

## Myanmar to stay out of bilateral territorial disputes, role is to act within ASEAN context: Myanmar SOM leader



Participants of the Preparatory Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials discuss the Post 2015-Vision.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

### By Kerstin Winter

The Preparatory Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials was held Friday in Nay Pyi Taw, with the Myanmar leader saying that officials discussed the remaining tasks needed to establish the ASEAN Community 2015 as well as issues related to the Post-2015 Vision.

U Aung Lynn, Senior Officials Meeting leader of Myanmar at the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also touched on the subject of territorial and maritime disputes, in which several ASEAN members are embroiled.

Commenting first on the roadmap for the ASEAN Community, he said "That in 2015 ASEAN will become a community based on three pillars and we are striving to meet the deadline

and I am confident about it. We will try and accomplish the remaining tasks of ASEAN community building as much as we can during our chairmanship, and I believe we will be successful. We will be handing over the chairmanship to Malaysia next year and Malaysia has an important mission during its chairmanship, so we don't want to leave them with a lot of leftover work," he said, adding that the High-level Task Force



U Aung Lynn, Senior Official Leader of Myanmar at the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an exclusive interview with NLM.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Meeting has been assigned to find ways to improve the effectiveness of the ASEAN Secretariat. "Because of the expanding work of ASEAN, the Secretariat has

a lot of duties so we are trying to find ways on how to address this issue," U Aung Lynn said.

Declining to give further details about the Post 2015-Vision, he merely said that on Sunday ASEAN leaders will during the plenary meeting adopt the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, which will include issues related to the fulfillment of all remaining tasks in order to build the community.

Regarding one of the three pillars of the community, namely political and security cooperation, the SOM leader said ASEAN was a good role model for other parts of the world as

the bloc has managed to maintain peace in the region. Regarding stability, he said that "We will emphasize the unity of ASEAN during our chairmanship, because only with unity can we move forward."

The Myanmar government stresses that it strives to have good relations with all nations, particularly the neighbouring countries.

"We are friends with all the countries in the world and during the chairmanship we will try to consider the feelings of all the member states," he said. Regarding the recent incident between Vietnam and

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## Race and Religion Protection Committee seeks guidance for further steps

YANGON, 9 May—The Central Committee for Race and Religion Protection sought advice and guidance from the panel of

State Sangha Committee at Vijaramangala Dhamma Hall on Kaba Aye Hillock in Mayangon

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### Opening ceremony of 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—The opening ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit will be broadcast live on 8: 45 a.m. on 11 May.

The event which will be held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw will be shown at the programmes of MRTV and Radio Myanmar.—MNA

## Myanmar sees upswing in tourism industry

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 9 May — Tourist arrivals to Myanmar has increased in 2014 comparing with the previous year, according to travel agencies and tour agencies.

The country created the Tourism Master Plan in 2013, targeting 7.5 million arrivals by 2020.

Arrival of foreign tourists increased from 791,505 in 2010 to more than 2.04 million in 2013, according to the official data.

U Htike Lun Maung, managing director of New Motion Travels & Tours Co., Ltd, said: "Our tour agency provides tourism services for inbound, outbound and domestic trips."

Tourism Master Plan of Myanmar aims for their number of tourist arrivals to increase almost threefold to 3 million by 2015.

U Htike Lun Maung said that both the number of inbound tourists and outbound tourists have increased in 2014, while arrangements for domestic tours have risen.

Among the number of inbound tourists, visitors from Thailand are at the highest number.

Most popular tourist destinations for Thai visitors are Kanbawzathardi Palace in Bago and Kyaikhtiye pagoda in Mon State, said a tour operator.

As Myanmar is making economic modifications, the country's tourism industry is booming and more tourist destinations are attracting many visitors.

Regarding with his visit to Yangon, a tourist from Thailand said: "I think of some problems for me: it is difficult to use my credit card, some roads in Yangon are quite dangerous for walking tourists, sewers are left open and sidewalks are not even."

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism announced that The European Council on Tourism and Trade will hand Myanmar the "World Best Tourist Destination Award" for 2014.

The award is aimed to encourage Myanmar's

(See page 3)



Ancient Bagan pagoda. —PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

## Union ministers, diplomats on tour of Rakhine

SITTWAY, 9 May—Union ministers, teaming with local officials and ambassadors from Norway, Switzerland and the European Union, met with representatives from both communities at the administrative office of Buthidaung of Rakhine State this morning, sources said.

Speaking at the meeting, U Soe Thane, Union Minister at the President

Office, called for mutual cooperation for regional development. U Tin Naing Thein, also Union Minister at the President Office, stressed the need for regional stability and the development of human resources.

The Union ministers and their entourage also went to Maungdaw, where they had cordial and frank conversations with locals.—MNA

### Correction

Please read '23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit' instead of 'XXIV ASEAN Summit' in the second line of caption at the story under the heading "ASEAN Summit to focus on ASEAN Community setup, ASEAN Vision" on the cover page of this daily issued on 9-5-2014. Error is regretted.—NLM



## ADB, Japan to assist Myanmar's water and sanitation works

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—About 18,000 people in Yangon and Mandalay will soon have access to a safe regular water supply and improved sanitation facilities with the signing of a \$4 million grant funded by the Japan Fund for poverty reduction and administered by the Asian Development Bank-ADB.

The four-year community infrastructure and basic services project is expected to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, improve the system of solid and liquid wastes disposal, and reduce flooding and water logging in two of Myanmar's most populated cities.

A self-perpetuating community operation and

maintenance fund, with community development committees responsible for the collection of fees and administration of the infrastructure will be introduced by the project.

The grant will also include improving drainage of storm and flood water, and enhancing access roads and footpaths. By 2018, the grant aims to build 2,000 sanitary latrines, construct 17 kilometers of drains linked to city networks, and build four community solid waste systems in four townships. It will also build capacity within local government and develop community action plans and mobilize 100 Community Development Committees

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—A Mercedes Benz Showroom was opened in Mayangon, Yangon on Thursday evening. The opening ceremony drew high-ranking officials, including Yangon Region Chief U Myint Swe and Union Minister for Economy and Commerce U Win Myint.

Speaking at the ceremony, U Myint Swe said permission to open brand auto showrooms is aimed at helping people buy hi-tech vehicles at will, adding the arrival of Mercedes Benz showrooms reflects that the

## Mercedes Benz showroom starts life

people here now have easy access to automobiles of international standard.

U Win Myint, in his speech, said the influx of

foreign investments creates more job opportunities and generates more income taxes.

In three years after the

easing of some foreign investments laws, Myanmar has seen a rapid surge in foreign investments, he said.—MNA

## Myanmar, India sign MoU on cooperation in border affairs



Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt and Indian Ambassador Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya sign MoU on cooperation in border affairs.—MNA

## Race and Religion Protection...

(from page 1)

Township of Yangon Region on Wednesday evening, reports said.

Speaking at the ceremony, the chairman Sayadaw of CCRRP expressed their strong support of the coming meeting of the Sangha of All Schools and their cooperation with SSC, adding that they will initiate the

emergence of a race protection bill.

The chairman Sayadaw of the panel of State Sangha Committee pointed out the unity among the Sanghas, calling on them to ask them for them for help if they have any doubts concerning religious tasks for promotion of the Sasana.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya signed an MoU on cooperation in border affairs at the Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The MoU provides prevention against insurgency to ensuring prevailing peace and stability

along the two border areas, control of illegal smuggling and human trafficking, exchange of information, coordination between the two armed forces of the both countries for border security affairs so as to prevent the danger of insurgency, illegal trespass and taking care of boundary lines of the two countries.

MNA

## Myanmar arts and crafts on high esteem



Traditional Patheingyi umbrellas displayed at Myanmar arts and crafts exhibition at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

Pyu Period offers historical evidence that Myanmar have long been boasting their high standard of culture, dating back to over 2,000 years. Myanmar traditional handicrafts have since been not only impressive but also artful. To

prove this, Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be staged at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 14 May. As the exhibition coincides with the ASEAN Summit scheduled on 10-11 May, the delegations will have an

opportunity to visit there and witness the traditional arts and crafts on display.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandar Khin said this event is aimed at introducing the traditional handicrafts to tourists. On display at the exhibition in-

clude traditional cotton and silk wares, traditional tapestry, silverware, lacquer ware, lotus-thread fabric, and Kachin and Chin hand-woven textiles. Lotus-thread fabric is hard to produce, for the production involves complex processes. So revered is the fabric of this kind that it is usually woven into yellow robes, which are offered to Buddha Images and Buddhist

monks. Daw Sandar Khin also said that production processes will be demonstrated at the exhibition.

Travelers from China, Arab and Persia (now Iran) had recorded Myanmar textiles and silk wares in their travelogues written between 8 AD and 9 AD.

It is believed that the art of Myanmar traditional embroidery dates back over 1,000 years. The art of em-

**Yan Gyi Aung**

broidery is so thorough, subtle and strong that Westerners branded it the 'art of patience'. In short, the exhibition will reveal the high standard of Myanmar traditional arts and crafts and will no doubt satisfy visitors.

Trs: KTY



Photo shows Myanmar handicrafts of ancient works put on display at arts and crafts exhibition.

## NATIONAL

## Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets UN Resident Representative, Singaporean Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham held separate talks with a delegation led by Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, the UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar and Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

During the meeting with the UN Resident, they discussed humanitarian aid of NGOs and INGOs in Rakhine State, and cooperation in restoring peace and stability and development of the state.

The Vice-President

### Myanmar sees ...

(from page 1)  
tourism industry and promote tourist attractions in the country which are famed for its unique cultural heritage not only in Asia but also in the world.

The award is normally awarded based on ethics for tourism industry, safety of tourists and preservation of cultural heritages designated by the United Nations Tourism Division, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and European Union

### Myanmar to stay out...

(from page 1)  
China in the South China Sea, he said, "Of course there are bilateral issues, but Vietnam is a member of ASEAN, and therefore the incident is an ASEAN issue. And of course China is a very important dialogue partner. Not only China, but the US, the Russian Federation, India, Japan, Korea, they are also important to ASEAN. As a member of ASEAN we will always represent the common position of the bloc. We will not be involved in bilateral issues, but within the ASEAN context we will always be part of the bloc's decisions," he stressed.

Discussing further the role of Myanmar as chair, U Aung Lynn said that one of the priorities of his coun-



**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, the UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar.**

MNA

also discussed promotion relations between Singapore and Myanmar coop-

eration in enhancement of economic, social and technology sectors at the

meeting with the Ambassador.

MNA

## AIPA delegations arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Parliament delegations from members of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday evening to attend ASEAN-AIPA plenary meeting to be held in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw.

At Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, Chairman of ASEAN Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

### UNDP gives Supreme Court of Union IT devices

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—The United Nations Development Programme in Myanmar provided the Supreme Court of Union with servers and computers on 9 May.

Under the Country Programme Document for Myanmar (2013-2015), UNDP Myanmar pledged the expansion of information and communications technology at the Supreme Court of Union.

UNDP Country Director Toily Kurbanov transferred the documents for the IT devices to U Sein Than, Director-General of Supreme Court of Union office.—MNA

## Parliament speaker meets local people in Kalaw

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Speaker of the Union and People's Parliaments Thura U Shwe Mann met with local people in Kalaw, Shan state on 8 May.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and officials attended the meeting.

Thura U Shwe Mann reviewed the regional development tasks and the needs of the local people.

After the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann greeted the local people cordially and left for Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

MNA



**Speaker of the Union and People's Parliaments Thura U Shwe Mann speaking at the ceremony to meet locals in Kalaw of Shan State.—MNA**

## NPED Union Minister attends OECD meeting in Paris

NAY PYI TAW 9 May—Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, attended the meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Council at Ministerial Level 2014 held from 6 to 7 May in Paris.

The 2014 Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) took place at the headquarters of OECD under the Chairmanship of Japan, with the United Kingdom and Slovenia as Vice-Chairs.

At the meeting with Davide Lascar, director of International Business Development at the Bouy-

gues Energies & Services Company on 5 May, Union Minister discussed the potentials for investments in production and distribution of hydropower, and construction projects.

At the Focus on Southeast Asia Forum held at the headquarters of OECD, the Union minister said that Myanmar appreciates the projects of OECD in Southeast Asia region, which will help better relationships between OECD and ASEAN.

Union Minister discussed with Angel Gurría about the country's reform processes and foreign investment law, as well as the required assistance of OECD.

Dr Kan Zaw then met with Annick Girardin, French Minister of State for Development and Francophony, at the headquarters of L'Agence française de développement (AFD), and discussed economic cooperation, promotion of trades, environmental conservation, and exploration of oil and natural gas in Myanmar. Union Minister also met with responsible persons of 16 French companies.—MNA

### 23<sup>rd</sup> World Economic Forum on East-Asia on 21-23 May

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines presents its compliments to the Ministry of Information of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and with reference to the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia on 21-23 May

2014 in Manila, has the honour to inform that the visa fees of media participants are waived. WEF media participants need only to present WEF invitations and a filled up Declaration Form to the embassies and consulates when they apply for visas.—MNA



## LOCAL NEWS

MOHNYIN, 9 May—GSM and CDMA telephone connections are very poor in Mohnyin Township for many months, said Ma Phyto Phyto Zin, third year Botany student of Mohnyin Degree College.

“The mobile phones cannot be used due to poor connection. So, I leave it at home whenever I go to worksite,” a carpenter said.

“It is imbalance of work load and users in telephone connection. At present, six telephone towers are under construction in Mohnyin and other telephone-density areas. On completion, the telephone connection will be better,” said an official of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.—NLM-001

## Mohnyin residents hope for better telephone connection



## Thabeikkyin in upper Myanmar sees earthen road linking three villages

THABEIKKYIN, 9 May—A road, six miles and six furlongs long, is under construction in Thabeikkyin Township of Mandalay Region.

The road is linking Paythaung, Gwaybin and Kanbe villages of the township.

The local authorities sought the fund for construction of the 18 feet wide earthen road. Pearl Shwesin Co provides heavy machinery for construction.

Local people of three villages rose the fund for construction of six miles

and six furlongs long road with the use of heavy machinery provided by Pearl Shwesin Co. They are constructing the 18 feet wide road as of April.

On Thursday, the region officials inspected the progress of works and instructed officials to empha-

size worksite safety.

On completion, the local people will have the opportunity to transport domestic products to the market on time and enjoy fruits of education, health and economic sectors.

Soe Naing Win  
(Thabeikkyin)

## World Red Cross Day celebrated in Magway

MAGWAY, 9 May—To mark the World Red Cross Day, members of Red Cross Society in Magway Region carried out sanitation works in the compound of the Region Red Cross Society Office on Pyitawtha Road in Magway Township of Magway Region on Thursday.

Moreover, they donated blood at the Region People's Hospital.

World Red Cross Day is celebrated on 8 May each year. The date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



Myanmar Red Cross Society was established in 1937, aimed at alleviating human suffering, promoting health, preventing diseases and providing help to those in distress are sup-

portive activities to meet the objective.

More than 200,000 people joined MRCS as member and they carry out health care services of people.—Kaung Thuta

## Landslide preventive measures taken in eight places in Yangon Region



YANGON, 9 May—Yangon Region Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems allotted the separate

fund for prevention against the landslides in eight area of Yangon Region, said an official of the department.

The preventive meas-

ures will be completed in Seikkyi-khanaungto, Tamway, North Okkalapa, Shwepyitha, Kyauktan, Htantabin and Dala of the region at the end of May. However, it may be expected to complete the tasks in June, said an official of the worksite.

About 1000 feet long landslides area is being prevented in Kyisu and Hsayset Ward of Dawbon Township near Pazundaung Creek.

Thant Zin Win

## Advanced tailoring course, basic domestic science course open in Yinmabin Tsp

YINMABIN, 9 May—Advanced tailoring course and basic domestic science course are being conducted at Women's Vocational Training School under the Department of Education and Training in Yinmabin Township of Sagaing Region. About 100 trainees from townships in the region are attending the 14-week courses.

District IPRD

## Capacity building training concludes in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 9 May—A capacity building training course were conducted from 6 to 8 May at the office of Tailen (Red Shan) Nationalities Development Party in Mohnyin Township of Shan State.

It was funded by Norwegian People's Aid-NPA and organized by Myanmar Minerva Education Centre-MMEC.

More than 30 members of the party from Mohnyin,

## Clinical legal education summer school opens

TAUNGGYI, 9 May—The clinical legal education summer school was kicked off at the hall of Taunggyi University in Taunggyi of Shan State on Thursday.

Chief Justice of Shan State High Court stressed the need to build a sound foundation for giving fair and justice legal services to the people.

In-charge of UNDP

Shan State U Myat Thu, Ms Christina Beninger and Mr Bruce A. Lasky matters related to judicial affairs, function of UNDP and purpose of the training course.

A total of 51 faculty members from 18 universities are attending the course lectured by UNDP experts and outside lecturers.

Maung Maung Than  
(Taunggyi)



Mogaung and Phakant townships attended the course and they studied po-

litical parties institutionalization subject.

NLM-001

## Thai protesters move to oust post-Yingluck caretaker gov't

BANGKOK, 9 May — Thai antigovernment protesters launched a fresh push to topple the caretaker government on Friday, two days after Yingluck Shinawatra was disqualified from the premiership by a Constitutional Court ruling.

The protesters led by former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban marched to local television stations in Bangkok to demand they stop broadcasting about government activities. They also hope to seize Government House, the headquarters of the government, and Parliament where senators are set to elect within the day a new Senate president.

According to Suthep, the blocking will continue until the protesters' demands are met.

They have called on the caretaker Cabinet to be replaced by a people's council



Antigovernment protesters march in central Bangkok, Thailand, on 9 May, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

that would be responsible for leading reforms before the holding of a new elec-

tion.

The protests started last November when the House

of Representatives passed an amnesty law that Yingluck's opponents claimed

was aimed to benefit her older brother, ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was toppled by the military coup in 2006.

Even though the bill later was rejected by the Senate and withdrawn, the protests continued.

On Wednesday, Yingluck and nine of her Cabinet members were ousted from her positions by the Constitutional Court for interfering in the transfer of government officials for political benefit. She also faces the prospect of impeachment after the National Anti-Corruption Commission indicted her over a controversial rice subsidy scheme, which could result in her being banned from politics for five years. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan is now acting caretaker prime minister, while he is also overseeing the ministries of finance, defence and commerce.—Kyodo News

## India's BJP PM candidate confident of getting clear majority in new parliament

NEW DELHI, 9 May — India's Bharatiya Janata Party's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed his confidence of his party getting a clear majority in the new Lok Sabha or Lower House of Parliament.

In an interview with local TV channel Times Now, Modi said: "I have explained everything clearly that BJP is winning with a clear majority and we will be forming the strongest and most stable government since Rajiv Gandhi's government."

He also said that the BJP has the support of many other parties while playing down differences with regional or smaller parties.

"For the first time in India's political history, the BJP has 25 parties in a pre-poll alliance in the electoral fray. Even during the NDA (BJP-led National Democratic Alliance) regime, we didn't have a pre-poll alliance. The Congress too has never had a pre-poll alliance on this scale," he said.

Modi also denied BJP using religious issue to win support from the voters, saying Hinduism is not religion but a way of life.—Xinhua

## 280 coastal areas designated as "important waters"

TOKYO, 9 May — An expert panel under the Environment Ministry has designated around 280 coastal areas in Japan as "important waters" in which biodiversity should be preserved, the ministry officials said on Friday.

These areas, which account for around 18 percent of Japan's coastal waters, include coasts from Shizuoka to Aichi prefectures, where loggerhead turtles lay eggs, and shores of Kasaoka, Okayama Prefecture, known as a breeding ground of horseshoe crabs.

Among them are also most coastal areas of the main island of Okinawa, Okinawa Prefecture, where a habitat of threatened dugongs is located, according to the officials.

"The designation aims to present scientifically important areas, and it does not immediately lead to regulations on fishery," a ministry official said. The government expects the research data of the experts to be used by local governments in compiling their conservation policies and in environmental education.—Kyodo News

## Families of South Korea ferry dead march on presidential palace

SEOUL/INCHEON, 9 May — Family members of hundreds of children killed when a ferry sank last month led a somber march on South Korea's presidential palace in the early hours of Friday, where they demanded to meet President Park Geun-hye.

Clutching memorial portraits of their children and brothers and sisters, grieving relatives were prevented by riot police from nearing the palace, and instead sat in the middle of the road where they sobbed, wailed and shouted in anger.

"Listen to us, President Park. Just give us ten seconds," one family member said, using a portable address system. "Why are you blocking the way?," said another. "President Park, hear our voices!"

Seated on the ground in the middle of the night, they wore beige blankets and huddled in rows on the cold floor. One mother, overcome with grief, quietly sobbed as she stroked a



Policemen detain university students on a statue of King Sejong the Great during a protest against South Korean President Park Geun-hye, in central Seoul on 8 May, 2014.—REUTERS

portrait of her dead son.

Park's government has faced continued criticism for its handling of the disaster from the families of the ferry victims, when a faster initial response could have saved many more lives. South Korean prosecutors are seeking the arrest of members of the family that

owns the ferry operator, and may also seek the extradition of a son of the reclusive head of the family from the United States, an official said on Thursday. The Sewol, overloaded and travelling too fast on a turn, capsized and sank about 20 km (12 miles) off the southwest coast on a routine journey

from Incheon on the mainland to the southern holiday island of Jeju, killing hundreds of children and teachers on a high school outing. Only 172 people have been rescued of an estimated 476 passengers and crew on board. The confirmed death toll on Friday was 273.

Reuters

## Philippine, US troops hold amphibious drill

MANILA, 9 May — Philippine and US marines conducted an amphibious operation at the shores of Zambales Province in northern Philippines on Friday.

The amphibious operation, or "boat raid", was participated in by more than 80 members of the Philippine Navy and around 40 US Marines. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it is the first of the series of field training exercises scheduled for this year's bilateral drills under the Balikatan. Lieutenant Annaleah P. Cazcarro of the Philippine Navy, spokesman of the Philippine-US Balikatan 2014, said the Philippine Navy's BRP Ramon Alcaraz and BRP Dagupan were used for the exercise.

The Philippines and the United States formally began the annual joint military exercises dubbed as Balikatan on 5 May.—Xinhua

## WORLD

## Ukraine rebels ignore Putin call to delay self-rule vote

DONETSK, 9 May — Pro-Moscow separatists in eastern Ukraine ignored a public call by Russian President Vladimir Putin to postpone a referendum on self-rule, declaring they would go ahead on Sunday with a vote that could lead to war.

The decision, which contradicted the conciliatory tone set by Putin just a day earlier, caused consternation in the West, which fears the referendum will tear Ukraine apart.

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns said Russia was heading down a “dangerous and irresponsible path” and the situation in Ukraine was “extremely combustible”.

Denis Pushilin, a leader of the self-declared separatist Donetsk People’s Republic, expressed gratitude to Putin but said the “People’s Council” had voted unanimously on Thursday to hold the plebiscite as planned.

“Civil war has already begun,” he told reporters. “The referendum can put a stop to it and start a political process.” A man holding a Kalashnikov stood behind him.



**Pro-Russian separatist leaders hold a news conference inside a regional government building in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine on 8 May, 2014.—REUTERS**

Political analysts said Putin may have expected the rebels to go ahead with the referendum, showing that they were not under his orders. By distancing himself from a process that will not be recognized by the

West, Putin may also hope to avoid further sanctions as earlier measures begin hitting the economy.

His spokesman said the Kremlin needed more information about the rebels’ decision. He also said the

rebel statement came only after the Western-backed government in Kiev had declared it would press on with its military operation, implying that Ukraine was to blame for the rebels’ refusal to heed Putin. Russian

financial markets sank after surging on Wednesday when Putin unexpectedly called for the vote to be delayed and declared that troops were withdrawing from Ukraine’s border.

Reuters

## US faults both sides for collapse of Israeli-Palestinian talks



**US Secretary of State John Kerry says goodbye to US Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro (L) as he leaves Tel Aviv on 1 April, 2014.—REUTERS**

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Israeli and Palestinian leaders were unwilling to make the “gut-wrenching” compromises needed for peace, a top US official said on Thursday, faulting both sides for the collapse of talks last month.

Offering his first public account of US Secretary of State John Kerry’s failed, nine-month effort to strike a peace deal by 29 April,

US special envoy Martin Indyk made clear there was blame on both sides, citing Israeli settlement-building as well as the Palestinians’ signing of 15 international conventions. However, Indyk suggested talks may resume eventually, citing the start-and-stop example of former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger’s ultimately successful 1975 effort to disengage Egyptian and

Israeli forces in the Sinai. “What was true then is also possibly true today,” Indyk told a conference hosted by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy think tank. “In the Middle East, it’s never over.” The central issues to be resolved in the more than six-decade Israeli-Palestinian conflict include borders, security, the fate of Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem.

“One problem that revealed itself in these past nine months is that the parties, although showing some flexibility in the negotiations, do not feel the pressing need to make the gut-wrenching compromises necessary to achieve peace,” Indyk said. “It is easier for the Palestinians to sign conventions and appeal to international bodies in their supposed pursuit of justice and their rights, a process which by definition requires no compromise,” he said. “It is easier for Israeli politicians to avoid tension in the governing coalition and for the Israeli people to maintain the current, comfortable status quo.”

“The fact is, both the Israelis and Palestinians missed opportunities and took steps that undermined the process,” Indyk said. On 24 April, Israel suspended the talks after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s unexpected unity pact with the rival Islamist Hamas group, a step that appeared to be the final nail in the coffin of the US-sponsored negotiations.

Reuters

## Pakistan test-fires short-range ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, 9 May — Pakistan has carried out a test of the nuclear-capable *Hatf-3 Ghaznavi* ballistic missile, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

A Press release issued by the ministry said the missile has a range of 290 kilometers and is capable of carrying both conventional and “non-conventional” warheads.

The *Hatf-3* is based on Chinese design and technology Pakistan got in the late 1990s within the parameters of the Missile Technology Cutoff Regime that banned export of missile technology with a range exceeding 300 kilometres.

The release did not specify from where the missile was launched but *Hatf* series missiles are often fired from Somiani near Karachi.

The missile test was watched by Chief of Army Staff Gen Raheel Sharif who was reported saying Pakistan has one of the best command and control systems for strategic weapons.

Kyodo News

## Europe safety chief backs flight-tracking after MH370

PARIS, 9 May — Europe’s top aviation regulator has called for international action to address concerns raised by the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, while acknowledging delays in responding to a similar disaster in 2009.

The head of the European Aviation Safety Agency, Patrick Ky, told *Reuters* he supported better flight tracking of passenger jets as a United Nations agency prepares to discuss the issue at a meeting of aviation powers next week. Ky said in an interview that quicker action was needed than after an Air France jet crashed in the

Atlantic five years ago.

“We really need to do something because after the Air France catastrophe there was a certain number of recommendations, and I am not sure we as an aeronautical community were quick enough in taking up all those recommendations,” he said. “Now it is really time that we do something about this.”

Pressure for improved tracking of aircraft has increased since the Malaysian jet vanished exactly two months ago. A search for the aircraft and its black boxes in the southern Indian Ocean has so far failed to produce results.—Reuters



**A screen on board Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER flight MH318 shows the plane’s flight path as it cruises over the South China Sea from Kuala Lumpur towards Beijing, at approximately the same point when on 8 March flight MH370 lost contact with air traffic controllers, at approximately 1.30am on 17 March, 2014.—REUTERS**

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 10 May, 2014

## Not too late to conserve Myanmar forests

By Aung Khin

Myanmar still possesses some of the most significant natural forests left in the Asia Pacific region, and is a host to an array of biodiversity vital to the livelihoods of local communities. Official data showed that forests are estimated to cover nearly 48 per cent of the country's total land area in 2005, declining from 58 per cent in 1990.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations report revealed that Myanmar lost

an average of 372,250 hectare or 0.95 percent of forest per year between 1990 and 2010.

Researchers point out that deforestation in the country is caused by illegal logging of teak-like trees by developers, for the establishment of rubber plantations, threatening the livelihoods of villagers.

Expansion of agricultural lands, fuelwood consumption, charcoal production and commercial logging also contribute in forest losses. Degradation of forests have an impact on wildlife, pest and disease management, forest fire prevention, controlling natural disasters caused by soil erosion.

Neighbouring countries such as India, China and Thailand are the biggest buyers of Myanmar timber, which was estimated to a total of 2.6 million cubic metres in 2012, worth US\$ 1.2 billion, according to customs data of importing countries collected by Washington, DC-based non-profit organization Forest Trends.

To reduce deforestation and outflow of unpro-

cessed timber, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry announced mid-last year that ban on raw timber export will come into effect on 1 April 2014.

Illegal logging will benefit only a handful of unethical businesspersons, but it is a great loss to the country. Natural forests cannot be established like other infrastructures within a short time span.

Law enforcement is needed to fight against illegal transport of logs across the borders, to ensure equitable, transparent and sustainable forest management, and to promote long-term development in border areas which will help to stop the loss of Myanmar forests.

## 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.

## Plans to upgrade roads between Myanmar, India discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May— Secretary of External Affairs on Wednesday at his Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, to discuss bilateral cooperation in the development of

road transport sector between Myanmar and India.

They also discussed plans to upgrade India-Myanmar-Thailand tripartite ASEAN Highway, Shwebo-Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road, Reed-Tiddim road and Butthidaung-Maungtaung road in cooperation with Public Works under the Ministry of Construction of Myanmar.—MNA



Union Construction Minister U Kyaw Lwin meets Ms Sujata Mehta, Under Secretary of External Affairs of India.—MNA

6<sup>th</sup> Myanmar mobile fair opens on 9-11 May

The 6<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Mobile Fair YGN 2014 kept open on Friday at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on Wisara Road in Dagon Township in Yangon.



Visitors view round booths at 6<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Mobile Fair YGN 2014.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

The fair organized by Zillion Business Services Limited opens for three days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Various brands of mobile phone handsets including popular products of Sony, Samsung, Lenovo, LG, Acer, Nokia, Huawei and hTc are available at the fair. Mobile service centres are attracting of the customers with discount prices, gifts and lucky draw.

According to the Director of ZBS, a total of 93 showrooms participate in the fair. Of them, more than 37 booths including

MacCoffee, men's and women's fashion shops are now displaying their products.

"Zillion Business Services Limited has been organizing the fairs two times a year since 2012, aimed at increasing mobile markets in the country and fulfilling the needs of customers," he added.

A 50-year old woman said that smartphone is better than PC due to its easy functions. She always chooses water-resistant brand, she added.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

## Yangon Region Chief Minister attends dinner hosted by Austrian guests

YANGON, 9 May—As Austria is an industrialized nation, Myanmar invites investment of Austria urges it to cooperate with Myanmar in economic development, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said at a dinner hosted by Ms Doris Bures, Minister for Trans-

port, Innovation and Technology of Austria, at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday.

Also attended at the dinner were region ministers, the UMFCFI president, the Austrian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—MNA

## For Peace, Beauty and Truth

Kyi Mun

Go all-out to sow **Love** where there is **Hatred**;  
Go all-out to sow **Pardon** where there is **Injury**;  
Go all-out to sow **Joy** where there is **Sadness**;  
Go all-out to sow **Hope** where there is **Despair**;  
Go all-out to sow **Faith** where there is **Doubt**;  
Go all-out to sow **Light** where there is **Darkness**.

Seek first to **Console** than to be **Consoled**;  
Seek first to **Understand** than to be **Understood**;  
Seek first to **Love** than to be **Loved**;  
Seek first to **Pardon** than to be **Pardoned**;  
Seek first to **Give** than to be **Given**;  
Seek first to **Serve** than to be **Served**;

For, it is in giving that a human heart can purely rejoice; and it is in abandoning Self that a human mind can be fully liberated.

So, seek staunchly to be liberated from **PRIDE**, which comprises of:

**P** for **Passions** which means strong sensual Desires

**R** for **Resentment** which means Dislike  
**I** for **I-centered Ego** which is synonymous with Selfishness  
**D** for **Delusion** which is synonymous with Ignorance  
**E** for **Enmity** which is synonymous with Hatred

Then, organize the whole life in three stages:

- To be Stainless,
- To Let Go, and
- To See Through

Finally, a Purified Life will be realized full of:

- Vision
- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- Insight and
- Light

Ref : The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of  
NAING GROUP Capital CO., LTD.

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (9-5-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K662,500 per tical:

Selling K663,300

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 662,400 per tical:

Selling K 663,200

## FE RATE

USD Buying K 959 –

Selling K 964.5

SGD Buying K 760 –

Selling K 770

Euro Buying K 1320 –

Selling K 1340

## LOCAL NEWS

## Learning, thinking, planning and evaluating teachers

Myo Myint

April is a delightful month in Myanmar for two reasons. The first is the Thingyan celebrations held during the second and third weeks of the month. The second is the announcement of the exam results for all levels of basic education with the exception of the Grade 11 exam soon after the Myanmar new year. For the large majority of students who passed the examination and their parents, it is a time for jubilation. For the teachers too it is a joyful time as it signifies the completion of a year's work of teaching, testing, disciplining students, carrying out extracurricular work and preparing the exam results.

Just as students look forward to the start of the new school year in the beginning of June, so also do teachers. While students depend on their parents to prepare them for the new academic year, teachers need to energize themselves for the fresh batch of students.

Every student is a unique individual and so also each batch of students

is different from other batches. They come with different strengths, weaknesses, traits, attitudes and expectations. Hence, to be able to manage the different personalities and needs of their students, it is vital for teachers to take stock of the successes and failures of the previous year and to view the new batch of students with a fresh outlook.

There is a Myanmar saying that teachers possess three main qualities: benevolence, spirit of sacrifice and fascination for teaching. To be a truly competent teacher, in addition to these three qualities, there are other qualities that are necessary, such as knowledge, skill and creativity. These are instilled in teacher trainees during the training period and these qualities grow as their experience as teachers becomes richer.

The needs of today's students will differ from those of the previous year just as their needs had differed from those who entered school before them. New needs keep arising

with the changes and developments in the world which influence the changes and developments in individual countries. In this age, mastery of Information and Communication Technology has become vital due to its pervasiveness in all spheres of life and its important role as learning and teaching tool in academic institutions and as a productivity and quality enhancing mechanism in the workplace. Due to ICT, never has there been so much interaction among the peoples of the world. Information sharing and knowledge and skill transfer can also be done with increasing ease and speed. However, they demand greater preparation from its users, such as the ability to use a computer, a sound knowledge of English, how to harness the huge amount of information available on the web and decide on the degree of its usefulness. Hence, today's teachers need to be better prepared in terms of knowledge and skill as well as in terms of facing fast paced

changes so that they in turn can teach their students the knowledge and skills that will serve as a basis for the acquisition of the skills needed when they join the work force and also to become thinking persons. To better equip their students and to update themselves, teachers need to be lifelong learners, constantly on the alert for new information regarding the world, their country and the region they live in, new knowledge regarding the subjects they teach and new teaching techniques to facilitate student learning.

Teachers also need to think constantly how they can expand the horizons of their students, using a wide variety of teaching aids, and how to make the knowledge and skills they provide relate to real life situations and needs of students in order that they will not feel that they are learning irrelevant things. In addition, teachers must think about what other life skills which students need that they can build into their teaching

such as thinking skills, communication skills, problem solving skills, promotion of positive attitudes towards society and team building skills that will be of great relevance for the students' success in their future careers.

The success of a lesson is very much dependent on good planning on the part of the teacher. All trained teachers have been taught how to write lesson plans. However, it is not just enough to have a lesson plan ready for every lesson. What is important is to ensure that the lesson plan has clear aims, and the detailed teaching procedures and the teaching aids to be utilized are practical and meet the goals of the lesson, and suit the level and needs of the students. This leads us to the fourth responsibility of a teacher – evaluation.

Success of the lesson needs to be evaluated after every class and necessary changes need to be made to the lesson plan so that when it is used again, it will achieve better results. In ad-

dition to evaluating one's lesson plan, teachers need to assess their own performance and discover their strengths and weaknesses. Moreover, teachers need to study the performance of each child in the class, on a regular basis, as well as the results of tests to find out whether the teaching techniques used are suitable for all students and whether there are individual students that need special attention. Finally, teachers must not forget to evaluate the results of the final exam as these not only reflect the performance of their students but also their own performance.

In short, teachers, whether they are from the basic education level or the higher education level, need to be teachers who are constantly learning, thinking, planning and evaluating. This will ensure that what they teach will be of relevance to their students not only at the present time but also when the time comes to make practical use at work of what they have learnt at educational institutions.

## Making Agriculture a Profitable Business in Myanmar

by Mr. Tanaka

It is well known that as a country develops, the share of agriculture falls. In industrialized countries, its share in GDP is seldom more than 1~3%. While this relative decline of agriculture is inevitable, impoverishment of farming is not. Yet most of the fast growing economies of recent times have failed to prevent the marginalization of farmers. Can Myanmar become an exception?

The problems of agriculture in Myanmar are many. But, two phenomena deserve special attention. The first is 'landless farmers' ('farm workers' would be a more apt description, for they don't even have tenancy rights). Experts estimate that more than 50% of the 'farmers' are landless. They are among the poorest. Willing to migrate anywhere they can find a daily wage of K2,500 instead of the K2,000 commonly paid on farms, they are highly mobile. They could flood the cities and create new problems. The second is the troubling perception among farmers that agriculture is not profitable. This can curb investment

in agriculture and make the gloomy outlook a self-fulfilling prophesy.

**Addressing landlessness**

An obvious solution for landlessness is land reform. Large-scale land reform, however, would entail huge political, administrative, and fiscal costs. When Myanmar is about to enter a period of accelerated industrialization (hence shifting of labor out of agriculture), land reform may be too late. With the disrepute of agriculture as a business, most landless farmers may well prefer assistance to make a transition into a new line of work in any case.

Still it will be good to prevent further landlessness. In the past, landlessness was blamed on distorted policies that forced farmers to grow rice and sell it at a low price. After 1988, however, it seems to be caused mainly by a catastrophic illness in the family. If so, the remedy is to be found outside agriculture; the government should strengthen the health insurance system to protect farmers (and everyone else for that matter).

**Making agriculture profitable**

In the near term, conventional interventions would all be relevant, such as better irrigation, diversification of crops, use of improved seeds, and access to adequate financing. But, it is critical to look 30~40 years ahead, when Myanmar's per capita GDP will likely increase from about \$ 900 to \$10,000 or more. So, for agriculture to remain 'profitable' in comparison with other sectors, farm incomes must rise by not just a factor of 2 or 3, but by a factor of 10.

Two paths are open, and both should be pursued in combination. One is smallholder farming of high-value crops, such as flowers, vegetables, tea, etc. Where as growing two crops of rice on an acre of land in the Delta may produce an annual income of about \$300, flower production could generate about \$10,000. The latter is of course highly capital intensive, but the point is that vastly more productive farming is possible. The other model is large-scale, mechanized farming of

agricultural commodities, such as rice. Even though the yield per acre cannot be increased by anything like 10 times, cost reduction can generate high profits on large farms.

Farmers with 5~10 acres of land will find moving into radically different farming a daunting challenge. Part of the problem is that the cost of being the 'first mover' is heavy, as he has to master the new technology, develop the market, etc. But, if he succeeds, others can readily copy his model, thereby denying him a chance to earn extra profits for taking the high risk. This dynamic tends to lead to an under investment in what is good for the country.

It is the same challenge Myanmar faces in promoting manufacturing. This is not a coincidence, for highly modern agriculture is similar to manufacturing. Thus, Myanmar needs an 'industrial policy' to support modern agriculture. Such farming is a new field, requiring a great deal of entrepreneurial spirit. In this context, the government might consider a program

to help the most enterprising of the landless to venture into this sector, as an alternative to land reform. At least they know farming, and settling them in good rural occupations will ease the population pressure on the cities.

Although aiming for doubling of farm incomes is a realistic policy goal for now, it is essential to be thinking ahead, about raising incomes from small farms by a factor of 10. Since such intensive farming will require considerable capital, the transition will take time, much like fostering successful small and medium manufacturing businesses.

Large-scale commercial farming is new in Myanmar. The government may wish to promote private investments by improving supporting infrastructure and offering fiscal incentives. In parallel with special economic zones (SEZs) for manufacturing, it could consider 'agricultural SEZs' for modern and export-oriented farming. Rice, beans, and other commodities could be produced on a large scale. SEZs may

also attract investments in intensive farming (such as flowers, vegetables, and tea), which could become nodes of contract farming to prompt smallholders to venture into high-value crops.

**Toward balanced growth**

Modernization of agriculture is especially important for Myanmar for two reasons. First, given its agricultural potential, building a vibrant agriculture sector is essential for maximizing Myanmar's overall growth. Second, it will help slow the costly urbanization process and eventually create a more pleasant living environment in the country. In an earlier article, I have argued that manufacturing is the core of the economic system that brings about an equitable and stable society. Modern agriculture can complement manufacturing in this approach. If Myanmar succeeds in this endeavor, it will chart a new path that is more balanced than what even Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan were able to find.

Mr. Tanaka is the Head of the JICA Office in Myanmar.

## Nigeria's president at WEF pledges to free kidnapped girls



**Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan speaks during a Nigeria-Kenya bilateral business meeting in Abuja, on 5 May, 2014.**  
REUTERS

ABUJA/MAIDUGURI, 9 May — Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan promised on Thursday to find more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamist rebels, as the hostage crisis overshadowed his opening address to a conference designed to showcase investment opportunities in Africa's biggest economy.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the capital Abuja, Jonathan thanked foreign nations including the United States, Britain, France and China for their support in trying to rescue the girls, who were kidnapped from a secondary school on 14 April by Boko Haram.

He also praised delegates for coming despite the danger posed by the militants, then quickly moved on to a speech about creating jobs in African economies.

"As a nation we are

facing attack from terrorism," Jonathan told delegates. "I believe that the kidnap of these girls will be the beginning of the end of terrorism in Nigeria."

Despite such promises, Jonathan admitted on national television this week that he had no idea where the girls were.

The kidnappings and numerous other attacks by Boko Haram militants have overshadowed Nigeria's hosting of the forum, an annual gathering of the rich and powerful that replicates the one in Davos, Switzerland.

Security for the event was tight. Police and military trucks blocked off all roads leading to the Abuja Transcorp Hilton hotel, where the event was based. Soldiers patrolled the hotel's grounds and the perimeter with automatic weapons. Parents of the kidnapped girls said troops

had arrived in Chibok on a mission to find the girls.

"There are about three military helicopters hovering around our town and many soldiers have just arrived," said Maina Chibok, who has a 16-year-old daughter with the rebels.

"They are moving and advancing toward the bush. We hope and they succeed in rescuing our daughters."

France became the latest nation to offer help on Wednesday, saying it was boosting intelligence ties with Nigeria and sending security service agents there to tackle Boko Haram, the militant group which claimed the kidnapping.

In the latest big Islamist attack in Nigeria, 125 people were killed on Monday when gunmen rampaged through a town in the northeast near the Cameroon border.

Reuters

## Assad's forces take Homs, 'capital of Syrian revolt'

HOMS,(Syria) 9 May — Syrian forces took full control on Thursday over Homs, a city once associated with scenes of joyous pro-democracy crowds but now famed for images of ruin that epitomize the brutality of Syria's civil war.

After holding the Old City of Homs for nearly two years, around 1,200 rebel fighters and trapped civilians boarded buses which took them out of the "capital of the revolution" in convoys on Wednesday and Thursday, activists said.

They were driven to rebel-held territory outside the city under a deal agreed between the insurgents and forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

"Old Homs has been completely cleansed of

armed terrorist groups," state television said.

Homs provincial governor Talal Barazi told *Reuters* earlier on Thursday that Homs would be "declared a secure city" and reconstruction would commence after the evacuation.

Although the area had been cleared of insurgents, the army is not expected to move into the Old City until Friday when it will be checked for explosives.

Rebels smiled to cameras as they left, but the fall of Syria's third largest city to government forces is a major blow to the opposition and a boost for Assad weeks before his likely re-election.

When thousands of Syrians took to the streets of Homs in 2011, it

electrified the nation and anti-Assad demonstrations erupted in every major city. Government forces cracked down on the religiously mixed city with batons and live ammunition.

Mortar bombs were fired on protests in Homs and the revolution became armed. Rebel groups spread through the city as civilians fled or cowered in the basements of battered buildings. A year ago, government forces laid siege to the Old City and residents said they starved.

On Thursday, the city was close to silent with no sound of gunfire or explosions. Many buildings at the entrance to the Old City district lay in ruins, destroyed by three years of fighting.

Reuters



**Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stand on debris at a hotel used by Assad's forces, in old Aleppo on 8 May, 2014.—REUTERS**

## Clashes flare after Venezuela student camps raided, one dead

CARACAS, 9 May — Venezuelan troops on Thursday rounded up hundreds of youth activists and dismantled camps set up to protest against President Nicolas Maduro, and a policeman was shot dead in the demonstrations and clashes that ensued around Caracas.

Pre-dawn raids by National Guard troops broke up four tent camps maintained by student activists in the capital of the OPEC member nation during three months of protests.

After the raids, hundreds of demonstrators and residents poured onto the streets, setting up barricades, a common tactic during three months of unrest. The protests had waned in recent weeks even as

sporadic clashes continued.

Masked youths hurled stones and petrol bombs, while police fired tear gas in upmarket east Caracas.

One policeman died of bullet wounds, among five people injured, authorities said. Witnesses said shots

were fired from buildings down into the streets.

"A sniper killed the policeman while he was cleaning debris left by these violent, murderous protesters," a somber Maduro said during an address to the nation. "He was vilely killed."



**An anti-government protester throws a tear gas canister back at the police during a protest against President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas on 8 May, 2014.—REUTERS**

Troops cleared away the remnants of the camps, where students from all over the country had lived in tents, chanting and strumming guitars beneath banners with anti-government slogans, such as "Maduro, assassin."

"These arrests are irresponsible because this is a peaceful protest and we are not trying to topple the government," said Jose Manuel Perez, 22, a student leader. "Mr. President, think about what you're doing. We demand respect for the students." The government said soldiers arrested 243 people in camps it said were bases for staging violent protests. Officials displayed items taken including mortars and Molotov cocktails.—Reuters

## UK deploys destroyer to track large Russian naval task force

LONDON, 9 May — Britain has deployed a destroyer to track an unusually large Russian naval task force transiting the English Channel, it said on Thursday and also noted a "resurgence" in Russian air activity close to its airspace.

The Ministry of Defence said the decision to dispatch *HMS Dragon*, one of Britain's newest and most sophisticated ships, to track the Russian naval force was routine and that the Russians had notified it of their transit plans in advance.

"What is different here is that a Russian task group of this size has not passed by our shores in some time," Captain Rex Cox, *HMS Dragon's* commanding officer, said in a

statement. Diplomatic relations between Russia and the West have been strained by the crisis in Ukraine, which has revived memories of the Cold War when the military forces of Western Europe were ranged against those of the Soviet Union.

The task force included Russia's only aircraft carrier, the Admiral Kuznetsov, the Ministry of Defence said, as well as a nuclear-powered battle cruiser, a landing support ship, three tankers and a tug.

A Russian naval spokesman said last month that the *Kuznetsov* had completed a deployment in the Mediterranean and was on its way back to its base of Severomorsk in north-west Russia.—Reuters

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# No lie: dinosaur dubbed 'Pinocchio rex' would eat you alive

WASHINGTON, 9 May—Its nickname may sound funny—"Pinocchio rex"—but it probably would not have been wise to laugh at this strange, long-snouted cousin of the famous meat-eating dinosaur T. rex as it easily could have eaten you alive. Scientists on Wednesday identified a new member of *Tyrannosaurus rex*'s family, a beast named *Qianzhousaurus sinensis* that was up to 30 feet (9 meters) long and stalked China at the very end of the age of dinosaurs.

It differs in some significant ways from other members of the carnivorous group of dinosaurs known as tyrannosaurs, especially with a skull far more elongated than that of T. rex.

"It's a new breed of tyrannosaur, with a long snout and lots of horns on its skull, very different from the short-snouted, robust, muscular skulls of T. rex. So it tells us that tyrannosaurs were more ecologically variable than we previously thought,"

said paleontologist Steve Brusatte of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, one of the researchers.

Its elongated snout prompted researchers to nickname it "Pinocchio rex," inspired by the wooden puppet who dreamed of being a real boy but whose nose grew when he told a lie. "The long snout made us think of Pinocchio and his long nose, so Pinocchio rex seemed like a cheeky nickname," Brusatte said.

Two other tyrannosaur fossils with long snouts have been found previously in Mongolia but both specimens were juveniles. Brusatte said it had been unclear whether those two were dinosaur kiddies with juvenile features like a long snout that would disappear in adulthood.

"The new fossil solves this debate because it is twice the size of the two Mongolian specimens and much more mature, and still has the long snout and weird horns. So these were

not juvenile features, but characteristic features of this unusual subgroup of long-snouted tyrannosaurs," Brusatte said. *Qianzhousaurus* lived about 66 million years ago, not long before an asteroid believed to have been 6 miles wide (10 km) hit Earth and wiped out the dinosaurs and many other creatures.

"It would have been one of the last surviving dinosaurs and this species may have even witnessed the asteroid impact," said Brusatte, whose study appears in the journal *Nature Communications*.

*Qianzhousaurus* was smaller than T. rex, which lived at the same time in North America, measured about 40 feet (12 meters) long and was the largest known land predator ever. Even though it still had the "toothy grin" of T. rex, the unique snout of *Qianzhousaurus* and its more slender build suggested it favored different types of prey than "conventional" ty-



The skull of *Qianzhousaurus sinensis* (upper jaw in left lateral view and lower jaw in reversed right lateral view) is pictured in this undated handout photo.

REUTERS

rannosaurs, the researchers said. "It was still a big boy," Brusatte said. "And it still had a long mouthful of sharp teeth. You wouldn't want to run into it. It is something of a runt compared to T. rex, but T. rex was the baddest predator of all time." The beautifully preserved fossil was found by workmen at a construction site in Jiangxi Province in southern China.

*Qianzhousaurus* lived in a fairly wet, lush, rich landscape full of dinosaurs including feathered, bird-like ones named *Banji*, *Ganzhousaurus*, *Jiangxisaurus* and *Nankangia* that may have been on its menu as well as the huge, long-necked *Gannansaurus*.

"Although we are only starting to learn about them, the long-snouted tyranno-

saurus were apparently one of the main groups of predatory dinosaurs in Asia," another of the researchers, paleontologist Junchang Lü of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, said in a statement. Its genus name, *Qianzhousaurus*, honors a nearby city. Its species name, *sinensis*, pays homage to China.

Reuters

## Snapchat settles with FTC, faces 20 years privacy oversight

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 May—Messaging startup Snapchat has settled charges with US regulators accusing it of deceiving consumers by promising that photos sent on its service disappeared forever after a certain period of time.

Under the terms of the settlement, Snapchat's privacy practices will be monitored by an independent professional for the next 20 years.

"If a company markets privacy and security as key selling points in pitching

its service to consumers, it is critical that it keep those promises," Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Edith Ramirez said in a statement. According to the FTC, photos sent on Snapchat could, in fact, be saved by recipients using several methods.

The FTC also said Snapchat collected certain personal information about its users without their consent and failed to take proper security measures, resulting in a breach in which hackers compiled a database of 4.6 million Snapchat usernames and phone numbers.

In a post on its official blog on Thursday, Snapchat acknowledged that it had made mistakes, which it attributed to being a young company focused on devel-

oping its product.

"While we were focused on building, some things didn't get the attention they could have. One of those was being more precise with how we communicated with the Snapchat community," the company said.

Snapchat is among a new crop of popular mobile apps that competes with established Internet services such as Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc. According to media reports last year, Snapchat turned down a \$3 billion acquisition offer from Facebook.

The settlement with the FTC is subject to a 30-day public comment period, after which the commission will decide whether to make the consent decree final.

Reuters

## Stuart Parkin receives 2014 Millennium Technology Prize



Stuart Parkin

HELSINKI, 9 May—Stuart Parkin, a physicist who has enabled vast increase in digital storage, received the 2014 Millennium Technology Prize in Helsinki on Wednesday.

Finnish President Sauli Niinistö presented the prize, which is worth 1 million euros (1.39 million US dollars), to Parkin in the Millennium Pavilion, a makeshift guest hall specially designed for the ceremony.

Born in 1955 in England, Parkin has been living in the United States for three decades working for IBM, where he invented the GMR read head, a key component of the hard disk drive. In recent years, he has been a visiting professor at Stanford University as well.

According to Technology Academy Finland,

Parkin's innovation enables cloud computing, social media and online streaming and sharing of music and films. Tze-Chiang Chen, IBM Vice President of Science and Technology said Parkin was invited to join his team in 1982 in an effort to promote the research in enhancing digital storage ability.

Speaking highly of the Millennium Technology Prize, Chen said it is meant to reward scientists who bring significant impact to people's lives, unlike the Nobel Prize which emphasizes pure scientific breakthrough.

He told *Xinhua* that Parkin's innovation was commended by peers.

The Millennium Technology Prize was set by the Finnish government in 2004 to honour individuals and groups who have made significant contributions in the fields of science and technology, aiming to particularly highlight innovations that assist and enrich everyday lives. The prize is awarded every two years by Technology Academy Finland, an independent foundation established by Finnish industry and the Finnish state in partnership.—*Xinhua*



A portrait of the Snapchat logo in Ventura, California on 21 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

## New simulation created to study universe evolution

LONDON, 9 May—Scientists created a new simulation to study the evolution of the universe, which is more complete than previous simulations and could reproduce features such as galaxy distribution and composition, according to a paper published in the reputed journal *Nature* on Thursday.

Previous simulations have broadly reproduced the "cosmic web" of galaxies that is seen in the universe, but failed to create mixed populations of galaxies or predict

gas and metal content. The new model correctly predicts characteristics described in observational studies, and represents a considerable step forward in modeling galaxy formation, researchers said.

American scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) created the simulation, together with their British and German partners. The new simulation starts 12 million years after the Big Bang and traces 13 billion years of cosmic evolution.—*Xinhua*

## China to extend over \$12 bln in aid to Africa

BEIJING, 9 May — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang unveiled extra aid for Africa totalling at least \$12 billion on Monday, and offered to share advance technology with the continent to help with development of high-speed rail, state media reported.

Li pledged the additional funding in a speech at the Organization of African Union headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

China will increase credit lines to Africa by \$10 billion and will boost the China-Africa Development Fund by \$2 billion, bringing it to a total of \$5 billion, Li said, according to the official *Xinhua* news

agency. He provided no details of the timeframe.

Li “depicted a dream that all African capitals are connected with high-speed rail, so as to boost pan-African communication and development,” the report said. As China has advanced technologies in this area, Li said China was ready to work with Africa “to make this dream come true”.

China will also offer \$10 million in aid for wildlife protection, Li added, for a part of the world where the Chinese appetite for ivory and rhino horns have driven some species to the brink of extinction.

It is Li’s first visit to Africa since he became

premier last year, and follows on from a trip to the continent by President Xi Jinping in March 2013, when he renewed an offer of \$20 billion in loans to Africa between 2013 and 2015.

Li said that the new \$10 billion credit line would be on top of the existing \$20 billion already offered, the China News Service reported.

Chinese officials said last week that Li’s trip, which also takes in oil-rich Nigeria and Angola, would not simply be for energy deals and Beijing will be seeking to help boost African living standards.

Reuters



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (front R) and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn (front 2nd R) walk to inaugurate the Addis Ababa-Adama expressway in Tulu Dimtu, near Addis Ababa on 5 May, 2014.—REUTERS

## Randgold hopes giant Kibali mine will transform northeast Congo

DOKO, (Congo), 9 May—The open pit of the giant Kibali mine in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a yawning beige crater punched in dense forest, could turn a remote corner of one of the world’s poorest countries into an economic powerhouse.

Kibali represents Con-

go’s return to the world stage as a producer and exporter of gold. The \$2.5 billion joint venture between Randgold, Anglo-Gold Ashanti and state miner Sokimo poured its first gold in September and could eventually rank among the world’s biggest.

Its scale is already evident. The mines’ sides

descend in a series of deep shelves, making trucks at the base, which each carry 100 tonnes of rock to the surface to be processed, appear as small as insects.

Randgold Resources CEO Mark Bristow has great hopes that Kibali, and a neighbouring agri-business project sponsored by the mine, can do for Orien-



The KCD open pit gold mine at the Kibali mining site in northeast Democratic Republic of Congo, on 1 May, 2014.—REUTERS

## Iran not to accept limits on crude oil exports

TEHERAN, 9 May — Iran will not accept any limitations on its crude oil exports by foreigners, Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said here on Thursday. “Iran will not accept any numbers and figures for the volume of its oil exports dictated by others,” Zanganeh told reporters on the sidelines of an international exhibition related to oil, gas and petrochemicals. Iran itself will determine the amount of its crude oil exports, he said. Over the past three months, Iran’s crude oil exports have reached 1.2 million barrels per day, some 200,000 barrels per day beyond what was stipulated in an interim nuclear agreement signed last November. Under the nuclear deal with the US, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany, Iran agreed to halt part of its controversial nuclear program in exchange for an easing of sanctions that had crippled its economy.—*Xinhua*

## 39 killed, 41 wounded in another bloody day in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 May — A total of 39 people were killed and 41 others wounded in separate violent incidents, including a security operation, across Iraq on Thursday, police said.

In northern Iraq, police carried out an offensive targeting insurgent groups in southern Mosul, some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, killing 17 gunmen believed to be linked to the infamous blacklisted group the Islamic State

of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Police also arrested eight suspects during the operation, along with seizing a cache of weapons and explosives, the source said.

In a separate incident, the body of a member of a government-backed Sahwa paramilitary group, who was kidnapped by gunmen on Wednesday from the city of Shirqat, was found

by his family in a village outside the city, a local police source said.

Three family members of the kidnap victim were killed when they tried to recover the body, apparently booby-trapped. The kidnappers notified the family of the body’s location, the source said.

In Baghdad, three bombs went off near a popular market in the northern Sabie Abkar district, leaving one civilian dead and

ten others wounded, a police source told *Xinhua*.

In Anbar Province, a fierce clash erupted in the early morning hours in eastern part of the militant-seized city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, between an army force and gunmen, believed to be linked to ISIL, leaving seven gunmen dead and five others wounded, a provincial police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.—*Xinhua*

## Egypt’s Sisi lowers expectations for change

CAIRO, 9 May— Egyptians should not expect instant democracy or rapid economic reforms, but should pull together for shared sacrifice. That is the sober message being delivered by Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the general who toppled Egypt’s first freely-elected leader last year and is now poised to be elected president later this month.

The former army chief stepped squarely into the public eye this week with a lengthy televised interview and other public remarks. His words seem carefully calibrated to appeal to Egyptians’ hunger for stability and to draw a line under the era of rapid transformation since the 2011 revolt that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

It is wrong to expect Egypt to turn into a Western-style democracy overnight, he said on his campaign site on Facebook.

“We always turn to the image of stable democracies in states that preceded us and compare them with

Egypt,” said Sisi. “Applying the models of Western democracies in the case of Egypt does an injustice to Egyptians. Egyptian society still faces time before it enjoys true democracy as it should be.”

Sisi’s interviews have revealed the gruff personality that his supporters say shows that he is a decisive man of action and his opponents say are signs of a new autocrat in waiting.

In an interview with two Egyptian television channels, CBC and ONTV, Sisi avoided getting into specifics about policy. He handled questions on sensitive topics by saying little, and told off the pro-army anchors when they interrupted him.

He also hinted at a cautious approach to economic reforms, saying the state should not move too quickly to dismantle the subsidies for fuel and food that Western backers say are unsustainable and have ruined public finances.

Reuters

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

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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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
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LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

## Vietnam vows to deepen comprehensive partnership with US

HANOI, 9 May—Vietnam has always attached importance to deepening the comprehensive partnership with the United States, said Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh.

Minh made the remarks when he met with US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Thursday.

Minh urged the US to continue to open market, limit trade barriers, especially supervision program applied by the US Department of Agriculture on Vietnamese pangasius (tra fish).

Minh also urged the US to recognize Vietnam's market economy status and complete negotiation on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with flexibility and differential treatment as committed.—Xinhua

## Head-on collision kills eight in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 9 May—At least eight people were killed as two speeding buses had a head-on collision on a highway at Bangladesh's southwestern Rajbari District on early Friday, according to a senior police officer.

"Eight persons died on the spot while 20 to 25 others injured," said Ahsan Habib, assistant superintendent of police in Rajbari district, some 118 km away from capital Dhaka.

The accident occurred at about 4:00 am local time, Habib said, adding the reason of the accident was not known yet.

He said all the injured

were rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Bangladesh has one of the highest fatality rates for road accidents in the world due mainly to shoddy highways, poorly maintained vehicles, violation of traffic rules by inept drivers and lack of monitoring of the traffic department.

According to latest study of Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology, some 2,000 to 3,000 people are killed in road accidents in Bangladesh every year, of which about 75 percent fatalities occur in rural areas.

Xinhua



People gather at the blast site in Quetta, southwest of Pakistan, on 8 May, 2014. At least two people were killed and 16 others injured when a bomb exploded near a government office in Pakistan's southwest Quetta city on Thursday, officials said.

XINHUA

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## Two killed, 40 injured following 4.3 magnitude earthquake in south Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 9 May—At least two people were killed and 40 others injured when an earthquake hit Pakistan's southern Nawabshah District, local Urdu TV channel Dunya reported. The earthquake measured 4.3 at Richter scale, according to the US Geological Survey, which hit the country in the wee hours of Friday morning.

Xinhua



**Lakshmi is based on the real-life story of a 14-year-old girl kidnapped and forced into prostitution.—PTI**

## Lakshmi to Open 16th London Asian Film Festival

LONDON, 9 May — Lakshmi, Nagesh Kukunoor's hard-hitting drama on child trafficking in the country — will open the 2014 edition of the London Asian Film Festival (LAFF).

Lakshmi will have its European premiere at LAFF, a celebration of independent South Asian arts and cinema across London as the gala returns for its 16th year 1-14 June.

The film is based on the real-life story of an impoverished 14-year-old girl kidnapped from her village in Andhra Pradesh and forced into prostitution and who eventually testified in court against her traffickers.

Nagesh, an acclaimed writer and director, will travel to London for the

event, and will be part of a tete-a-tete following the film's screening on 1 June at the London's Tricycle Theatre.

Lakshmi stars newcomer Monali Thakur in the central role, with Ram Kapoor and veteran Satish Kaushik in key roles.

The film had its world premiere in January at the Palm Springs International Film Festival 2014, where it won the audience award for best narrative feature.

Among the other highlights of this year's LAFF are an appearance by filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj; Pam Chopra, the wife of the late filmmaker Yash Chopra; and Indian-American comedian Nadia P Mansoor as well as films from Pakistan, India and Britain.—PTI

## Celina Jaitly's mid-air trouble in the plane

MUMBAI, 9 May — Actress Celina Jaitly was in for a shock when the cabin crew of an airline apparently misbehaved with her. The actress was recently travelling to Dubai and then to the USA when she bumped into friends, designer Anna Singh and jewellery designer Farah Khan Ali, in the airplane.

Soon after, a steward apparently misbehaved with the actress. Describing the incident, Anna says, "We were meeting Celina after a long time, so we were busy chatting with her. We were seated in the business class, in the first row between the washroom and the first class. When Celina got up to go to a washroom, a steward stopped her from doing so. Moreover, his tone was extremely rude. The washroom was just four steps away from her seat, but he refused to listen to her. It was really embarrassing because he could have spoken gently instead of being rude to her." After the three of

them got off from the aircraft, Anna confronted him. She recounts that she made it a point to tell him that this wasn't the way to speak to a lady. "To this, he turned around and said that we were free to complain against him; he even gave his card to us."

A source close to Celina says that the actress was on her way to New York to promote a UN campaign aimed at creating awareness about the rights of the LGBT (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders) community. "This cabin crew attendant insisted on communicating in a disrespectful manner." PTI



**Celina was travelling to Dubai when the incident took place.—PTI**

## Actress Jolie takes plight of kidnapped Nigerian girls to red carpet

LONDON, 9 May — Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, in London to promote her new film "Maleficent," used the red carpet event on Thursday to renew her plea for the safe return of more than 200 Nigerian school girls kidnapped by Islamist rebels.

The 38-year-old actress, who serves as a United Nations special envoy for refugees, said it was "heart-warming" to hear reporters' questions and people's concern for the abducted girls at a movie event.

"The important thing though is to understand that this happens because these men think they can get away with this and they can do this," Jolie told reporters.

"We have to start arresting people for this, we have to start bringing them to justice and we have to start making it an absolute crime that puts fear in these men so that they think twice about this kind of action."

People around the world have been showing their support by taking part



**Actress Angelina Jolie**

in protests and joining online campaigns calling for the rescue of the girls taken

from a secondary school by extremist group Boko Haram on 14 April.

US first lady Michelle Obama and Pakistani schoolgirl and human rights activist Malala Yousafzai are among those backing an online campaign and have posted photos of themselves holding a sign reading "#BringBackOurGirls." Jolie also said she was increasingly concerned about for people in Ukraine, where pro-Moscow separatists have ignored a public call by Russian President Vladimir Putin to postpone a referendum on self-rule in eastern Ukraine, declaring they would go ahead on Sunday with a vote that could lead to war. "I can't imagine anybody from that region isn't just terrified that the worst is yet to come," she said. Jolie, dressed in a long black gown and joined by her fiancé Brad Pitt, led the stars of Walt DisneyCo's "Maleficent" at the premiere at London's Kensington Palace. Disney's modern reimagining of the Sleeping Beauty fairytale is due out in theaters around the world at the end of the month.

Reuters

## A young Coppola plumbs James Franco's teenage tales in 'Palo Alto'



**Director Gia Coppola attends the premiere of the film "Palo Alto" in Los Angeles in this file photo.**

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Gia Coppola hails from Hollywood royalty as the granddaughter of Oscar-winning filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola, but when she made her directorial debut she sought the help of actor James Franco to tap into teenage angst.

Coppola, 27, adapted Franco's book "Palo Alto," a collection of short stories exploring suburban ennui in his California hometown, into a film starring young talent, led by Emma Roberts and Jack Kilmer, out in US theaters on Friday.

The filmmaker, the daughter of Gian-Carlo Coppola, who died before

she was born, and niece of director and writer Sofia Coppola, began working on the film five years ago after graduating from college with a photography degree. She wanted to tackle a subject that she could relate to — the plight of the American teen.

"When I read (Franco's) book, I just really fell in love with it," Coppola said. "The dialogue felt real, and I haven't seen anything like that in a while that really articulated what it's like to be young today, even though his book took place in the '90's."

Coppola's family has a history of exploring coming-of-age stories, from

her grandfather's 1983 films "The Outsiders" and "Rumble Fish" to her aunt's 1999 feature film debut with "The Virgin Suicides," all of which Coppola said she referenced during her own debut process.

The film features vivid cinematography influenced by the director's photography training, and follows four characters who Coppola pulled together from the stories of Franco, who also appears in the film.

April, played by Roberts, is introverted and mysterious, the object of Teddy's (Kilmer) affections but who is seduced by her 35-year-old teacher, Mr. B (Franco). Fred (Nat Wolff) is the dangerous rebel without a cause who woos the shy and quiet Emily (Zoe Levin), only for their relationship to take a dark turn.

While Franco's book is set in the 1990s, Coppola sets her film in the present, sprinkling cell phones in lightly, but she said she wanted the film to feel "timeless."

Franco, 36, wrote "Palo Alto" as part of his Master of Fine Arts writing degree at Brooklyn

College, and while he has delved into writing and directing films, he said he didn't want to adapt his own book as he felt too close to the material.

He chose Coppola, whom he met five years ago, to direct the adaptation after seeing her photography.

"The photos seemed to have the sensibility that was similar to the one I was trying to capture with the book," he said.

"They looked like little glimpses at youth that was filled with dreaming, a bit of the mundane, a bit of skepticism about the world around them, but also engaging with the world with a creative spirit."

The actor was quick to emphasize that his own childhood growing up in Palo Alto, an affluent San Francisco Bay Area community, was a happy one, but he wanted to capture the boredom he and his peers suffered.

"Even though I was in this great place and I was at a really good school and I had friends and people thought I was cute, I still remember feeling more like ... nothing works out," he said.—Reuters

## GENERAL

## S African ruling party condemns killing of member during election day

CAPE TOWN, 9 May — The ruling African National Congress (ANC) on Thursday condemned the killing of an ANC member during the election day.

The victim was allegedly killed by an opposition party member outside a voting station in KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal Province Wednesday evening.

This was the second reported killing during the elections which the government said were “successful, peaceful and smooth running.”

Earlier, acting Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) CEO Phumla Williams said two deaths outside polling stations were recorded on Wednesday but did not provide further details.

ANC national spokesperson Jackson Mthembu said the ANC member was allegedly killed while sitting at the ANC desk outside a voting station.

Xinhua

## E China city suspends water supply over suspected pollution

NANJING, 9 May — Water supply in Jingjiang City in east China’s Jiangsu Province was suspended on Friday after abnormal water quality was found in the Yangtze River water source, according to local authorities.

The city’s water company detected a strange odor in the river water around 10 am, said a statement posted by the city’s official account on microblogging site Sina Weibo.

The government initiated an emergency response plan and the water supply is expected to resume before 5 pm as backup supply is ready to be delivered, said the statement. Samples of the water have been sent for testing, according to a spokesman with the city government.

A string of water pollution incidents has aroused serious concern across China. The latest occurred last month in Lanzhou, capital city of northwest China’s Gansu Province, when excessive levels of benzene were detected in the city’s tap water.

Xinhua



Residents purchase bottled drinkable water at a supermarket in Jingjiang City, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 9 May, 2014.— XINHUA

## MYANMAR TV

(10-5-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:45 am
2. Documentary
- 7:00 am
3. News / Weather Report
- 7:45 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 People Talks
- 10:00 am
9. News
- 10:20 am
10. Documentary
- 11:40 am
11. Game for Children
- 12:00 pm
12. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
13. Round Up of The Week’s TV Local News
- 2:45 pm
14. Hyper Sports
- 3:00 pm
15. News
- 3:20 pm
16. Documentary
- 4:20 pm
17. Songs Series
- 4:40 pm
18. University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) Second Year (Oriental Studies)
- 6:20 pm
19. MRTV’s Youth Programme
- 7:20 pm
20. Teleplay
- 8:00 pm
21. News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
22. News

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-5-14 07:00am~ 11-5-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Great Shweda-gon-The Planetary Posts
- \* World News
- \* Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Ma Myint Zu”
- \* Local News
- \* Kason Full Moon Day of Buddha
- \* World News
- \* Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Byit)
- \* Local News
- \* ANANDA Gu PHAYA
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- \* Myanmar Agarwood
- \* World News
- \* Mar Gyi Shay “Best of the Health”

## Brazilian veteran diplomat named deputy head of UN Guinea-Bissau office

UNITED NATIONS, 9 May— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appointed Marco Carmignani of Brazil as his deputy special representative with the United Nations

Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

With more than two decades of service with the United Nations, Carmignani brings with him a wealth of

political and leadership experience, the UN News Centre said in a release. For the past seven years, he served in peacekeeping and political missions in the Middle East as senior advisor and

chief of staff, it said. Prior to that, he held a number of senior positions at the UN Secretariat in New York and in Africa, including with the UN Operation in Burundi.— Xinhua



Serena Williams of the United States serves to Spain’s Carla Suarez Navarro during the women’s singles third round at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, capital of Spain, on 8 May, 2014. Williams won 2-0. — XINHUA

## Nadal breezes through on good day for women’s seeds in Madrid

MADRID, 9 May — Top seed and home favourite Rafael Nadal will face Tomas Berdych in the quarter-finals of the Madrid Open Tennis Tournament after both won their respective last 16 matches on Thursday. Nadal swept past Finland’s Jakko Nieminen 6-1, 6-4, while number 6 seed Berdych has to fight back from a set down before defeating Bulgarian number 12 seed Grigor Dimitrov 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The draw continues to open up for Nadal after the withdrawals of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic and the defeat of number three seed Stanislas Wawrinka earlier in the week. Thursday saw number 7 seed Andy Murray’s

disappointing season continue as he lost to Colombian qualifier, Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-2, while number 8 seed Milos Raonic lost a tight game to Nei Nishikori 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5).

The Japanese player won recently in Barcelona and has carried that form with him into the capital.

While the top seeds have struggled in the men’s competition, the favourites in the women’s tournament have all made progress, although Li Na had to recover from a set down against American Sloane Stephens before winning 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. The number 2 seed was way below her best, unconvincing on her serve and hit 46 unforced errors on her way to

victory and she knows she will have to improve in order to beat Maria Sharapova on Thursday. Sharapova, who is seeded 8 in Madrid this year, had a straight set, 6-4, 6-3 win over Australian, Samantha Stosur. Serena Williams

beat Spaniard Carla Suarez 6-2, 6-3, while Petra Kvitkova also progressed 6-4, 6-3 against Lucie Safarova and number 3 seed Agnieszka Radwanska swept past Robert Vinci 6-1, 6-1 in less than an hour.—Xinhua



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Jarkko Nieminen of Finland during their match at the Madrid Open tennis tournament on 8 May, 2014. — REUTERS

## Mourinho fined over referee comments after key defeat

LONDON, 9 May — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been fined 10,000 pounds after sarcastically praising the match referee and English referees' chief following a key Premier League defeat last month, the FA said on Thursday.

The Londoners lost 2-1 at home to a struggling Sunderland side, which ended Mourinho's 77-game unbeaten league record at Stamford Bridge and hit their title bid, with Manchester City now poised to wrap up the championship this weekend.

"I want to congratulate again (referee) Mike Dean. I think his performance was unbelievable," Mourinho told reporters after a controversial Sunderland penalty, which led to his assistant Rui Faria being sent to the stands after a pitchside rant.

"And... congratulations also to Mike Riley, the referees' boss. What they are doing through the whole season is fantastic, especially in the last couple of months, and in teams



**Chelsea's coach Jose Mourinho reacts during their Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match against Atletico at Stamford Bridge in London, on 30 April, 2014. — REUTERS**

involved in the title race. Absolutely fantastic," Mourinho added.

Mourinho had denied the misconduct charge but the FA said in a statement on Thursday that an independent commission had ruled that his comments had brought the game into disrepute and the charge for improper conduct was found proven.

Faria has already been handed a six-match stadium ban and a 30,000 pounds fine after admitting misconduct charges.

In a separate case involving another defeat for Chelsea in the title run-in, the often outspoken Mourinho lost his appeal against a decision to fine him 8,000 pounds in relation to his actions after Chelsea's 1-0 loss at Aston Villa in March.

The Portuguese coach entered the field of play and approached the referee at the end of the game and the FA panel on Thursday upheld a ruling of improper conduct.

Reuters

## Poyet relaxed after masterminding Sunderland's great escape

LONDON, 9 May — Having secured Sunderland's Premier League status that appeared doomed at the turn of the year, manager Gus Poyet says he can finally afford to relax for the first time in seven months.

The Wearersiders became the second team after West Bromwich Albion in 2004-05 to avoid dropping into the second-tier Championship after being bottom at Christmas, Poyet having reinvigorated a bloated squad that seemed resigned to its fate.

Wednesday's 2-0 win over West Brom, their fourth consecutive victory, earned the point they needed to retain top flight status ahead of their final match at home to Swansea City on Sunday.

"It's an incredible day, I'm going to be able to go home and relax for the first time in seven months, which is very special," the Uruguayan told the club website (www.safc.com).

"We've made this incredible escape and it's going to be remembered for a

long time." A little over a month ago the Black Cats looked odds-on for relegation, having given up a 1-0 lead at Tottenham Hotspur to meekly fall to a 5-1 loss which saw them seven points off safety, albeit with two matches in hand on their cellar-dweller rivals.

The defeat left the demonstrative Poyet claiming they would need a miracle

if they wanted to move out of the bottom three.

Divine inspiration was in short supply next time out when a Wes Brown own goal saw them lose their fifth straight match, 1-0 at home to Everton, before two goals to Connor Wickham earned a point at Manchester City, likely to be crowned champions on Sunday.

Reuters



**Sunderland manager Gus Poyet reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against West Bromwich Albion at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England on 7 May, 2014. — REUTERS**

## Mercedes to blow their own trumpet in testing

BARCELONA, 9 May — Formula One pacesetters Mercedes will try out a new 'megaphone' style exhaust in testing next week as the sport seeks ways of raising noise levels and placating fans angered by the new quieter V6 engines.

The team said on their Twitter feed that the 'prototype solution' to boost tailpipe noise would be put on the car at a scheduled test in Barcelona after Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix, the fifth race of the year.

Reports had earlier suggested they could do so in Friday practice but a spokesman said that would not happen.

German media quoted Mercedes motorsport boss

Toto Wolff earlier in the week as saying that possible solutions ranged from the very complex to putting a "simple megaphone at the back".

Formula One has ditched the raucous, screaming 2.4 liter V8 engines with their twin exhausts this season in favor of turbocharged 1.6 liter V6 power units with energy recovery systems and a single tailpipe.

Critics panned the softer sound at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix with promoters complaining and the sport's commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone saying the noise needed to be louder. —Reuters



**Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain drives to a pit stop during the Chinese F1 Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit on 20 April, 2014. — REUTERS**

## Kaymer sets Players pace with record equalling 63

PONTE VEDRA BEACH (Florida), 9 May — Martin Kaymer birdied his last four holes to equal the tournament record and seize a two-shot lead in Thursday's opening round of the Players Championship as several other big names lined up in pursuit.

On an ideal day for low scoring at the TPC Sawgrass where the par-72 Stadium Course has been softened by recent rain, Germany's Kaymer raced home in a sizzling seven-under-par 29 to complete a nine-under 63.

His back nine, holes one to nine, set a new low for the tournament while his 63 matched the record scores previously posted at the Players Championship by Fred Couples (1992), Greg Norman (1994) and Roberto Castro (2013).

"I didn't make many mistakes today, which was nice," Kaymer told reporters after a flawless nine-birdie display in the PGA Tour's flagship event which is widely regarded as the unofficial fifth major.

"I missed only one fairway, which was on 16. So overall my ball-striking was very good.



**Martin Kaymer tees off on the 9th hole during the first round of The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course. — REUTERS**

Fortunately I could take advantage of some putts on my back nine, on the front, on the golf course. It was just a very, very good round of golf."

Kaymer sank a 16-footer at the par-three eighth, then got up and down from a greenside bunker at the par-five ninth to end the day two strokes in front of American Russell Henley, who had set the clubhouse lead with a sparkling 65 in the morning. South Korea's Bae Sang-moon opened with a 66 while US Open champion Justin Rose, England's former world number one Lee Westwood and 2008 Players

champion Sergio Garcia of Spain were among a large group on 67.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy got to five under after 11 holes on a hot and sunny morning at the TPC Sawgrass but then struggled coming home on the way to an opening 70.

"I played well pretty much the whole way around, I just let a couple of shots get away from me at the end," McIlroy said.

"So I'll come out tomorrow and try and attack again, because I feel like you can go low on this golf course this week. It's soft, the greens are receptive."

Former world number one Kaymer, who landed