter surrounding our galaxy," Zheng Zheng, lead author and assistant professor of physics and astronomy from the University of Utah, told *Xinhua*.

Hypervelocity stars are stars that travel fast enough to escape the gravitational grasp of the Milky Way galaxy. Finally, they could leave the galaxy, Zheng said.

Such stars are thought to have been formed when the supermassive black hole at the centre of a galaxy captures one star in a binary system and ejects the other, he said.

In the past decade, astronomers have found about 20 of these odd stars.

In the new study, Zheng and his colleagues discovered the new hypervelocity star using the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) located at the Xinglong Observing Station of the National Astronomical Observatories of China, about 170 km northeast of Beijing.

The star, named LAMOST-HVS1, is nine times more massive, four times hotter and about 3,400 times brighter than our sun, about 42, 400 light years from us and about 62,000 light years from the galactic centre, Zheng said.

"Although we cannot see it with the naked eye because of the distance, it is the nearest and second-brightest hypervelocity star discovered so far," Zheng said.

He said that the star's speed is 620 km per second relative to our solar system, and about 477 km per second relative to the center of the Milky Way.

"The star travels about 16,000 times faster than a car, about 1, 600 times faster than a plane. If we could fly at such a speed, we could circle around the Earth in just 90 seconds, and fly to the moon from our Earth in less than 15 minutes," he said.

Compared with the 4.6-billion-year-old Sun, the newly discovered star is a youngster born only 32 million years ago, based on its speed and position, he added.

The study was published in the US journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters* and also involved researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Science and Technology of China.

Xinhua

A man uses his mobile phone in front of a giant advertisement promoting Samsung Electronics' new Galaxy S5 smartphone, at an art hall in central Seoul on 15 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Samsung Elec replaces mobile design head

SEOUL, 8 May — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, the world's biggest handset maker, has replaced the head of its mobile design team amid criticism of the latest Galaxy S smartphone. Chang Dong-hoon offered to resign last week and will be replaced by Lee Min-hyouk, vice president for mobile design, a Samsung spokeswoman said on Thursday. Samsung declined to comment on the reasons for the reshuffle.

Lee, 42, became Samsung's youngest senior executive in 2010 for his role in designing the Galaxy series, a roaring success which unseated Apple Inc's iPhone as king of the global smartphone market. Samsung now sells two times more smartphones than Apple, largely thanks to the success of Galaxy range.

But the South Korean firm has also been battling patent litigation the world over, with Apple claiming Samsung copied the look and feel of the US firm's mobile products. The Galaxy S5, which debuted globally last month, has received a lukewarm response from consumers due to its lack of eye-popping hardware innovations, while its plastic case design has been panned by some critics for looking cheap and made out of a conveyor belt. The Wall Street Journal said the gold-colored back cover on the S5 looked like a band-aid.

Reuters

Study finds rising CO2 levels may cut nutrient levels in crops

Washington, 8 May — Rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may cut the nutritional quality of some of the world's most important food crops, researchers reported on Wednesday after conducting experiments simulating conditions expected by mid-century.

The amounts of two important nutrients, zinc and iron, were found to be lower in wheat, rice, soybeans and field peas grown in open-air fields where the scientists created CO2 concentrations at the level they forecast for Earth by roughly 2050, about 550 parts per million.

They grew 40 varieties of six different grains and legumes, also including corn and sorghum, at seven locations on three continents, in Japan, Australia and the United States.

"This is important because almost two billion people globally receive most of these two nutrients (zinc and iron) by eating crops," said University of Illinois plant physiology professor Andrew Leakey, one of the researchers.

The researchers said these findings point to one of the most important health threats shown to be linked to climate change.

Dr Samuel Myers of the Harvard School of Public Health, who led the study published in the journal *Nature*, said there already is a significant public health problem in parts of the world due to inadequate intake of zinc and iron.

A farmer observes his soybean crops in Barreiras, Bahia state, in this 6 Feb, 2014 file picture. — Reuters

Myers noted that inadequate zinc intake affects the immune system and makes people more vulnerable to premature death from maladies like malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea. Mbyers said iron deficiency is linked to increases in maternal mortality, anemia, reductions in IQ and reduced work productivity.

Scientists have sought to gauge the impact of climate change on humankind in the coming decades including the effects of CO2 levels that have been rising due to the burning of fossil fuels since the advent of the Industrial Revolution.

Earth's atmospheric CO2 concentration currently is about 400 parts per million and continues to rise. The study found that in wheat grown under elevated CO2 conditions there were about 9 percent lower levels of zinc and 5 percent lower levels of iron compared to wheat grown under normal conditions. The rice grown with elevated CO2 levels had 3 percent less zinc content and 5 percent less iron.

In wheat and rice, there also was lower protein content at the elevated carbon dioxide levels, the researchers said.—*Reuters*

Main highway between LA and Las Vegas reopens after bridge fire

Los Angeles, 8 May — The main highway route between Southern California and Las Vegas was fully reopened on Wednesday, nearly two days after a bridge fire and collapse forced authorities to shut it down in both directions, backing up traffic for miles.

Southbound lanes of Interstate-15 near the high desert community of Hesperia, some 70 miles northeast of Los Angeles, were reopened overnight after crews cleared away tons of metal and wood from the roadway, officials said.

Traffic resumed on northbound lanes of the freeway, the main artery between Southern California and Las Vegas as well as other destinations in Nevada and Utah, late Tuesday afternoon.

A highway overpass under construction over Interstate-15 near the high desert community of Hesperia, California is on fire in this 5 May, 2014 handout photo by San Bernardino Associated Governments. — Reuters

An interchange had been under construction over the four-lane highway when its wooden structure caught fire on Monday afternoon, possibly from a worker using a blow-torch.

No injuries were reported but the closure stranded motorists on either side in miles of backed-up traffic as authorities diverted them onto off-ramps to get around the wreckage.

The bridge was part of a $59 million project that began in January 2013 and was scheduled for completion early next year, and the collapse was likely to cause considerable delays and additional costs.

Officials say the extent of the lost time and money is not yet clear.

According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, more than one in four people who visit Las Vegas come from Southern California, with an average of 42,000 cars crossing the California-Nevada border on the I-15 each day.

There are few alternatives for drivers traveling across the California desert between the two destinations.

Reuters

Antiquity returns to Cambodia from US

New York, 8 May — A 10th century sandstone sculpture, the Duryodhana, will return to its homeland Cambodia this June, following the settlement of a civil forfeiture action in New York, a Cambodian official said on Wednesday.

Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia Sok An made a special visit to take back the ancient statue of Duryodhana.

The Cambodian government wishes to thank the federal government of the US, especially the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, for their commitment to preserve cultural heritage of humanities and their strong willingness to promote the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, Sok An said.

According to Cambodian authorities, the 1.5-metre-high Duryodhana statue without hands and feet, was stolen in the 1970s from the 1,000-year-old Prasa Chen Temple in northern Cambodia.

In March 2011, Sotheby's placed the piece for a high-profile auction in New York. However, the transaction was stopped upon the Cambodian government's request.

In April 2012, the US Attorney filed an action in a federal court in New York seeking forfeiture of the statue and handing it back to Cambodia. Nonetheless, Sotheby's has not agreed to return the statue until December 2013.

Xinhua

WHO says New Delhi has dirtiest air, Chinese data foggy

Geneva, 8 May — An effort by the World Health Organization to measure pollution in cities around the world has found New Delhi admits to having the dirtiest air, while Beijing's measurements, like its skies, are far from clear.

The study of 1,600 cities found air pollution had worsened since a smaller survey in 2011, especially in poorer countries, putting city-dwellers at higher risk of cancer, stroke and heart disease. Air pollution killed about 7 million people in 2012, making it the world's single biggest environmental health risk, the WHO, a United Nations agency, said last month.

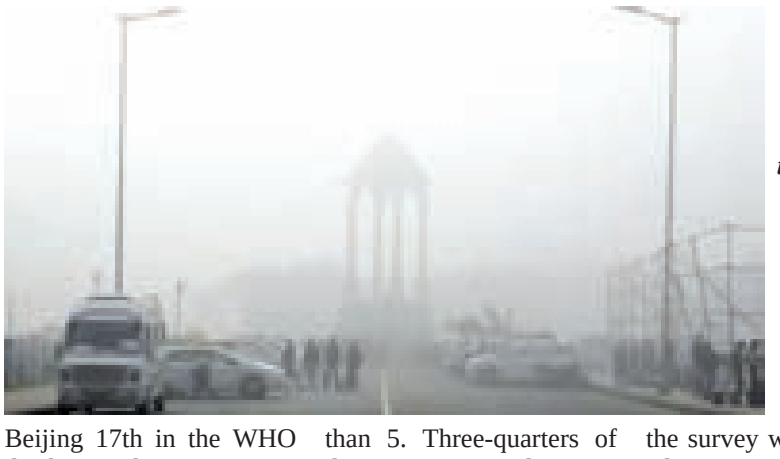
Thirteen of the dirtiest 20 cities were Indian, with New Delhi, Patna, Gwalior and Raipur in the top four spots. New Delhi had an annual average of 153 micrograms of small particulates, known as PM2.5, per cubic metre.

Beijing, notorious for the smog that has prompted some Anglophone residents to dub it "Greyjing", was in 77th place with a PM2.5 reading of 56, little over one-third of Delhi's pollution level.

WHO experts said the Chinese data was from 2010, the most recent year made available to them by China. But Beijing's city government began publishing hourly PM2.5 data in January 2012.

A year after it started publishing data, Beijing's air quality hit the "worst on record" according to Greenpeace, with a PM2.5 reading as high as 900 on one occasion.

Beijing's government said last month that PM2.5 concentrations stood at a daily average of 89.5 micrograms per cubic metre in 2013, 156 percent higher than national standards. Such a reading would put Beijing 17th in the WHO database. The WHO says there is no safe level for PM2.5 pollution.



Vendors selling drinks stand beside vehicles near the India Gate war memorial on a smoggy day in New Delhi on 1 Feb, 2013. Reuters

At the cleaner end of the table, 32 cities reported a PM2.5 reading of less than 5. Three-quarters of those were Canadian, including Vancouver, one was Hafnarfjordur in Iceland and the other seven were American.

WHO experts insisted the survey was not intended to name and shame the dirtiest cities, since the cities involved were volunteering the information to try to help themselves clean up.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (097)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (097) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YUAN JING VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YUAN JING VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ICAN CO LTD

Phone No:2301191/2301178/2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (130)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (130) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L/SPW( ) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(9/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -006(14-15)	100KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set	US$
(2)	IFB -007(14-15)	185KW, 3.3KV Induction Motor	US$
(3)	IFB -008(14-15)	Double Row Radial Spherical (Self Alignment) Roller Bearing	US$
(4)	IFB -009(14-15)	Spares for SAFE Compressor	US$
(5)	IFB -010(14-15)	Spares for Vector Magnetic Ex HDD Rig	US$
(6)	IFB -011(14-15)	Spares for Telecommunication Equipment	US$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 2-6-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6th May, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 13th May (Tuesday) Full Moon of Kason 2014, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Hong Kong property tycoons stand trial in city's biggest graft case

HONG KONG, 8 May— Thomas and Raymond Kwok, the billionaire co-chairmen of Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd, Asia's largest developer, went on trial on Thursday in Hong Kong's biggest corruption case since the city's anti-graft agency was formed nearly 40 years ago.

The case involves a series of payments and loans totalling more than HK$35 million ($4.5 million) allegedly paid to Rafael Hui, who had headed Hong Kong's civil service from 2005 to 2007.

The three men have pleaded not guilty to all charges, including conspiracy to offer an advantage to a public servant.

The case has thrown a spotlight on the close relationship between the city's powerful developers and government in the former British colony, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997 and has a separate legal system from the mainland.

The Kwok brothers, who run the world's second-largest property company with a market capitalisation of $34 billion, have been charged with a total of seven offences, including claims related to alleged payments offered to Hui.

Thomas Chan, a board member in charge of land purchases at Sun Hung Kai Properties, and Francis Kwan, a former Hong Kong Stock Exchange official, have also been charged in the case. They have also pleaded not guilty.

All five defendants appeared in court, where about 50 photographers and cameramen jostled to get shots of the men at the entrance.

Thomas Kwok, wearing a black suit and red tie, thanked reporters as he entered the court looking relaxed. The prosecution and defendants have hired high-profile lawyers for the trial, with local media reporting the Kwok brothers could spend more than HK$100 million in legal fees, which would mark the most ever paid in the city.

Clare Montgomery, a specialist in criminal and fraud law, is representing Thomas Kwok.

Reuters

Sun Hung Kai Properties Executive Director Thomas Chan Kui-yuen (3rd R) arrives at the High Court in Hong Kong on 8 May, 2014.—Xinhua

Driver who followed Obama daugters' motorcade was lost, confused

WASHINGTON, 8 May —A driver unfamiliar with Washington, DC, appeared to have been lost and confused when he followed a motorcade carrying President Barack Obama's daughters through a White House checkpoint on Tuesday, a law enforcement source said.

"It appears at this point that the driver was confused, not familiar with DC, and essentially got lost and followed the car in front of him," said the law enforcement source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was continuing.The unusual incident prompted a security lockdown at the White House. The driver, an Internal Revenue Service employee identified as Mathew Evan Goldstein, 55, was charged with unlawful entry, a misdemeanor offense.

Goldstein was released from custody on the condition that he stay away from a large area surrounding the White House, about four by six blocks in size, according to court documents.

Charging documents from the DC Superior Court said Goldstein was driving a gray Honda Civic less than five feet from the final car in a motorcade carrying the Obama daughters, Sasha and Malia, as it turned into the White House security checkpoint on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17 Street NW.

Reuters

Members of the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service investigate an unauthorized vehicle outside the White House gates in Washington on 6 May, 2014. —XINHUA

‘Frozen’ soundtrack ices competition again on Billboard 200

Los Angeles, 8 May — “Frozen,” the soundtrack to Disney’s $1 billion-grossing (589 million pounds) animated film, on Wednesday earned its 13th non-consecutive week atop the Billboard 200 album chart, selling nearly twice the number of copies as its nearest challenger.

The soundtrack, which has ridden on the success of the film and its lead single “Let It Go,” sold 106,000 copies last week, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan. The album has sold 2.6 million copies since its release in November.

Classical crossover violinist Lindsey Stirling’s “Shatter Me” debuted on the chart at No 2 with 56,000 in sales.

Singer-songwriter Ray LaMontagne’s “Supernova” landed at No 3 with 40,000 in sales on its first week on the chart, followed by Christian collective Passion’s live album, “Passion: Take It All,” which sold 30,000 in its debut week.

Australian rapper Iggy Azalea’s “The New Classic” dropped two spots to No. 5 with 23,000 in sales in its second week.

New entries in the top 10 of the chart include pop duo Timeflies’ “After Hours” at No 8 with 20,000 in sales, and US metal band Whitechapel’s “Our Endless War” with 16,000 in sales at No. 10.

Nickelodeon TV star Ariana Grande’s song “Problem,” featuring Azalea, topped the digital songs chart in its first week. Its 438,000 downloads marked the largest opening week for a song this year, according to Billboard.—*Reuters*

Singer Demi Lovato, who is featured on the soundtrack, poses at the premiere of ‘’Frozen’’ at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 19 Nov, 2013.
Reuters

***Sharmila revealed this at an event in Mumbai which she attended alongwith Soha.*—PTI**

Sharmila Tagore: Didn’t expect Saif, Soha to become actors

Mumbai, 8 May — Veteran actress Sharmila Tagore says that she never expected two of her children — Saif Ali Khan and Soha Ali Khan — to take up acting as a profession. Sharmila and her late husband cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi have three children — Saif, Soha and Saba.

“We (Mansoor and I) thought that she (Soha) would follow an academic career. Earlier she was working with Ford Foundation in the developmental field and after that she started working with Citibank. Then we thought that maybe she has changed her mind (about being in movies).”

“But then she started showing interest towards working in films and her first film was a Bengali film, which I was quite happy with, being a Bengali,” Sharmila told reporters here on 6 May at an event celebrating Mothers’ Day.

She says as parents, they were always supportive of their kids.” We didn’t expect Saif also to go into the films because both of them were kept away from films completely. But films is what they chose and we were supportive,” she added.

Soha made her acting debut in 2004 and she was last seen in Mr Joe B Carvalho. Saif, who is a National Award winner, made his acting debut in 1992 with Yash Chopra’s Parampara. His upcoming films include Humshakals and Happy Ending.

PTI

At 80, blues legend John Mayall sings about a world gone crazy

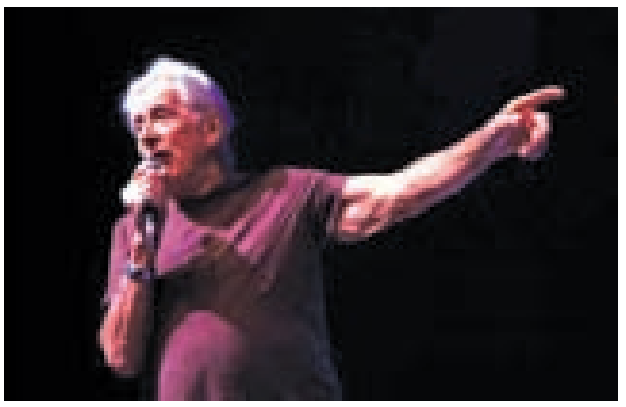
London, 8 May — Blues songs are traditionally about women who have done you wrong, working on a chain gang, or being brought low by booze — but what about Christians and Muslims killing each other?John Mayall, often dubbed the “godfather” of British electric blues, touches on just this in “World Gone Crazy”, a track on a retrospective album of newly recorded songs he is putting out this month to celebrate turning 80 last year. To a driving beat, wailing harmonica and blues-chord progression, he sings about the guilt of living in conflicted times, the depletion of natural resources, chaotic governments and a global plague of killing.

It will all end in a reckoning, he sings, and nothing more so than the clash of religions.” Religion. I said, religion. Always at the root of a war/The Christians and the Muslims never get along no more/They’re killing everybody/Bodies lying on the floor.”In an interview from his California home, Mayall said politics was a natural subject for a bluesman because the genre, which emerged from the harsh life of African Americans in the US Deep South, is all about a grim reality and the feelings it inspires.

“When I write songs that touch on social relevance, all you have to do is pick up a newspaper,” he told *Reuters*. “It was an obvious one because everyone is blowing themselves up. It’s just crazy.” That is not to say that all blues has to be grim - or that the album is.” You can’t spend your life in misery,” Mayall said. “If you have something in your life worth celebrating, you can put it in a blues song.”

What Mayall is celebrating in his new album, “A Special Life”, are the 70 years he has spent playing around with the blues, which he first heard aged around 10, listening to his father’s jazz records in northern England. He helped bring blues into the international mainstream in the 1960s, an era when many British musicians took up the genre, unheralded in its home country, gave it new life before and exported it back across the Atlantic. Mayall’s Bluesbreakers band was a crucible for some of blues-rock’s greatest legends.

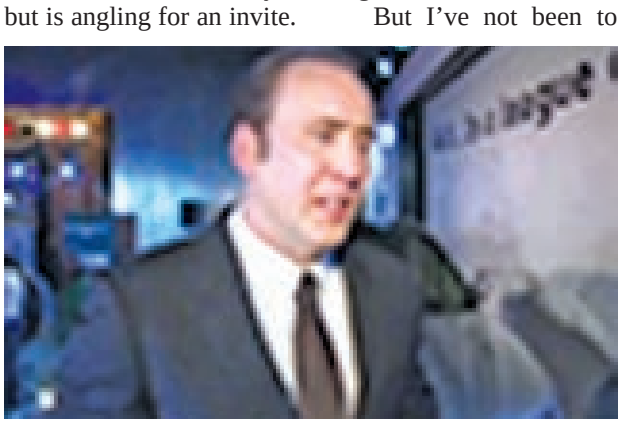
Reuters



***Blues legend John Mayall performs during a concert in Bucharest, on 11 Nov, 2012 file photo.*—Reuters**

Nicolas Cage on Indian Food, a Desi Face/Off and National Treasure 3

New Delhi, 8 May — Oscar winning Hollywood star Nicolas Cage could be leaving Las Vegas for an Indian experience soon. The actor told NDTV in Dubai that he loves Indian food, almost did an Indian movie, wants to do one and has never been here yet but is angling for an invite.



***Nicolas Cage says Indian food is divine.*—PTI**

But I’ve not been to India yet and I’m hopeful that maybe as a result of this, I will be invited to go to India and may be work with the Indian filmmakers and some of your stars because I believe that anytime you go to a new place as an actor, you soak the genius loci or the genie of the place, the culture and it influences performance and I’m hopeful that I will be able to do that in India one day. I almost came close on a movie but it didn’t work out,” the actor told NDTV.

“My impressions of India I only know mostly from some of my friends in the USA and also from the food that I have enjoyed, the culture from some of the restaurants that I have gone to. I found Indian food to be divine. It’s just magical.

The Face/Off actor also revealed that he had a genuine interest in meeting people and absorbing culture and said he wanted to go on a tour of India. “So many things have changed the world over time and history as a result of coming out of India, I mean astrology, stars and the zodiac, all of that began thousands and thousands of years ago in India,” he said.

Given that former co-star John Travolta is also in the market for an Indian film — he told the IIFA crowd some weeks ago that he was in talks for Shekhar Kapur’s Paani — should we look forward to a desi Face/Off? Cage said that would be exciting and that he has been trying to make a movie along the lines of the blockbuster identity swapping film for the last 15 years with John Travolta, but that it was difficult because of the way the script ended.

PTI

GENERAL

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (2nd L) and his wife Cheng Hong (1st L) pose for a photo with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan (2nd R) and his wife during the welcoming ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria, on 7 May, 2014.
XINHUA

Man arrested for possessing guns created by 3-D printer

YOKOHAMA, 8 May — A 27-year-old man was arrested Thursday on suspicion of illegally possessing two guns created by a three-dimensional printer.

It is the first time Japan's firearm control law has been applied to the possession of guns produced by 3-D printers. The suspect, Yoshitomo Imura, an employee at a college, kept the plastic guns at his home in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, in mid-April, the police said. No bullets for the guns have been found.

The police launched an investigation after Imura posted video footage on the Internet of the guns, which he claimed to have produced himself, along with blueprints for them earlier this year, according to investigative sources.

Kyodo News

Man arrested for possessing guns created by 3-D printer Photo taken on 8 May, 2014, shows a seized three-dimensional printer, which created two guns that could lethally fire real bullets, at Kanagawa police station in Yokohama. —KYODO NEWS

MYANMAR TV

(9-5-2014, Friday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:45 am
2. Documentary

7:00 am
3. News / Weather Report

7:20 am
4. Hyper Sports

8:00 am
5. News/ International News

8:30 am
6. India Drama Series

9:00 am
7. News/ International News

9:30 am
8. ASEAN Programmes

10:00 am
9. News

10:20 am
10 . TV Drama Series

11:00 am
11. Documentary

12:00 pm
12. News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm
13. Myanmar Movie

2:45 pm
14. Hyper Sports

3:00 pm
15. News

3:30 pm
16. Singing in different Versions

4:15 pm
17. Documentary

5:30pm
18. India Drama Series

6:20 pm
19. Amazing World

7:20 pm
20. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
21. News / International News / Weather Report

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-5-14 07:00am~ 10-5-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* A Highland with Peace and Charm
* World News
* Black Gold (Part - II)
* Local News
*…. Shan Novices to be
* World News
* Cosplayer
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Wedding Ceremony
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Art Teacher
* Local News
* Myanmar Agarwood
* World News
* Mar Gyi Shay "Best of the Health"
* Local News
* Large Parasol: A Souvenir of Pathein
* World News
* Tea
* Local News
* Sagaing Hills & Nostalgic Panorama
* World News
* Nang
* Local News
* A Tea Business: Pankwan
* World News
* Next Weekend
* Local News
* Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas on The Mount Akauk)
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Family Feud"

Manchester City confident of making their point

LONDON, 8 May — Manager Manuel Pellegrini expects Manchester City to be crowned English champions for the second time in three seasons with his side needing only a point from their final home game against West Ham United on Sunday.

City will win the Premier League unless Sam Allardyce's West Ham pull off a major upset at the Etihad Stadium and Liverpool beat Newcastle United at Anfield.

City, who beat Aston Villa 4-0 on Wednesday, head into the final match of the season with 83 points, two ahead of Liverpool whose collapse at Crystal Palace on Monday when they blew a 3-0 lead to draw 3-3, left their title hopes in tatters.

"Of course, I expect to win the title now because we are top of the table," Pellegrini said. "Winning the next game means we can win the title..."

"We are not thinking of drawing. We are thinking of trying to play. As we did so far during the whole season here at the Etihad."

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini (R) and his Aston Villa counterpart Paul Lambert react during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 7 May , 2014—REUTERS

The only way Liverpool can end their 24-year-wait for the title now is if City lose to West Ham and Liverpool win. If City draw and Liverpool win, City would win the title on goal difference.

City have beaten West Ham three times this season, winning 3-1 at Upton Park in the league and routing the Londoners 9-0 on aggregate in the Capital One (League) Cup semi-finals, so an upset looks unlikely.

The only other outstanding issues to be decided are whether Tottenham Hotspur or Manchester United take the final Europa League place and the final confirmation of Norwich City's relegation.

Norwich, who battled to a 0-0 draw at Chelsea on Sunday, have 33 points, three behind West Bromwich Albion but with a hugely inferior goal difference they look sure to go down.

Outgoing champions Manchester United and big-spending Tottenham Hotspur have had to lower their ambitions after disappointing seasons.

Both teams would have been confident of challenging for Champions League places, but they changed managers during the campaign and are now eyeing the dubious consolation of a Europa League spot.

Tottenham, in sixth, go into their final match against Aston Villa at White Hart Lane knowing a point would ensure they take the Europa League spot in what could well be Tim Sherwood's last match in charge.

United, who beat FA Cup finalists Hull City 3-1 in their last home match of the season, travel to Southampton in what is almost certain to be interim manager Ryan Giggs's last game in charge with Louis van Gaal expected to be named as the manager following last month's departure of David Moyes.

Only if United won and Spurs lost would United take sixth place thanks to a superior goal difference.

Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar

Real title hopes fade after Valladolid's late equaliser

VALLADOLID (Spain), 8 May — Real Madrid's La Liga title challenge was left hanging by a thread after a late Humberto Osorio header earned Real Valladolid a 1-1 draw and Cristiano Ronaldo suffered an injury on Wednesday.

Real, hoping to keep the pressure on Atletico Madrid at the top of table, remained in third place, four points behind their city rivals and a point adrift of Barcelona with two games to play.

"It is practically gone now but while there is a mathematical chance then Madrid are obliged to keep going. It has been a long season and it takes its toll on the body," Real defender Sergio Ramos told reporters.The match started badly for Real when world player of the year Ronaldo hobbled off with a suspected hamstring strain.

They went ahead, however, when Ramos, celebrating the birth of son Sergio on Tuesday and his 400th Real appearance, swept home a free kick after 35 minutes. It was not enough, though, as relegation-threatened Valladolid levelled when Osorio nodded home with five minutes left. "We wasted a unique opportunity and we will now have to examine it calmly. With 10 minutes to go we relaxed and against a side battling for survival they are always going to make it difficult for you," added Ramos.

The result opened the door for Barcelona, who know that a win in the final match of the season against Atletico would hand them the title providing they beat Elche away on Sunday.

Real, who play Atletico in the Champions League final this month, were missing the injured Gareth Bale and Angel Di Maria played in as three-pronged forward line as Luka Modric returned in midfield. —*Reuters*

Real Madrid players react after conceding a goal against Valladolid during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Zorrilla Stadium in Valladolid on 7 May , 2014.—REUTERS

Knockout matches of Ooredoo Cup conclude

Players of Southern and Rakhine United trying to control the ball.
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Southern United and Chin United sailed into the quarterfinals in the MFF Ooredoo Cup 2014 at Padonma Ground on Thursday.

Southern beat Rakhine United with a 1-0 result. Southern's victory overcame the defensive attacks of Rakhine United in the match. Both clubs difficultly controlled the ball in the rains. In the 48th minute, Myint Naung missed the chance to kick the ball into the net of Southern although Rakhine won the penalty as an award. Southern thumbed up with only goal scored by Zin Myo Win in the 79th minute.

At Salin Ground, Chin United routed Dagon FC 2-0.

Southern, Hanthawady, Chin United, Myawady and Horizon will play the quarterfinals.—*Nyi Myat Thawda*

I want to manage Man United, says Van Gaal

The Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal is seen during a practice session for the World Cup 2014 in Hoenderloo on 7 May , 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 8 May — Louis van Gaal wants to become the next manager of Manchester United, the Dutchman said on Wednesday.

The Netherlands coach described United as the "biggest club in the world" and said he would "love the job".

"I hope that I shall be the one. It's the biggest club in the world and it's a fantastic challenge," he told the BBC from the Dutch squad's pre-World Cup training camp.

But he said nothing had been agreed about him taking over at Old Trafford.

"You (the media) are thinking I'm the man but the most important thing is whether Manchester United are thinking that," he said.

The 62-year-old has been the favourite to take over at United since David Moyes was sacked last month after 10 months in charge.

British media have reported that Van Gaal's appointment could be confirmed next week but he could not begin work at United until after the World Cup and he said the speculation would not affect the Dutch team's campaign in Brazil.

"I have to focus on my job," he said.

"I am coach of the Dutch national team. I have waited a long time to be in a World Cup, so that's very important.

"This doesn't affect me. I have always had offers. I know what the football world is and what it means."

Van Gaal has won domestic titles in the Netherlands with Ajax Amsterdam and AZ Alkmaar, in Spain with Barcelona and in Germany with Bayern Munich. He also led Ajax to the European Cup in 1995.

United, seventh in the Premier League table, have endured a disappointing season, their first of the post-Alex Ferguson era.

Moyes lasted 34 league games before being replaced on an interim basis by Ryan Giggs who has led them to two wins and one defeat in his three games in charge. — *Reuters*

Europe still a step too far for dominant PSG

PARIS, 8 May— Paris St Germain are not even midway through their five-year-plan to win the Champions League but their second consecutive French Ligue 1 title feels like little more than a consolation.

Having splashed over 200 million euros (164 million pounds) on transfers since completing their takeover in 2012, Qatari investors QSI expect PSG to be a force to be reckoned with on the European stage.

Under Carlo Ancelotti and Laurent Blanc, however, the French champions were eliminated in the quarter-finals of Europe's premium club competition in 2013 and 2014, both times on away goals by Barcelona and Chelsea respectively. "We've had a very nice season, which we sealed with this title," Blanc said after PSG won the League Cup last month.

"But to have an outstanding season, we will need to shine on the European stage," he added.

"The club, the media, the fans and the staff are obsessed by this objective. Yes, we will have to be ready because everybody is obsessed." "We had a great season apart from the last month. Next year we have to be back to win the Champions League," captain Thiago Silva told *Canal Plus* on Wednesday.

PSG were knocked out by Barca in the Champions League last season without losing a game, held to a 2-2 draw at the Parc des Princes before drawing 1-1 at the Camp Nou in the return leg. *Reuters*

Paris St Germain players celebrate on the pitch at the end of their French Ligue 1 soccer match against Stade Rennes at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, on 7 May , 2014. — REUTERS

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www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar
The New Light of Myanmar
R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.