

Community Driven Development Projects underway with \$80 million World Bank grant

By Ye Myint

The \$86.3-million Myanmar National Community Development project has begun with work done in three townships, financed with the \$80 million IDA grant from the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries approved in November 2012 and the remaining money provided by the government.

The 6-year project, the first World Bank project in 25 years in Myanmar, started in March and will be — in its first year — covering 400 villages in three rural townships, including remote areas in Shan State,

said the World Bank on Monday.

Work is now underway in Kanpetlet in Chin State, Namhsam in Shan State and Kyunsu in Taninthayi Region, it is learnt.

According to the World Bank, five more townships will be added in the second year and seven in the third year of the project which is planned to cover more than 3,000 villages, home to nearly 2.5 million people. 15 of Myanmar's 330 townships will benefit from the project in total over the next two years. Under the project, three annual block grant with an average of \$27,000 will be given to 640 vil-

lage-tracts.

During the first year of its operation, the project will benefit people in a given township, with work planned in a wide range of areas, including inter-urban roads and highways, water, sanitation and flood protection, irrigation and drainage, health and education. In subsequent years, local people will be able to choose the type of public infrastructure they wish to build or upgrade, officials said.

"The Myanmar National Community Development Project realizes President Thein Sein's vision of people-centered development, a significant shift in the way that

government interacts with communities in rural areas, and a beginning to reach poor and historically underserved areas," says Myanmar Country Manager Kanthan Shankar.

According to the Department of Rural Development, a meeting to select a township in Yangon Region for the project implementation will be held at Yangon Region Government Office on 21 May.

Apart from the \$80 million IDA grant to empower communities to come together for change, Myanmar will secure \$55 million — \$30million in credit from the International Development Associa-

tion, IDA, \$8.5million from the Australian government and \$16.5million from the UK's Department for International Development — to support the modernization of the public finance system, said a World Bank Group's press release issued on 2 April. According to Carl Patrick Hanlon, Head of Communications for East Asia and Pacific at the World Bank, the new loan, of which much will be interest-free, is separate from the \$2 billion development plan for Myanmar that World Bank Group's President Jim Yong Kim announced during his first visit to Myanmar at the end of January 2014.



Photo shows a rural village in Nawngkio, Shan State in Myanmar.—PHOTO: PO KHWAH

Correction

Please read "1949" instead of "1947" in the seventh line, second column and fourth paragraph of the story under the headline "Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO to undergo reforms" on the cover page of this daily issued on 15-5-2014. Error is regretted.—NLM

DCA extends tender offer for 30 domestic airports

YANGON, 16 May — Department of Civil Aviation has extended the tender offer from private companies for 30 domestic airports as some companies submitted the offer through email and were late for registration.

So far, 48 companies submitted their offer to the department, according to the DCA.

"They have expressed their interests in the projects and we are now making a list of the projects which they want to run with joint venture system

or 100 percent investment," an official of the department said.

"We have seen that the department will have to run some projects with joint venture system," he added.

Among 30 airports, Bagan-NyaungU Airport,

Heho Airport, Thandwe Airport, Dawei Airport, Myeik Airport and Tachilek Airport have attracted not only local companies but also foreign companies, according the Department of Civil Aviation.

NLM

INSIDE

President meets Vice-Chairperson of NPC of China



PAGE-3

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets WB delegates



PAGE-3

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese delegation

PAGE-3

Upper House Speaker leaves for New Zealand

PAGE-3

French students observe formation of Myanmar Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Chairman of the Lower House (Pyithu Hluttaw) Bill Committee U T Khun Myat welcomed a nine-member delegation led by Director Nicole Gauthier of University de Strasbourg in France on Friday at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed formation of Myanmar Hluttaw and legislative matters.

MNA

Cooperation sought between Election Commission and social organizations

YANGON, 16 May—A coordination meeting between the Union Election Commission and social organizations took place at Summit Park View Hotel here on Friday morning, sources said.

At the meeting, the commission briefed on the compilation of voter lists, its rules and regulations, and preparatory measures.

The commission then dealt with queries raised by social organizations.

The meeting drew 40 social organizations and seven INGOs.—MNA



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye clarifies rules and directives of the UEC.—MNA

Vice-President of NPC holds talks with Deputy Speaker of Lower House

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-President of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and party met Deputy Speaker of the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa on Friday at the parliament's building in Nay Pyi

Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two Hluttaws based on the comprehensive strategic cooperation.

They also discussed implementation of signing an MoU on cooperation between the two Hluttaws and exchange of parliamentary visits.

In the evening, the Chinese delegation attended a dinner hosted by U Nanda Kyaw Swa.—MNA

Lashio blasts cause some damages, but no injuries



LASHIO, 16 May—Two explosions rocked Lashio in Northern Shan State on early Friday morning but nobody was injured during the explosions.

First explosion took place near the back gate of the Kanbawza Bank at the corner of Bogyoke and Thazin streets in Ward-3 of Lashio Township and another occurred under a 160 KVA transformer next to the CB Bank at the corner of Sankaung and Theinni streets. The transformer was damaged and the windows of the banks and nearby buildings were shattered in the explosions.

The security personnel are conducting an investigation into the explosions.—State IPRD

World Bank's senior economist discusses poverty alleviation plan

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—The meeting entitled 'Consultation Meeting on Systematic Country Diagnostics: Priorities for Ending Poverty and Boosting Shared Prosperity in Myanmar' was held here

on Friday.

Khawima Nthara, a senior country economist with the World Bank, made a discussion at the meeting which was.

The meeting at Thinhaha Hotel in the capital was attended by Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein and Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific.

MNA

Photo shows the site where bomb exploded.

SHAN STATE IPRD

Survey shows 7 pc boom in Myanmar automobile market in six years

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Myanmar sees seven per cent rise in automobile market in six years with the influx of various brands of cars into the domestic market, according to an online survey.

During the press release at the 50th Street Cafe Restaurant and Bar in Yangon on Friday, Erwin Sikma, the Founder and MD of Rocket Internet Myanmar Classified, from the www.motors.com.mm website said: "The development of Myanmar car market has increased seven per cent in six years,

and the various brands of new cars are entering the domestic market daily."

He said: "Myanmar has many investment opportunities in Asia. We are planning to extend online market to fulfill the needs for buyers and sellers."

As Myanmar has liberalized restrictions on regulations of automobile imports under the new government, demand on luxury cars has also increased in the country, attracting many automobile companies to invest in Myanmar.

Myanmar researchers said more than 200 showrooms have been opened in major cities of the country. At present, it is estimated that over 200,000 vehicles are driving on the country's roads.

The research shows that most of local customers prefer Toyota's products to other brands. The www.motors.com.mm is now mainly focusing on Yangon automobile market.

Erwin Sikma said their online services will be extended to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi and Magway so as to meet the demand of Myanmar automobile market, and to help

the customers find the cars.

Many interested users are now browsing www.motors.com.mm for detailed information and 60 per cent of them are using mobile devices.

Up to now, a few numbers of websites can only provide online services to users on Myanmar online car market. An expert has estimated that Myanmar automobile industry will meet more development in the future.

Erwin said that more than 7,000 people are getting information of automobiles each month from www.motors.com.mm website where 70 per cent of showrooms and facts about over 5,000 vehicles have been posted.

The website is part of

Carmudi.com under the World's Largest Internet Incubator Rocket Internet Co., and it allotted more than US\$ 10 million investment for Carmudi website in Asia recently.



Erwin Sikma, Founder and MD of Rocket Internet Myanmar Classified.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



The definition of ASEAN Logo for 2014

Kha Yay or Star Flower

- Since kha yay is known as 'star flower,' (10) kha yay flowers stand for 10 ASEAN Member States as 'Stars' in its own right, and the links among them means that all ASEAN Member States are joining hands in hands together in unity as a community and as emerging stars in the world.
- In the form, Star flower resembles the pinion of a machine. The linkage of the (10) pinions will be driving force for the peace and prosperity of the region for which the theme of the Chair stands for.
- In fact, Star flower is an ordinary flower in Myanmar valued by the millions of people. Therefore, it represents the majority people of the region. Therefore, Kha yay stands for millions of ASEAN people. Centered on the ASEAN people, ASEAN will advance towards the peace, prosperity and development of the region.
- The mixture of the white and yellow color of the star flower indicates peace and prosperity for the people of the region.
- The nobility of the star flower is its scent. The scent of the star flower recalling far and near even when it wilts. Therefore, like the resilience of the scent of star flower, the resilience of the ASEAN people remains in robust strength not only in times of enjoying achievements but also in times of encountering challenges.

Background Colour

The green background of the logo means that ASEAN will implement the development of the region emphasizing peace, green growth and environmental preservation in the region.

NATIONAL

President meets Vice-Chairperson of NPC of China

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—President U Thein Sein paid homage to the Mahamuni Buddha Image in Mandalay and donated gold foil to the image on Friday morning.

He also held talks with a Chinese delegation led by Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC),

on the same day at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they discussed implementation of comprehensive strategic cooperation between the two countries, promotion of relations between the two peoples, peace and stability and rule of law in the region.

MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and party.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets WB delegates



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Mr Axel Van Trotsenburg, World Bank Regional Vice-Chairman for East-Asia and Pacific.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met a delegation headed by Mr Axel

Van Trotsenburg, World Bank Regional Vice-Chairman for East-Asia and Pacific, on Friday at the

Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation in rural devel-

opment and poverty alleviation in rural regions and public-based development in Myanmar.—MNA

Upper House Speaker leaves for New Zealand

YANGON, 16 May—Speaker of Upper House U Khin Aung Myint left Yangon International Airport on Friday morning to pay a

visit to New Zealand.

The speaker was accompanied by chairmen of the Upper House affairs committees U Nay Win

Tun and Daw Nang Ni Ni Aye and members U Kan Nyunt and U Tin Shan and officials of the Upper House Office.—MNA

Donors for renovation and medical supplies honoured

YANGON, 16 May—The ceremony to mark the completion of the renovation of the eye surgical theatre in Yangon Western General Hospital and to honour the donors of instruments and medicines required for eye surgery was held at the hospital on Friday morning. Patron of

Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay made an opening speech at the ceremony.

Donors for renovation of the theatre were Mother Trading Co., Ltd, Mon Mon Ye Ye Construction and Ponnya Thahara well-wisher Youths Associa-

MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Norwegian King, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and His Excellency Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2014.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 16 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and of Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received a Chinese delegation led by Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, at Zabuthiri Hall of the parliament building in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning, sources said.

Also present on the Myanmar side were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, committee chairpersons from both houses, and officials. The Chinese vice-chairman was accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar.

MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann greets H. E. Mme Yan Junqi, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Norwegian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr. Borge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Norway, which falls on 17 May 2014.—MNA

Yadana Lake at Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda in Land of Unity to be renovated

PANGLONG, 16 May—Panglong is a famous region not only in Shan State but in the nation because the Panglong Monument was erected in the town in commemoration of the Union solidarity before regaining the Independence of the nation.

A coordination meeting on renovation of Yadana Lake at the Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda located in Panglong Sub-Township of Loilem District was held at the religious building in the precinct of the pagoda on Thursday.

Township authorities, the chairman of pagoda



board of trustees and officials discussed renovation

of the lake and dredging plans at the meeting.

Moe Lwin Oo
(Loilem)

Volunteer university students in literacy campaign honoured in Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG, 16 May—A ceremony to mark successful completion of basic literacy campaign 2014 was held at the hall in Kawthoung, the southern tip of nation in Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

Assistant Lecturer U Tun Oo of Chemistry Department of Myeik University, leader of the literacy campaign in the region, reported on success in learning and teaching tasks at the teaching tables and handed over a certificate of honour given by the Union Minister for Education, to Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko.

The chief minister also presented certificates



of honour and gifts to faculty members and students from Dawei and Myeik universities who partici-

pated in the literacy movement.

Later, the chief minister hosted a dinner to the

faculty members and volunteer students.

Kyaw Soe
(Kawthoung)

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

IPRD's mini book corners raise public reading habits

KHAMAUKKYI, 16 May—Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information has opened mini book corners in all townships of the nation as of July 2013.

Staff members of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township IPRD changed books

and publications for the fourth time at eight mini book corners at the public places on Wednesday.

The book corners become good reading facilities for the people at grass root level in the township.

Khamaukkyi
(IPRD)

Myanma Insurance clarifies services for travellers

MONYWA, 16 May—A talk on insurance services being given by Myanma Insurance under the Ministry of Finance was held at the hall of private bus lines control committee in Monywa, the city of Sagaing Region, on Wednesday morning.

The in-charge of Sagaing Region of Myanma Insurance explained disciplines and benefits of special travel insurance,

third party liability insurance and comprehensive vehicle insurance distributed by Myanma Insurance for reducing loss of travellers in traffic accidents.

Officials replied to queries raised by the chairman, secretary and member of the control committee, highway bus owners and in-charges.

Po Chan
(Monywa)



Public Works of Kyaukkyi Township starts construction of gravel road in Ok-phyat-Mone section of Toungoo-Sittoung-Moppalin Road and maintenance of bridges in Mone region of Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region, on 1 May.

ARTIST THAN WIN (KYAUKKYI MEDIA)

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar U-16 to play against Lao Toyota on 17 May



Players of Myanmar U-16 team pose for group photo in the pitch.—SOE NYUNT

The Asian Championship Trophy to be organized by the football academy of Frenz United of Malaysia will be held in Malaysia on 17 May.

A total of 12 football teams will take part in the two groups in fixtures.

Myanmar U-16 team is in the group (B) together with Lao Toyota FC, Guangdong youth (China), Chonburi (Thailand), Phnom Penh Crown FC (Cambodia) and Frenz United (Malaysia).

The home and away matches will be held for the cup from the group matches to the final. Myanmar youth will play the home matches at Aung San Stadium. In the debut, Myanmar will meet

Lao Toyota FC on 17 May. Myanmar youth team comprises managers U Soe Win, U Win Thu Moe and U Aung Aung Tun, secretary U Kyaw Min Htoo, Head Coach Minkovski (Bulgaria), Assistant Coaches U Khin Maung Htwe, U Tin Maung Win and U Aung Kyaw Zan, Goal Coach U Maung Maung Myint, players Po Min Khant, Hein Phyo Win, Ye Yint Ko, Pyae Maung Maung, Moe Moe Tun, Kyaw Lwin Moe, Zwe Thet Paing, Moe Min Zaw, Okkar Bo, Aung Pyae Ko, Shwe Ko, Min Thu, Zin Myo Htet, Thiha Tun Kyaw, Ye Min Thu, Nay Oo Lwin, Hsan Hset Naing, Wai Yan, Aung Thet Soe, Aung Moe Thu, Saw Phaw La Lay, Aung Phyo Tha, Ye Yint Aung, Lwin Moe Aung, Phone Thitsar Min, Saw Htay, Zarnayya Thu, Kyaw Zin Soe and Myat Tun Thit.—Nyi Myat Thawda

Lao Toyota FC on 17 May.

Myanmar youth team comprises managers U Soe Win, U Win Thu Moe and U Aung Aung Tun, secretary U Kyaw Min Htoo, Head Coach Minkovski (Bulgaria), Assistant Coaches U Khin Maung Htwe, U Tin Maung Win and U Aung Kyaw Zan, Goal Coach U Maung Maung Myint, players Po Min Khant, Hein Phyo Win, Ye Yint Ko, Pyae Maung Maung, Moe Moe Tun, Kyaw Lwin Moe, Zwe Thet Paing, Moe Min Zaw, Okkar Bo, Aung Pyae Ko, Shwe Ko, Min Thu, Zin Myo Htet, Thiha Tun Kyaw, Ye Min Thu, Nay Oo Lwin, Hsan Hset Naing, Wai Yan, Aung Thet Soe, Aung Moe Thu, Saw Phaw La Lay, Aung Phyo Tha, Ye Yint Aung, Lwin Moe Aung, Phone Thitsar Min, Saw Htay, Zarnayya Thu, Kyaw Zin Soe and Myat Tun Thit.—Nyi Myat Thawda

Authorities fulfill requirements of locals in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 16 May—Township authorities made field trips to wards and villages of Meiktila Township recently to check development tasks and to fulfill the requirements of the local people.

They coordinated with local people in undertaking development of health, education and social sectors in the wards and villages. Their trips will last up to 25 May.

The authorities fulfilled development tasks and water and power supply tasks for the people after coordinating the departmental officials.

NLM-018

Stone inscription works on high demand in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 16 May—Stone inscription making works are being carried out on a manageable scale in the open season, and these stone inscriptions are to be kept at construction and renovation of monasteries and pagodas in Pakokku, Magway Region, said Ko Kyaw Naing (Kyaw Thiha) of Pakokku who is engaged in curving the stone inscriptions.

The prices for the stone inscriptions are set as K4000 per 1 foot by six inches size stone plaque, K200,000 per 4x3 feet size, K500,000 per 4x8 feet size.

One square foot stone inscription decorated with



terrazzo costs K7000. These works are ordered from Mandalay. The stone sculptors use marble stones produced from Madaya region. They do not like the marble from Loikaw because the

plaque is grey.

At present, marble stones from Madaya region is high demand in China, so its price is hiking day by day.

Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)



A total of 238 candidates joined the personal test for the posts of daily wage primary assistant teachers to be assigned in Twantay of Yangon South District, at No 1 Basic Education High School on Thursday.

MYO HLAING (TWANTAY)

District Election Sub-commission chairman submits resignation

MOHNYIN, 16 May—U Di Sim Ram, Chairman of Mohnyin District Election Sub-Commission, has recently submitted his resignation letter to the authorities after joining a political party in Kachin State.

U Di Sim Ram who took retirement from the post of Deputy Director of Mohnyin District Law Office had discharged duty of the district sub-election commission chairman as of 2010 multiparty general elections. In an interview, he expressed his opinion that as governments and Hlutaws have been established

in regions and states, their administrative mechanisms depict the nature of the Union. However, today's region and state governments have a few authority for their machinery. They have no authority to appoint any person at the post of security personnel or peon. It should hand over the authority to supervise the township level departments and organizations to the region and state governments. Indeed, power sharing should be implemented clearly and the table 1 and 2 of the constitution should be amended, he added.—NLM-001

Village committees formed for green village project

MYINGYAN, 16 May—The election for members of the Green Village Project implementation committee was held in villages of Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on Thursday morning.

The clarification on process of election was held in Taungpon and Tebin villages. Officials of Rural Development Department explained mission and vision of the project, the ways to operate K30 capital fund for the village, disbursement, fund-raising plans and tasks of the supervisory committee and procedures of election for the committee members.

Village committees have been set up in Pyogan, Kanswe, Taungpon,

Tebin and Nyaungwun villages in Myingyan Township for implemen-

tation of the green village project.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Kerry says he's seen raw data suggesting Syria used chlorine in attacks



A man, affected by what activists say was a gas attack, breathes through an oxygen mask inside a field hospital in Kfar Zeita village in the central province of Hama on 12 April, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 May — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday he had seen raw data suggesting Syrian government forces had used chlorine gas in the country's civil

war, but added it had not been verified.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has said Syria may have used chemical weapons involving chlorine in 14 attacks in

recent months.

"I have seen the raw data that suggests that there may have been, as France has suggested, a number of instances in which chlorine has been used in the conduct of war," Kerry told reporters in London.

"If it has, and it could be proven, then that would be against the agreements of the chemical weapons treaty and against the weapons convention that Syria has signed up to."

Kerry, who earlier met foreign ministers from European Union and Gulf Arab countries that are opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, said the data had not been verified.

"It has been made clear by President Obama

and others that use would result in consequences," Kerry said, adding: "We're not going to pin ourselves down to a precise time, date, manner of action, but there will be consequences."

France is pressing the United Nations to refer the three-year-old civil war in Syria to the International Criminal Court for possible prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Syria has promised to hand over or destroy its entire chemical weapons arsenal although it still possesses roughly 7.5 percent of declared chemicals and has not yet destroyed a dozen production and storage facilities.—Reuters

Wildfires menace southern California, thousands evacuated

SAN DIEGO, 16 May — Wildfires were raging in southern California on Thursday, keeping thousands of residents and students away from their homes after San Diego county officials maintained evacuation advisories.

Whipped by the wind, flames swept over the parched land close to homes and roads in nine fires across the county, with black smoke filling the sky as California entered the height of wildfire season in the midst of one of the state's worst droughts. No major injuries were reported. California Governor Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency to free up resources.

A blaze in San Marcos that erupted on Wednesday prompted officials to issue evacuation notices for thousands of residents and students at a California State University campus.

The university, which has more than 9,000 students, said on Thursday its evacuation orders would remain through Friday and it had cancelled commencement ceremonies.

"The fire was right above campus. I could see it reaching over part of the hill, this really dark smoke. It was almost like an explosion," Grant Rapoza, 19, told Reuters.

The San Marcos fire has burned 700 acres, destroying at least three buildings, the San Diego County emergency website said on Thursday. "(The) fire is still very active and continues to move to the south," it said.

Another fire that broke out on the Camp Pendleton Marine Base north of San Diego had charred some 6,000 acres (2,430 hectares) by Wednesday evening, prompting the evacuation of military housing and a naval weapons station.—Reuters



Firefighters battle a blaze in San Marcos, California on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

UN warns half of Yemen's population in need of humanitarian assistance

UNITED NATIONS, 16 May — More than half of Yemen's population is in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance, a UN spokesman told reporters here on Thursday. "Ten and a half million Yemenis are food insecure, 13 million have no access to clean water or adequate sanitation and 8.6 million have no health assistance, including reproductive health services," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at the daily briefing.

The Middle Eastern country continues to work towards building a federal state and forge ahead with democratic reform, according to the UN.

Thousands of people have been displaced in Yemen as government forces launched operations against al-Qaeda strongholds.

Of the 14.7 million Yemeni people that in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance, there are 7.6 million who have been identified as "the most needy" by the UN and for whom it has developed a response plan.

At the daily briefing, Dujarric quoted Johannes Van Der Klaauw, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen and the Representative of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as saying on Thursday that "the international community needs to come forward with substantial funding to implement the 2014 response plan for Yemen, which remains alarmingly under-funded." According to the spokesperson, only 18 percent of the 591.6 million US dollars funding needed for executing the response plan this year has been secured.—Xinhua

Internet helps veteran reunite with son after 72 years

KUNMING, 16 May — "I knew it was really you!" Seeing the broken middle finger of his son's left hand, veteran Yang Youfu, 96, immediately recognized him. On Thursday, the family held a grand banquet in Bangeshan Village, Lincang County in the southwestern province of Yunnan, to celebrate the reunion, which came after 72 years of separation. Yang, a native of Leshan City, Sichuan Province, joined the army and left his hometown for Yunnan to fight Japanese invaders in 1942, when his son Yang Yunqing was only one year old.

When the war ended, Yang stayed in Yunnan with some other soldiers and got married there. Yang had three sons and three daughters in his new family. He wrote to his family in Sichuan in 1977, but then totally lost contact with them.

Wu Siqi, a volunteer in Yunnan, offered to help Yang to look for his son. Wu posted the information on Sina Weibo, Chinese Twitter-like microblogging service, on 3 May. "The elderly person misses his relatives very much and wishes to find and see his son," read the post. Netizens showed great interest in the post and began to search for the son. Volunteers in Sichuan Province found Yang Yunqing the next day and the two had a telephone conversation.

Xinhua

Five dead as worst floods in 120 years hit Serbia, Bosnia

SARAJEVO/BELGRADE, 16 May — The heaviest rains and floods in 120 years have hit Bosnia and Serbia, killing five people, forcing hundreds out of their homes and cutting off entire towns.

The five casualties, one of them a firefighter on a rescue mission, drowned in Serbia. Bosnia and Serbia declared a state of emergency, while the Serbian Orthodox church said it would hold special prayers in Belgrade for the rain to stop.

"This is the greatest flooding disaster ever. Not only in the past 100 years; this has never happened in Serbia's history," Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic told a news conference. "More rain fell in one day than in four months." In Bosnia, army

helicopters evacuated dozens of people stranded on the top floors of their flooded homes in the central town of Maglaj, where the Bosna river swelled to record levels and swept away the main bridge. Rescuers used boats to reach stranded victims. Doctors said one man in eastern Bosnia died of a heart attack while trying to save his cattle from drowning.

Special police were trying to reach the northern Bosnian town of Doboj, which was cut off from the rest of the country after all major roads out were flooded.

The Bosnian government ordered the defence ministry to use troops to help thousands of civilians whose homes were engulfed by water, particularly in the central and

eastern regions. "This is the worst rainfall in Bosnia since 1894, when weather measurements started to be recorded," said Zeljko Majstorovic, a Sarajevo meteorologist. He said the rain, which began on Tuesday, would continue until the end of the week.

Many roads were deluged and towns and villages completely cut off. Schools were closed across both countries.

Serbian Energy Minister Aleksandar Antic said power supplies were cut to around 100,000 households, mostly in central Serbia.

Serbia's power utility Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS) said that high water levels on the Morava river had forced it to halt two hydro power plants there.

Reuters



A man walks through a flooded main street in the central Bosnian town of Nemila, on 15 May, 2014.—REUTERS

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Commentary: Cool heads needed in viewing China's economy



BEIJING, 16 May —Recent statistics show China's industry, investment and consumer price index grew at a slower pace, but these are temporary fluctuations and no cause for panic as several upbeat signals were easily overlooked amid the gloom.

Every coin has two

sides. China's Consumer Price Index increased 1.8 percent year on year in April, much lower than the 2.4 percent in March. But the positive view is that China has no worries about inflation and is in a strong position to keep its interest rates low.

China's producer price

index contracted 2 percent in April, following a 2.3-percent decline in March, pointing to low confidence among enterprises. But this was a lag effect reflecting the winter slowdown and should not be read as a sign of the future.

The real estate development climate index dropped 0.61 points from March to 95.79 points in April, its third consecutive monthly decline.

But China's central bank responded quickly, urging commercial banks on Tuesday to speed up approving and issuing loans to qualified home buyers.

On a positive note, the 8.7-percent year-on-

year industrial added value growth reading in April, if sustained in May and June, means gross domestic product (GDP) expansion in the second quarter could be similar to the 7.4-percent pace in the first quarter of 2014.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector also rose, to 50.4 in April, up from 50.3 in March.

Foreign trade in the first four months of this year saw a moderate increase through policy support and improving exports to major countries, though the global economic situation is gloomy in general.

Xinhua

Fitness linked to lower death risk in older men

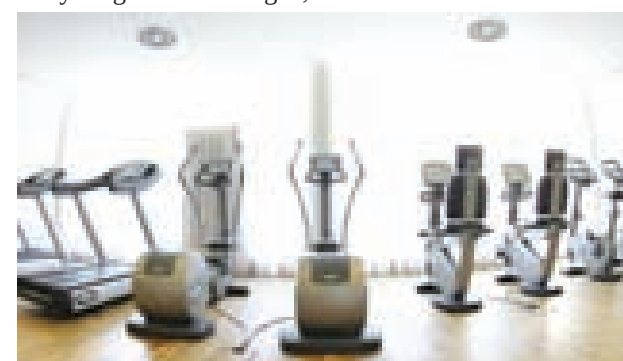
NEW YORK, 16 May —No matter what age a man is, cardiovascular fitness may buy him more years of life, according to a new US study of men over 70 with high blood pressure.

Those who were able to push themselves the hardest during exercise had half the risk of dying of study participants who were the least fit, indicating the benefits of exercising are not limited to the young or middle aged,

either as part of a checkup or to see if the vessels in their hearts were clogged.

The men were split into four groups based on the highest level at which they could exercise. The categories were based on a unit of fitness known as metabolic equivalents, or METs.

The lowest category — "very-low fit" — comprised men who could achieve between two and four METs; "low-fit" were those who



A fitness studio in a file photo. — REUTERS

researchers said. "The population is aging dramatically, so it's important that we ask questions about patients who are older," said Charles Faselis, lead author of the study and an internist at the Washington, DC, Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

In the study, published in the journal *Hypertension*, Faselis and his team looked at exercise tests previously performed for 2,153 men who were patients at the Washington, DC and Palo Alto, California VA Medical Centers. All participants were at least 70 years of age and underwent the test

achieved 4.1 to six METs; and "moderate-fit" was between 6.1 and eight METs. The men in the best shape could achieve more than eight METs and were considered "high-fit."

Faselis and his team took into account other factors that could affect the results, such as body mass index, heart disease and medications for heart disease. Researchers followed the men for an average of nine years to evaluate their risk of dying. During that time, about 1,000 of the participants passed away.

Reuters

Kia tries to burnish image with \$66,000 luxury K900 car

DETROIT, 16 May —Kia Motors Corp (000270.KS) is out to change its image among Americans as a low-priced value brand with the recently launched \$66,000 luxury K900 sedan, but analysts said it should expect an uphill climb.

Kia, the South Korean automaker with the same corporate parent as Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS), has been asking US consumers to "challenge the luxury you know" since its February Super Bowl ad featuring Laurence Fishburne who reprised his role in the futuristic "The Matrix" movie trilogy. "What we hope this will do is send a signal to consumers that we are a



The Kia K900 is presented at the 2013 Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles, California in this file photo taken on 20 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

different brand from what they thought we were a few years ago," said Michael Sprague, Kia's US executive vice president for sales and marketing.

Sprague spoke at an Automotive Press Asso-

ciation event in Detroit on Thursday.

Kia's next-most expensive model is the Cadenza sedan at about \$36,000. Sprague said Kia positioned the K900 between the BMW (BMW.G.DE)

5-Series, which costs just over \$50,000, and the BMW 7-Series at about \$75,000.

Jack Nerad, executive market analyst for industry consultant Kelley Blue Book, said he is not sure the K900 makes as much sense in the US market as the South Korean version of the car, called the K9, does in its corporate home.

"It's a good luxury car," said Nerad, who noted that at the K900's price, "people are buying as much for the prestige of the brand as they are for the actual hardware, and I think that's where Kia will have some difficulty versus Mercedes-Benz or BMW or Audi."

Reuters

Stronger yen hits Japan shares, lower yields pressure dollar

TOKYO, 16 May —Asian shares were under pressure on Friday, with Japanese stocks skidding as the yen rose against the dollar, which has struggled in recent days on the back of lower US Treasury yields.

A second day of losses on Wall Street pulled MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS down 0.4 percent. The index has gained about 2 percent on the week during which Wall Street set the tone by climbing to record highs.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock average .N225 dropped 1.6 percent, dragged lower by the yen's gains against the dollar, which could put pressure on the earnings of Japanese exporters. The Nikkei has shed 0.9 percent so far this week.

The dollar traded little

changed at 101.53 yen, off a two-month low of 101.31 yen hit Thursday on the back of a continued decline in US Treasury yields.

The dollar is poised to end the week about 0.25 percent lower versus the Japanese currency. Benchmark US Treasuries yields fell to six-month lows on Thursday after Greek government bonds weakened and sparked a safety-bid for US debt, even though US economic data pointed to a firming economy.

"US yields may not stabilize until we have consistent improvements in US data, which means that for the time being, the trend in the greenback could still be lower," Kathy Lien, managing director of FX strategy for BK Asset Management, wrote in a note to clients. The dollar has fared better

against the euro, with the common currency poised to lose about 0.3 percent on the week, weighed down by expectations for the European Central Bank to ease monetary policy in June. Weak euro zone GDP and muted inflation data further fuelled easing expectations on Thursday.

The euro traded little changed at \$1.3715 after dropping to a 2-1/2-month low of \$1.3648 on Thursday on ECB easing prospects. In commodities, gold stood little changed at \$1,296.10 an ounce following a fall of almost 1 percent on Thursday after a drop below the \$1,300 threshold triggered technical selling. Upbeat US jobless claims data and consumer prices also reduced gold's safe-haven appeal.

Reuters

Global life expectancy rises again, but new challenges loom

GENEVA, 16 May —Average life expectancy has risen globally to 73 years for a girl born in 2012 and 68 for a boy following successes in fighting diseases and child mortality, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.



An elderly couple sits on a bench on the peak of Mount Hochwacht (988 metres/3241 ft) as high fog covers the landscape around the Swiss town of Zug on 20 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

Big advances in the battles against infectious diseases such as measles, malaria, tuberculosis and polio have continued to extend life expectancy although other factors, such as people's lifestyles, are constraining longevity, the

WHO said in its annual statistics report.

The longest life expectancy at birth is for baby girls in Japan, at 87.0 years, and boys in Iceland, at 81.2 years. Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Italy and Luxembourg rank in the top 10 for both sexes.

"There are major gains in life expectancy in recent decades and they continue," said Ties Boerma, chief of statistics and information systems at the WHO.

The lowest life expectancy is in sub-Saharan Africa, where nine countries have expectancy of less than 55 for babies of both sexes.

Lifestyle changes leading to heart problems and other diseases were curbing life expectancy in some cases.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 May, 2014

Hunger is a barrier to learning

By Aung Khin

As Myanmar families traditionally place a high value on education, the net school enrollment rates are more than 80 per cent for both boys and girls. At the same time, the drop-out rate is getting high with less than 55 per cent of those children completed the primary classes.

The Washington, D.C.- based the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has pointed out that “hunger is a barrier to learning”. A hungry child cannot concentrate or perform in their classrooms. As a result, they are unlikely to stay in school.

Although the literacy rate in Myanmar is high, the country’s GDP is still low due to the lack of highly educated citizens. In rural areas, many children cannot go to school on the days when their parents faced income problems. At that time, they feel their ramshackle school buildings like a desert.

In some countries, providing school meals has many and varied benefits. There have been positive proofs that school-based feeding programs are very effective in encouraging enrollment, increasing attention spans and improving attendance at school.

A daily school meal is also an incentive for the parents to send their children to school. It also helps the children to focus on their studies without worrying about their stomachs.

However, some Myanmar children must earn money to bring food to their family, focusing on short-term necessities, resulting poor health and educational outcomes. They could not foresee the cycle of poverty.

Although the World Food Programme has provided meals to around 20 million children in 60 countries and has been operating school programmes for more than 50 years, Myanmar school children are still far away from ‘food for education’ programme.

Incentive to families whose children attend school regularly in many countries includes providing take-home rations such as a sack of rice and a bottle of cooking oil for the poor families.

The government should urgently adopt policy on ‘food for education programme’ which will help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on hunger, education and gender parity and offers multiple benefits.

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.

A Brief Rakhine History with Special References to Traditional Chronicles

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

The Rakhines are one of the earliest settlers in Myanmar. They are traditionally believed to have made intermittent intercourses into Rakhine region from Majjhimadesa of India long before the advent of the Christian Era, first inhabited the southern Rakhine region by founding Dvaravati City near Thandwe and then moved on to the northern Rakhine and settled down there by establishing city-states such as Dhannavati, Vesali, Panca, Parin, Laungkret, Cambhawat and MraukU in the Kaladan and Laymyo River Valleys. Due to its antiquity, modern scholars, foreign and local, cast doubt on the long Rakhine history, sometimes ostracizing it and sometimes labelling Rakhine historians as obstinate, fanatical ones. But we should be aware of the fact that a legend may turn into a history after investigation just like the case of King Asoka who became a historical figure from a legendry hero only after James Prinsep had deciphered stone edicts inscribed by him in 1837. So far, except the Third Dhannavati and the Second Vesali, many ancient Rakhine cities have still remained unexcavated and unexplored. Only after the interpretation of the artefacts and objects excavated from these untouched cities, we should confirm or object to the claims of Rakhine traditional chronicles. It is,

especially, found that in dating different periods of Rakhine history, the claim of the Rakhine chronicles hardly tallies with those of modern historians. To be candid, the writer, not being a historian nor an archaeologist, cannot decide how valid the Rakhine traditional chronicles are held in bringing Rakhine history to light. The following is just the Rakhine history outlined by employing the materials culled from the traditional chronicles and works of a few modern scholars.

Long before the appearance of the Gotama Buddha, ten brothers such as Vasudeva, Baladeva, etc and their sister named “Ancanadevi”, who were grand children of Kamsa King of Northern Majjhimadesa, entered the ancient Rakhinedesa and established Dvaravati City in the area which is today known as Thandwe in the southern part of Rakhine State. One day, while reveling in a water-throwing celebration, they fell into a discord and fought with one another. All, except Princes Vasudeva and Baladeva and Princess Ancanadevi, died during the fight. So the two princes, the princess and their wise Brahmin left Dvaravati and went north to Vesali City in the Valley of the Gacchapanadi River. On the way, the two princes died. So Ancanadevi and the wise Brahmin continued on the journey until they reached Vesali City. On

their arrival at Vesali City, the people handed over the throne to them. The wise Brahmin under the regnal title of Brahmanaraja ascended the throne of Vesali City together with Ancanadevi as his queen. Then they shifted the city to the eastern bank of the Gacchapanadi River and named it Ngakhwethintaung City. Again, after a line of six kings had ruled in it, a king named Sarabhan transferred it back to the site of Vesali City. It came to a total end at the time of King Brahmasiddhi, the sixteenth descendant of King Sarabhan. The traditional chronicles mention that the kings from Vasudeva up to Brahmasiddhi numbered 23.

After a long lapse of time, King Ajjuna of Kapilavatthu in Majjhimadesa, fed up with worldly pleasures, handed over his throne to his son Dhammasena. He retired to the Himalaya and made himself an ascetic. On his wandering, he came to the upper reach of the Gacchapanadi River in the northern part of Rakhinedesa. There, he married a Sak (Thet) woman named “Indamalyu”. Soon, they got a son called “Marayu”. When he came of age, he was in marriage given the hand of Mi Pinha, a daughter of the Mro chief. Then he triumphed over the enemy who made frequent raids on Vesali and again married Princess Rucitama, a daughter of Vesali King Brahmasiddhi. He

then shifted the city to the upper reach of the Sare Creek north of Vesali and founded the First Dhannavati. He ruled over it, having installed both Mi Pinha and Princess Rucitama as queens. He passed away at the age of 80 years. He was succeeded by his son Marajetu. The First Dhannavati came to a total end at the time of King Min Nge Pyaw Hla Sithu. The traditional chronicles mention that a long line of 55 kings reigned in the First Dhannavati. After some years, Kam Rajagyi, the elder son of King Abhiraja, king of Tagaung, having crossed the western Yoma, established a town at the top of the Kyaukpadaung Mountain. Then, he founded the Second Dhannavati at the site of the First Dhannavati and ruled over it, installing two daughters of King Min Nge Pyaw Hla Sithu as queens. King Kam Rajagyi passed away at the age of 73 years. Upon his death, his son Silaraja succeeded to his throne. The Second Dhannavati came to a conclusion at the time of King Siriraja. The chronicles describe that a line of 28 kings reigned in the Second Dhannavati. Upon the death of King Siriraja, his son Candasuriya, who was then aged 25 years, ascended the throne and founded the Third Dhannavati. But he did not transfer the Second Dhannavati elsewhere. He is said to have been contemporary with the Gotama Buddha. Due to his

mental invitation, the Buddha, accompanied by his 500 disciples, journeyed to Dhannavati through the sky in the year 123 Maha Era. At the request of King Candasuriya, the Buddha had the Maha Myatmani Buddha Image cast out of pancaloha (alloy of five noble metals) and nine kinds of gem for public devotion just before his departure from Dhannavati. It is accepted that from then onwards, the people of Rakhine became Theravada Buddhists. King Candasuriya passed away at the age of 77 years. His son Suriyadhipati succeeded to his throne. The Third Dhannavati came to an end at the time of King Suriyaketu. The chronicles say that a long line of 25 kings ruled in the Third Dhannavati. Modern scholars accept that the Third Dhannavati ended in the 326 A.D.

Regarding the end of the Third Dhannavati, the chronicles explain that soon after the accession of King Maha Taing Candra, son of King Suriyaketu, his chief queen “Subhadevi” and his white elephant

died, that, at the advice of his astrologers, he moved the city to another place and founded a city called “Kan-thone-sint” (City of Three-stepped Lake) on the bank of the Sare Creek three miles south of Dhannavati and that, as many people, however, died of an epidemic within seven months, he again abandoned the Kan-thone-sint City and proceeded southwards and established the Second Vesali City by the Ram Creek called “Randha Nadi”. As it had stone stairs leading to the pier on the bank of the Ram Creek where sailing boats were docked, it is better known as “Vesali City with Stone Stairs”. Modern scholars including Dr. Johnston, Dr. Sircar, Myanmar archaeologists who excavated Vesali City date founding of this Vesali City to 4th century A.D. Traditionally, it is held that a succession of twelve kings such as Maha Taing Candra, Rajacandra, Malacandra, Polacandra, Htulacandra, etc reigned in the Second Vesali. But in the light of the Anandacandra Stone Inscription, it is learnt that a line of 22 kings

(to be continued)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (16-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 662,600 per tical: Selling K 663,000

FE RATE

USD Buying	K 961	-	Selling	K 965
SGD Buying	K 762	-	Selling	K 770
Euro Buying	K 1310	-	Selling	K 1327

Longlasting old capital Inwa, Part I

Chequered career of Inwa

Amongst Myanmar old capitals, Inwa lasted longest. But its existence as a capital was not continuous but intermittent. It was founded, abandoned, refounded and extended by three dynasties. It was first founded in 1364 A.D. by King Thado Minbya who thus set up the first Inwa dynasty of 19 rulers, of whom the last was King Sithu Kyaw Htin who was overthrown by King Bayint Naung in 1555 A.D. Inwa was abandoned till 1635 A.D. During the interregnum of 80 years it was Pegu that became Capital renamed Hanthawaddy (Humsavedi). After 1635 A.D. when King Tha Lun (1629-1643 A.D.) of Nyaung Yan dynasty refounded Inwa by moving his capital there in 1635 A.D., once again Inwa revived as a capital city.

Nyaung Yan dynasty was founded by King Nyaung Yan who was a son of King Bayint Naung. King Nyaung Yan and his elder son King Anaukpet Lun stayed on in Pegu (Hanthawaddy). It was his younger son King Tha Lun who moved to old capital Inwa. Nyaung Yan dynasty had 12 rulers of whom the last was King Maha Dhamma Yazadipati (1733-1752 A.D.) who was defeated in war by the Mons and once again Inwa was abandoned.

Again in Konbaung dynasty set up by King Alaungpaya, Inwa became capital city from 1765 to 1783 A.D. under King Hsinbyu Shin and King Bodawpaya. Then Inwa was abandoned when King Bodawpaya founded a new capital city named Amarapura in 1783 A.D. Then again in 1823 A.D. when his grandson and successor King Bagyidaw returned to Inwa, Inwa became capital till 1837 A.D. But in that year 1837 A.D. successor King Thayawaddy moved back to Amarapura, Inwa was abandoned for good. Since then Inwa fell into heaps of archaeological ruins.

Reasons and motives of shifting capital

Historians try to explain these frequent changes of capital by Myanmar Kings. Archaeologists like Mr. Taw Sein Kho and Mr. Charles Douroiselle, on the ground of the ethnic origin of Mongoloid race of Myanmar Kings, explained that then nomadic racial instinct prompted Myanmar Kings to keep moving.

Influence of Hindu-Buddhist culture

There is yet another opinion formed on the strength of the influence of Hindu-Buddhist cosmography and astrology. Hindu-Buddhist cosmography says that all universes have one type of structure based upon “Mandala” design. Each universe is composed of one highest mountain at its centre. This Mountain is called Mt. Meru, which is the centre (Mandala or main pillar) of the entire structure of the Universe. Around this mountain Meru are located four continents at four cardinal directions—Pubavedeha, the East continent where the sun rises, Aparagoyana, the west continent where the sun sets in, Utara, the North continent where the great star “Ukka” shines to guide humans at dark night, and Phekhina, the south continent where Jabu Thabyey Trees [Eugenia arbara] grow, under which all Buddhas, past and future become enlightened. Therefore, the south continent is commonly known and called as “Jabudipa”—the continent of Jabu Thabyey trees.

With Mt. Meru at the centre of the Universe as the main pole (man daring) all systems of the Universe move clockwise (Letyar yit) around its seven mountain ranges, seven rivers and seven oceans move clockwise around central pillar Mt. Meru. The biggest of all living beings—terrestrial aquatic and avian, is a big fish named Ananta moving clockwise in all water bodies around Mt. Meru. Jabu Thabyey trees drop their ripen fruits into the water producing seven sounds forming seven tones of Myanmar diatonic musical scale. Similarly the big fish Ananta swallows up the ripen Jabu Thabyey fruits thus producing seven sounds to form seven tones scale of Myanmar music.

This cosmography established Myanmar traditional design of Mandala. Similar Mandala concept is noticed in some old capital cities of other South-East Asian Countries. We find the concept of Mandala design in all media of Myanmar art, architecture, sculpture, capital founding, urbanization, palace building, religious monuments, road construction, irrigation work, formation of armed forces, military strategy and tactics, as well as procession of royal pageant. The seven tone musical scale (diatonic scale) is also faithfully adhered to in all media of Myanmar performing arts.

Besides, astrology and Vedic culture have long-lastingly impacted upon Myanmar people from all walks of life till to-day. Hindu Brahmin Priests as raja guru played a major role in the conduct of state affairs—from court ceremonies, religious rites and festivals to daily life of administration, domestic and foreign relations, matters of war and peace. Hindu Brahmin priests were consulted and their advice and instructions were faithfully followed.

Every Myanmar King and commoner keeps a horoscope recorded on a palm leaf—a birth certificate recording with a circular diagram inscribed on the palm leaf the positions of stars, planets and constellations at the time of birth. This palm leaf horoscope is presented the Brahmin astrologer for examination. Based upon Vedic Treatises, he would make calculation and reviewing of the consultants horoscope. According to the results of his calculations and reviewing, he will give you two kinds of prescriptions to the followed—immediate and mediate. Immediate prescriptions are to be carried out quickly in time. Mediate prescriptions are mostly dos and don’ts—to do and to avoid in your daily life right now and in future such as to move out to a new place, to build a new house, to change your career or profession, even to change your love partner.

This astrological influence explains largely the shifting of capitals, building new palace and capital city, assuming new name or new title by Myanmar Kings. Myanmar chronicles recorded full account of astrological reasons of capital shifting, founding new city, building new palace.

Influence of Buddha’s teachings

There are specific teachings of Lord Buddha that for your good physical and mental health, longevity, progress and prosperity you must choose “Patirupa desa”—most suitable place for you to inhabit. It is one of the 38 beatitudes of Mangala Sutta (Discourse of the Lord Buddha) change to a better place is mingala—or auspicious.

King Tha Lun’s practical reasons

Asides from the above-mentioned influences, King Tha Lun had practical reasons for returning to old Inwa. He learnt the lesson of Portuguese intrusion from overseas, in the time of Kings Nanda Bayin and Anaukpet Lun. Hanthawaddy (Pegu) was too near to the sea and too exposed to naval attack. Inland location was far better for security. Surrounded by natural barriers of Shan mountain ranges, forests and aquatic bodies in the forms of lakes, Ins (flooded waters) rivers and streams, Inwa offered him the best choice for safer and more secure capital. He was reviewing and re-appreciating the strategic wisdom of the founders of the first Inwa.

Precursors of Inwa

We must notice what followed after longlasting Bagan fell as a result of Mangol Tartars invasion in the 13th century. Bagan never recovered, through it continued to remain till today as the centre of Myanmar Buddhist culture and civilization Bagan ceased to be a political power house. Disintegrated into many principalities of which the three majors, Myint Saing, Pinya and Sagaing emerged as city states forming Pinya Period in Myanmar history.

This period was short lived lasting only 66 years (1298-1364 A.D.). These three city states contested in political rivalry but united when they were confronted with the common danger of invasions across the borders.

The archaeological survey of these three city states show us that they were pioneers of Inwa. They were located within easy reach of one another. Even through Sagaing was on the western bank of the River Ayeyawaddy it was also within easy reach in a day. From aerial view you can

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

clearly discern a panoramic landscape of these three old capital cities.

The founding of the First Inwa

The founder of the first Inwa was Thado Min Tara (1364-1368 A.D.) a descendant of Bagan dynasty, he was a Shan-Myanmar like Princes Athin Khaya, Yazathingyan and Thihathu of Sagaing, Myint Saing and Pinya city states respectively.

In Myanmar chronicles, stone inscriptions and literature the founding of Inwa was graphically recorded.

“Inwa” or “Ava” literally means “at the mouth of lakes or “In”. Ins are water bodies formed by rain water and flood. “Ava” is “Awa” meaning at the confluence of rivers.

It is said in its legend that original name was In-nawa meaning “at the mouths of nine lakes”. Nine lakes can be traced till to-day. They are (1) Yey Kyar In (2) Sa Ni In (3) Nyaung Sauk In (4) Wet Chey In (5) U Hne In (6) Lin San In (7) In Ma In (8) Bey Mei In and (9) Wun Bei In. So In-nawa corrupts to Inwa.

Legend traces the historical background of Inwa far back into Buddhist history. In the time of King Paduma Sanda Suriya it was called Ayeyawaddy-rathakampathana. In the time of King Waruna it was called Pureindata. In the time of Kaukysanda Buddha it was named Ratanapura Sunaparanta. In the time of Konagama Buddha it was called Kamawasaya. In the time of Kassapa Buddha it was Usaba. In the time of Kassapa Buddha, it was King Tazishin Thihathu who named it Inwa. This background history of the Buddhas blessed and sanctified Inwa.

Urbanization of Inwa

Still more interesting was the story of its founding and urbanization. King Thado Min Tara found that Pinya was strategically not sound to defend the enemies. He consulted his guru Brahmin priests if he should move to Sagaing across the River Ayeyawaddy. They said “no” to him and advised him to found a new capital by draining off four lakes namely (1) In Bu In (2) kyauk Maw In (3) Nga Gyi In and (4) Oak Hne In and land filling them and build Inwa on them. Thus began founding Inwa Capital and Palace on the 6th Waxing moon of Tabaung (March) in Myanmar sakarit year 726 (1364 A.D.). The first Inwa dynasty of 19 rulers lasted nearly two centuries (191 years) untill King Bayint Naung defeated and over threw the last ruler Sithu Kyaw Htin in 1555 A.D.

During that long period of 191 years, Inwa enjoyed all benefits of its geographical, strategic and economic locations. Five rivers (1) the Ayeyawaddy (2) the Samone (3) the Duthawaddy (4) the Zawgyi and (5) the Panlong converge at Inwa, bringing rain and flood water, and aluvial soil to fertilize vast extent of lands around Inwa. Besides its proximity to the Eleventh Economic Zones of Bagan’s time with a well maintained network of irrigations—weirs, dams, canals and reservoirs assured Inwa’s food security at any time of natural calamities or political emergencies. Built on the design of “Mandala” concept, Inwa commanded pivotal point from where its administrative and defensive networks could be spread out to reach to the remotest corners of its domains. Foreign visitors and envoys noted in their writings the worthiness of great labour involved in the draining off of the lakes, land filling them and building Inwa on them. The rivers and valleys provided natural communications for the outflow of Inwa’s products and the inflow of imports from other places.

This founding of first Inwa is vividly sung in one hit song named “Shwe Inwa” by a famous film actress and vocalist May Shin. The following is the first stanza

In the time of Kauku sanda Gotama, it was Ratanapura Sunaparanta. In ME 726 Golden Inwa was built.

At the confluence of the five rivers, the Ayeyawaddy, the Samone, the Duthawaddy, the Zawgyi and the Pan Long (on the triangle shaped place where five lakes were drained and land filled Golden Inwa was built on it by King Thado Min Tara. He overthrew bad ruler King Uzana and raised Princess Saw Ohn Ma his queen and ruled as the first Inwa King.

(To be continued.)

ကောလ္လသန်မြတ်စွာဘုရား ဘဂဝါ၊
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[၇၂၆] ခုဘဲ၊ မြတ်ယုစုံ၊ ရွှေအင်းဝနေပြည်
မြို့တော်ကြီးတည်။
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မြှောက်တင်စံစားသည်။

WTISD 2014: Message from ITU Secretary-General, Dr Hamadoun I. Touré Broadband for Sustainable Development



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2014 marks the 149th anniversary of the establishment of ITU in 1865. The remarkable history of ITU exemplifies its stellar role in connecting the world to the most advanced and innovative means of communication, from the days of the telegraph to the Internet and mobile broadband which now allows us to be in touch anytime, anywhere with friends, family, colleagues and even things.

The right to communication is central to the information society; it is a key principle for equitable and universal access to information and knowledge that in turn empowers people to meet their aspirations and achieve their development goals.

Broadband connectivity is a critical element today in ensuring that information and communication technologies are used as effective delivery vehicles for health, education, governance, trade and commerce in order to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth.

ITU is therefore committed to achieving universal access to broadband connectivity – and to foster the political will needed to achieve this objective.

This year, on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, we focus on the theme: **“Broadband for Sustainable Development”**.

It is now well recognized that digital development is a transformative tool to fast-track sustainable development. In order to realize its full potential, it is essential to roll-out high-speed broadband networks, making it affordable as well as universally accessible.

In this respect, ITU and the Broadband Commission for Digital Development are at the forefront of advocating the roll-out of broadband as a means of achieving sustainable development. This was further underlined by the World Telecommunication Development Conference this year to focus on the theme **“Broadband for Sustainable Development”**.

ITU’s thrust to push the broadband agenda for sustainable development focuses on the dual goals of supporting the deployment of mobile broadband and the continued rollout of fixed-line technologies along with a thrust on meeting the global challenges of our times, such as combating climate change. Broadband-based ICT networks are powerful cross-cutting enablers to achieve the three pillars of sustainable development — economic growth, social inclusion and environmental balance.

I call upon our partners – governments, industry, academia and technical experts — to identify key gaps in broadband research and development, infrastructure, and packaged development of applications and services; define policy priorities for action in the areas of allocating radio frequency spectrum for broadband, universal access obligations and innovative financing mechanisms; and to seek leading edge technological solutions, particularly in the extension of broadband access into rural areas, least developed countries and small island developing states.

Let us put our resources together to harness the catalytic role of ICTs in achieving sustainable development. It is the key to ensuring a better future for all.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General

Europe’s anti-EU protest vote leaves business cold

BRUSSELS, 16 May — Industry lobbyists fear the rise of protest parties and anti-EU rebels in European elections threatens to leave them, and the businesses they represent, out in the cold. Europeans frustrated by economic hardship are likely to vote to give one in four of the European Parliament’s 751 seats to eurosceptics and protest parties of both left and right.

“There are going to be very vocal personalities ranting against the EU,” said Derk Jan Eppinck, a Dutch member of the current parliament that draws its members from 28 European countries from Sweden to Romania. “These groups are anti-globalization. It’s contagious. This will be implanted in parliament. The end effect of this is anti-business,” he said.

Although around 70 percent of parliament’s seats are expected to go to four mainstream groups — the centre-right European



A pedestrian passes a United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) European elections campaign poster in Vauxhall, central London on 22 April, 2014.—REUTERS

People’s Party, centre-left Social Democrats, Liberals and Greens — protest groups could gain a decisive edge. A far-left group could gain critical mass, possibly winning positions on the more than 20 committees that forge the parliament’s position on legislation or

trade. To compound the problem, many of these new members will take their place at the expense of center-right and liberal pro-business lawmakers.

Costas Chrysogonos, a candidate for Greece’s leftist party Syriza who is campaigning against what

he describes as “economic genocide” enforced by international lenders on his country, is typical of the new generation. “The European Union is being transformed into a new kind of Europe for the capital markets,” he told Reuters.

Reuters

Philippines may offer US naval base on western Palawan island

MANILA, 16 May — The Philippines, aiming to boost its ability to defend offshore areas, wants to ensure US warships are closer to the disputed South China Sea by offering the United States an underdeveloped naval base on a western island, its military chief has said.

China has stepped up its activities to assert its extensive claim over the energy-rich South China Sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims over the sea, or parts of it, through which about \$5 trillion (3 trillion pounds) of ship-borne goods pass every year.

Last month, the Philippines and the United States signed an Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) allowing US forces wider access to Philippine bases and building facilities for joint use in maritime security and disaster response.

“Oyster Bay is still underdeveloped but we need to improve it for our armed forces,” armed forces chief of staff General Emmanuel Bautista said in a television interview late on Wednesday, referring to a base on Palawan island to the west of main Philippine islands.

“Perhaps with the EDCA that can be facilitated and further improvement in Oyster Bay will be made.”

Bautista said he was hoping the US would help pay for the development of the base, where the Philippines has begun work, and help develop it into a major operating base for both navies.

Oyster Bay is only 160 km (100 miles) from the disputed Spratly islands, where China has been reclaiming a reef known as Johnson South Reef, and building what appears to be an airstrip on it.

The Philippine foreign ministry released on Thursday aerial surveillance photographs of the reef showing some work had been done.

In October, the Philippine navy commander on Palawan told Reuters the force had a plan to convert Oyster Bay into a “mini-Subic” where the country’s two former US Coast Guard cutters would be based.—Reuters

UN mission welcomes release of election results in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 16 May — The UN mission in Afghanistan on Thursday welcomed the announcement of the final results of the presidential election, and stressed the importance of cooperation between the electoral institutions and candidates ahead of a run-off scheduled for next month.

Jan Kubis, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), commended all the candidates in a hard-fought but positive campaign, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at a daily briefing held at the UN headquarters in New York. “Afghans can justifiably be proud of their elections,” the envoy said in a statement. “On election day, Afghan men and women demonstrated their desire to live in peace, dignity and prosperity. Democratic choice prevailed over violence and coercion.”

With no outright winner declared by the

Independent Election Commission (IEC) in the first round, Kubis called upon the candidates to display “respect for the results and statesmanship” as the process moves on to a second round run-off, the spokesman said.

Afghanistan’s IEC has set 14 June as the date for the run-off poll since no candidate received the required 51 percent of the votes in the first round held on 5 April.

The run-off will be held between Abdullah Abdullah, who won 45 percent of some 7 million votes, and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, who received 31.6 percent of the votes.

UNAMA noted that the process leading up to the elections represented an improvement over past voting. It also acknowledged the efforts made by Afghanistan’s two electoral institutions to increase transparency in polling, the counting of votes and the handling of complaints, according to the spokesman.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Adobe's Creative Cloud down; says working to restore suite

NEW YORK, 16 May—Adobe Systems Inc said late on Thursday it was working to fix login issues for its Creative Cloud suite, more than 24 hours after users said they were unable to access some of its products.

The maker of Photoshop and Acrobat software said in a blog post that it had identified the cause of the disruption, but did not specify what caused the outage, or how soon it expects its services to be back to normal.

Adobe spokeswoman Vanessa Rios declined to elaborate about the outage.

Last year, hackers caused a data breach that resulted in the theft of millions of customer email addresses and passwords as well as the source code to some of Adobe's top-selling products. But Rios declined to comment when asked if the service disruption might be connected. As of Thursday, users around the world were not able to access the Creative Cloud website, the desktop app or make purchases or upgrades.—Reuters

Mexican cave skeleton reveals secrets of New World's first people

WASHINGTON, 16 May — A horrible day for a teenage girl perhaps 13,000 years ago — death in a Mexican cave — has turned into a wonderful day for scientists who have managed to coax important secrets out of the oldest genetically intact human skeleton in the New World. Scientists said on Thursday genetic tests on her superbly preserved remains found by cave divers have answered questions about the origins of the Western Hemisphere's first people and their relationship to today's Native American populations. These findings determined that the Ice Age humans who first crossed into the Americas over a land bridge that formerly linked Siberia to Alaska did in fact give rise to modern Native American populations rather than hypothesized later entrants into the hemisphere.

Scientists exploring deep beneath the jungles of Mexico's eastern Yucatán peninsula discovered the girl's remains underwater alongside bones of more than two dozen beasts

including saber-toothed tigers, cave bears, giant ground sloths and an elephant relative called a gomphothere.

The girl - with her intact cranium and preserved DNA — was entombed for eons in a deeply submerged cave chamber before being discovered in 2007. The petite, slightly built girl - about 4 feet, 10 inches tall (1.47 meters) — is thought to have been 15 or 16 years old when she died. She may have ventured into dark passages of a cave to find freshwater and fallen to her death into what archeologist James Chatters of the firm of Applied Paleoscience, one of the leaders of the study, called an "inescapable trap" 100 feet (30 meters) deep - a bell-shaped pit dubbed Hoyo Negro, "black hole" in Spanish.

Chatters said the chamber — more than 135 feet (40 meters) below sea level — was "a time capsule of the environment and human life" at the end of the Ice Age.

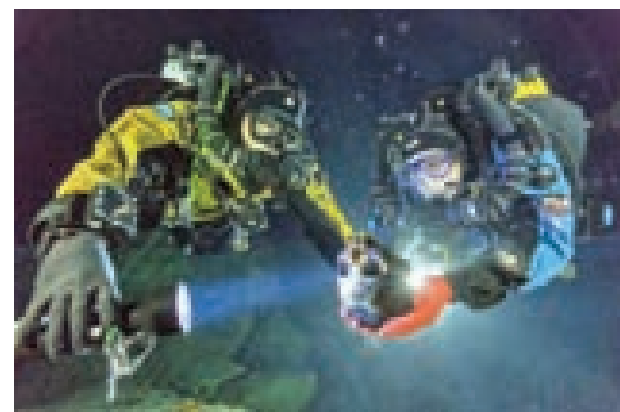
The divers named her "Naia," a water nymph from

Greek mythology. One of the divers, Alberto Nava, recalled the moment Naia was spotted — her skull resting atop a small ledge. "It was a small cranium laying upside down with a perfect set of teeth and dark eye sockets looking back at us," Nava said.

The pit was dry when she fell but Ice Age glaciers melted about 10,000 years ago, inundating the caves with water. Tests determined she lived between 13,000 and 12,000 years ago. Scientists long have debated the origins of the first people of the Americas. Many scientists think these hunter-gatherers crossed the former land bridge between 26,000 and 18,000 years ago and subsequently pushed into North and South America starting perhaps 17,000 years ago.

But the most ancient New World human remains have confused scientists because, like Naia, they have narrower skulls and other features different from today's Native Americans.

This led to speculation that these earliest New



Divers Alberto Nava and Susan Bird transport a skull to an underwater turntable so that it can be photographed in order to create a 3-D model at the bottom of the underwater cave on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on 15 June, 2013 in this handout photo provided by National Geographic on 15 May, 2014.

REUTERS

World people might represent an earlier migration from a different part of the world than the true ancestors of modern Native Americans.

But mitochondrial DNA — passed down from mother to child — extracted from the girl's wisdom tooth showed she belonged to an Asian-derived genetic lineage shared only by today's Native Americans.

This indicates cranial and other differences

between the earliest New World human remains and today's Native Americans are due to evolutionary changes that unfolded after the first migrants crossed onto the land bridge, the researchers said.

The study, led by the Mexican government's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and supported by the National Geographic Society, appears in the journal Science.—Reuters

Jupiter's giant red spot shrinking, Hubble images show

CAPE CANAVERAL (FLA), 16 May — Jupiter's most distinctive feature — a giant red spot bigger than Earth — is shrinking, images from the Hubble Space Telescope released on Thursday showed.

The so-called "Great Red Spot" is a violent storm, which in the late 1800s was estimated to be about 25,000 miles (about 40,000

km) in diameter — wide enough for three Earths to fit side by side.

The storm, which is the biggest in the solar system, appears as a deep red orb surrounded by layers of pale yellow, orange and white. Winds inside the storm have been measured at several hundreds of miles per hour, NASA astronomers said.

By the time NASA's

Voyager space probes flew by in 1979 and 1980, the spot was down to about 14,500 miles (22,500 km) across.

Now, new pictures taken by the Earth-orbiting Hubble space telescope show Jupiter's red spot is smaller than it has ever been, measuring just under 10,250 miles (16,100 kilometers) in diameter. It also appears more circular in shape. Scientists aren't sure why the Great Red Spot is shrinking by about 621 miles (1,000 km) a year.

"It is apparent that very small eddies are feeding into the storm ... These may be responsible for the accelerated change by altering the (storm's) internal dynamics," Amy Simon, an astronomer with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, said in a statement. Simon and colleagues plan follow-up studies to try to figure out what is happening in Jupiter's atmosphere that is draining the storm of energy and causing it to shrink.

Reuters



Jupiter's Great Red Spot is pictured in this handout photograph taken by NASA's Voyager 1 in 1979.

REUTERS

Microsoft CEO touts new Surface tablets



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks at a Microsoft event in San Francisco, California on 27 March, 2014.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 16 May—Satya Nadella has enjoyed a fairly smooth ride in his first 100 days as Microsoft Corp chief executive, but he risks hitting a rough patch next week when he unveils the latest models of the tepidly received Surface tablet.

Investors have lapped up Nadella's "mobile first, cloud first" strategy to recast the venerable software maker as a "devices and services" company, sending its shares up 9 percent since he took the helm.

So far he has stressed the services side of the business, making the momentous move to put Microsoft's Office suite on Apple Inc's iPad. This was popular with Wall Street and more importantly with consumers, who performed 27 million down-

loads in a matter of weeks.

But Microsoft is expected to unveil the third generation of its Surface devices at an event on Tuesday, laying hints that it will also introduce a smaller tablet, to address the fast-selling lower end of the market dominated by Apple's iPad mini, Amazon.com Inc's Kindle Fire, Google Inc's Nexus and Samsung's Galaxy range.

The devices side of the strategy has been a challenge. Microsoft's Surface, launched in October 2012, has about 2 percent of the market and has not made a dent on Apple's iPad. That fits with Microsoft's 3 percent global share in smartphones.

Given that tiny market, some investors believe Microsoft should not waste time

and money on the low-margin hardware business. ValueAct Capital, which led the shareholder revolt last year which culminated in previous CEO Steve Ballmer's retirement, has lobbied against Microsoft's hardware effort, including its costly acquisition of Nokia's handset business.

"Nadella is off to a golden start as CEO, although turning around the tablet and mobile business over the next 12 to 18 months remain his two key Herculean tasks," said Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets. "If the turbulence gets too rough on the tablet and/or mobile segment, we can potentially see some strategic changes on the horizon around the hardware business."—Reuters

Kenya fumes as Western security warnings drive tourists out



British tourists queue to check-in at the airline counter as they being evacuated at Moi International Airport in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, on 15 May, 2014.

REUTERS

NAIROBI, 16 May — Kenya rebuked Britain, the United States, France and Australia on Thursday for issuing warnings about travel to the east African country, while hoteliers said at least 400 tourists had checked out of hotels along the Indian Ocean coast.

Kenya called the alerts

“unfriendly”, saying they would increase panic and play into the hands of those behind the gun and grenade assaults that have hit the capital Nairobi and the coastal resort of Mombasa.

Explosions in both cities on the weekend of 3-4 May, one of them at a luxury seaside hotel, killed seven people, although no one

was hurt in the hotel attack. Kenya blames the blasts on the al-Qaeda-linked Somali group al Shabaab.

The Islamist movement killed at least 67 people in a gun and grenade raid on a Nairobi shopping mall last September, claiming it as revenge for attacks on its fighters by Kenyan troops in Somalia.

The warnings and departures by tourists from hotels along the popular coast are further harming Kenya’s tourism sector, which President Uhuru Kenyatta has said is “on its knees” following the deadly attacks.

Britain told its citizens to avoid Mombasa, and the United States cited hotels, nightclubs and malls as possible targets.

Australia urged its citizens to reconsider trips to Nairobi and Mombasa “due to the high threat of terrorist attack and high level of crime”. France warned of an elevated risk in Kenya, especially in those cities.

Karanja Kibicho, principal secretary at Kenya’s foreign affairs department, said the advisories “are obviously unfriendly acts”, and assured tourists they were safe while visiting the country. Kenyan authorities say they have beefed up security after the attacks, and deported foreigners without proper documents.—Reuters

UN human rights chief urges greater protection for people with albinism

UNITED NATIONS, 16 May — The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on Thursday urged more protection for people with albinism, after a woman with the condition in Tanzania was brutally murdered on Monday.

“This killing and the terrible circumstances surrounding it sadly demonstrate that the human rights situation of people with albinism in Tanzania and other countries, remains dire,” Pillay said in a statement. “All over the world, people with albinism continue to face attacks or suffer terrible discrimination, stigma and social exclusion.”

Munghu Lugata, 40, was allegedly murdered Monday night at her home in north-western Tanzania, after parts of her limbs were chopped off, apparently while she was still alive, Stephane Dujarric told a regular news

briefing at the UN headquarters, quoting local police reports.

Two local witch-doctors were arrested on Tuesday for the murder.

Most of the attacks, which are believed to be motivated by the use of body parts for ritual purposes, have claimed the lives of at least 73 people with albinism in Tanzania since 2000, according to the spokesman.

Pillay urged the Tanzanian government to take urgent actions to protect people with albinism, and to actively engage in the fight against stigma attached to albinism through education and awareness campaigns.

The UN Human Rights Office has received reports of more than 200 cases of attacks against people with albinism in 15 countries between 2000 and 2013, though the actual figure is believed to be much higher.—Xinhua

Pro-Morsi alliance urges Egyptian expats to boycott presidential polls

CAIRO, 16 May — As Egyptian expatriates started on Thursday to cast their votes in the presidential polls, the largest alliance supporting ousted President Mohamed Morsi has urged them to boycott what they referred to as “the bloody elections.”

The National Alliance to Support Legitimacy, led by the Muslim Brotherhood from which Morsi hailed, on Thursday invited loyalists of the deposed president to stage a week of escalating protests under the slogan of “boycott the polls of blood.”

Overseas Egyptians in 124 countries will cast their votes from Thursday to Sunday, while the home elections will be held on 26

and 27 May.

More than 53 million Egyptians out of the country’s 94 million population are eligible to vote in the first post-Morsi presidential elections. Of some 600,000 eligible Egyptian expatriate voters, a large proportion is expected to cast their ballots in Arab countries, especially those in the Gulf region.

Ex-military chief Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, who led Morsi’s removal by the military last July, is expected to make an easy win over his sole leftist rival Hamdeen Sabahy in their contest for the country’s top post. Both candidates have made tough statements against the controversial Brotherhood,

currently blacklisted by Egypt’s interim leadership as a “terrorist group.”

Despite the call for boycotting the polls, Egyptian ambassadors around the world said the initial signs showed a high turnout on the first voting day.

In an unprecedented statement last week, the Brotherhood showed willingness to negotiate and clearly stated that Egyptians should vote wisely and freely, reaffirming its commitment to peacefulness and denouncement of violence. Since Morsi’s ouster, his loyalists have been facing a massive crackdown as anti-government protests are staged nearly on a daily basis.

Xinhua



A child tries a ride on a police vehicle during the open house event at a police office in Surrey Vancouver, Canada, on 14 May, 2014. In celebration of the National Police Week, the Surrey police force host open house event in different district offices. The event showcases different police vehicles and equipments hence to increase community awareness and strengthen ties with the community.

XINHUA

International education fair kicks off in Mozambique’s capital

MAPUTO, 16 May — University representatives from Zimbabwe, Brazil, Portugal, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden and Angola are since Thursday in the Mozambican capital Maputo, participating in the international education fair to exchange experience between students and ed-

ucation experts attending the event. The fair is organized by the Academic Community for Education Development (CADE), in partnership with the Ministry of Education, aiming to create conditions of interactions between different educational institutions attending the event.

This year the event is celebrated under the theme Quality Education for Sustainable Development and it displayed more than 80 stands to be visited by students, decisions makers in the academic domain. “Thousands of students should visit the fair in the first day and it will have

workshops to orient students about professions to follow, debates about the country’s learning system, exhibitions among other things,” said the CADE chairman Cassamo Nuvunga.

This is the 6th edition of the event and it is supported by different institutions among them banks

and mobile operators. Bank Institutions support and provide counseling to students on the benefits of owning a bank account and how to save, an important aspects for students in a country where the majority have limited conditions to pursue their studies in private institutions.

“This year we will continue with our lectures, and the subject will be on finance education, because we want to teach students how to save and invest their capital,” said Helia Campos, Human Resources Director from the Standard Bank in Mozambique.

Xinhua

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BAO AN LING VOY NO (001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO AN LING VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE**

Phone No: 2301186

**Extension of the Request for Letter of Expression
of Interest (LOEI)**

Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested foreign investors for the request of the Expression of Interest regarding the above title from 1.04.2014 to 7.04.2014 in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper and to be submitted by 15.05.2014 during office hours.

Now, MPE hereby announces that the additional information for LOEI shall be as follows;

- The submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 26.05.2014 from 15.05.2014,
- The endorsement from the respective embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of company's registration or nearest shall be submitted.
- No submission of LOEI shall be considered in Tender Process and only the companies who had met MPE's requirements shall be proceeded for the Invitation to Tender.**

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) from
Interested Parties
For Sales and Distribution of Jet Fuel**

- The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The MPPE is currently distributing jet fuel in 11 airports in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of jet fuel in Myanmar's airports and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, the Government and the MPPE are seeking an experienced partner to form a joint venture. The purpose of the future joint venture company is to operate and improve the existing Jet Fuel Distribution Enterprise's business activity at the Yangon International Airport first. At a later stage, negotiations will be opened with the MPPE to expand the joint venture to the remaining 10 airports.
- Interested foreign companies should please submit the Letter of Expression of Interest together with a completed Pre-Qualification Application form (posted on MOE's website) attached with the following documents endorsed by Myanmar Embassy in the respective country, to Managing Director, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw, by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014, at the latest, by hand.
 - Certificate of incorporation
 - Memorandum of association
 - Articles of association
 - Company profile
 - Financial statements for last three years
- Pre-qualification applications that cannot include all the documents under the above paragraph (3) and that cannot reach the above address by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014 will not be considered.
- Applications shall be the company running jet fuel distribution at least three international airports in three different countries.
- Documents and detailed information regarding EOI are available at <http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement> and applications can personally contact jetfueltender@gmail.com and following address if they have any further queries:

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-411488; 067-411053; 067-411119; 067-411135
Fax: 067-411101
Email: mppe.ho2@mptmail.net.mm

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**World's largest blue diamond
sells for 23.8 mln US dollars**

BEIJING, 16 May — The world's largest blue diamond comes with a price tag to match. The sparkling 13.22 carat gem known as "the Blue" sold at a Christie's auction in Geneva on Wednesday for more than 21 million Swiss Francs, or some 23.8 million US dollars.

The pear-shaped stone described as the world's largest flawless vivid blue diamond had been expected to fetch between 21 to 25 million dollars.

An international jewelry specialist with Christie's says the diamond probably came from a mine in South Africa known as Cullinan.

The specialist says only three blue diamonds of 10 carats or more with the same vivid grading for intensity have been sold at auction in the past 10 years. He says all of those diamonds weighed less than 12 carats and none was flawless.

Xinhua



The sparkling 13.22 carat gem known as "the Blue" sold at a Christie's auction in Geneva on Wednesday for more than 21 million Swiss Francs, or some 23.8 million US dollars.—XINHUA



Fishermen catch crayfish at Longquan Lake in Xuyi County, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 15 May, 2014. Fishermen of Xuyi County started to harvest crayfish on Thursday. Crayfish is an important industry in Xuyi, yielding an output value exceeding 10 billion yuan (1.6 billion US dollars).—XINHUA

Australian warship seizes 449 kg of heroin off coast of Somalia

SYDNEY, 16 May — An Australian warship has seized 449 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of A\$132 million (US\$123 million) off the coast of Somalia, the country's Defence Department said on Thursday.

It said in a statement that the crew of HMAS Darwin, an Australian Navy

frigate, found the heroin hidden in bags on a dhow, a traditional sailing vessel, that was intercepted while patrolling the Indian Ocean some 40 nautical miles off Somalia's east coast.

Defence Minister David Johnston congratulated the ship's 232 crewmembers on their interception, saying it helps ensure that

the profits from drug trafficking are not fed into extremist and terrorist organizations. Australia is participating in the Combined Maritime Forces, a naval partnership involving 30 nations, patrolling a vast area encompassing the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and

the Gulf of Oman. "Our naval personnel are operating with a multinational naval partnership in a campaign to defeat terrorism, prevent piracy, reduce illegal trafficking of people and drugs, and promote the maritime environment as a safe place for mariners with legitimate business," Johnston said.

Kyodo News

Actress Glenn Close to return to Broadway in Edward Albee play

NEW YORK, 16 May — Triple Tony-award winning actress Glenn Close will return to Broadway later this year after a 20-year absence, starring opposite John Lithgow in a new production of Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance."

Close, 67, will appear in a limited 18-week run of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play that begins previews on 20 October and opens a month later. The actress, who has also been nominated for six Academy Awards, last appeared on Broadway in the musical "Sunset Boulevard," winning a Tony in 1995 for her portrayal of the aging actress Norma Desmond.

She also picked up Tony awards for "Death and the Maiden" in 1992 and "The Real Thing" in 1984.

In "A Delicate Balance," Close and Lithgow, 68, who won a Tony for "The Changing Room" and "Sweet Smell of Success," will play a married couple coping over the course of a weekend with the return of their 36-year-old daughter after her fourth



Actress Glenn Close

marriage breakup and the visit of friends. Scottish actress Lindsay Duncan, 63, a double Tony winner for "Private Lives" and "Les

Liaisons Dangereuses," will play Close's alcoholic sister in the play that had its Broadway premiere in 1966.—Reuters

'Godzilla' filmmakers approach a summer blockbuster with an indie mindset

NEW YORK, 16 May — Sixty years after giant reptile Godzilla wreaked havoc on postwar Tokyo in the Japanese movie classic, Hollywood filmmakers puzzled over how the saga could engage today's seen-it-all audiences.

Ironically, they found themselves looking to the past. British director Gareth Edwards was entrusted with the \$100-million-plus blockbuster, which opens Friday. He got the job on the strength of his independent film "Monsters," which had a reported budget of \$500,000 but grossed more than \$4 million worldwide.

"All that spectacle and amazing imagery is kind

of pointless if you're not invested in caring about the characters that are affected by it," Edwards told Reuters. Edwards said he tried to recapture the style of film classics such as "Jaws," "Alien" and "King Kong." "That's the sort of filmmaking that I love and grew up with," he said.

He assembled a roster of stars led by Aaron Taylor-Johnson, 23, and Elizabeth Olsen, 25. Award-winning actors Bryan Cranston, Ken Watanabe, Sally Hawkins, Juliette Binoche and David Strathairn also appear in "Godzilla."

"I told them, 'Don't do this like it's a commercial thing,'" Edwards said.

"You should do this exactly the same way as you would your art-house, Oscar-bait film."

Taylor-Johnson, who played John Lennon in 2009's "Nowhere Boy," stars as Ford, a Naval officer who leads the fight against Godzilla. Fifteen years earlier, young Ford was living Japan with his scientist parents (Cranston and Binoche) when a nuclear accident brought tragic consequences.

Olsen, who starred in "Old Boy," plays his wife Elle. Much of the film's personal drama stems from their separation as the re-awakened beast rampages from Hawaii to San Francisco.—Reuters



Mike Leigh brings Turner's stormy seas to sunny Cannes



Director Mike Leigh (2ndR), cast members Dorothy Atkinson (L), Timothy Spall (2ndL) and Marion Bailey (R) pose during a photocall for the film "Mr. Turner" in competition at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 15 May, 2014.

REUTERS

CANNES, 16 May — With colours from the artist's own palette and a central performance that explores the 'art of the grunt', British director Mike Leigh brought the turbulent life of English artist JMW Turner to the Cannes Film Festival

on Thursday. Leigh, a Cannes regular who has had five films in competition for the top Palme d'Or prize and won it in 1996 for "Secrets and Lies", is going head to head with another veteran British director, Ken Loach.

His "Mr Turner" and

Loach's "Jimmy's Hall", about an Irish communist, are among 18 films vying for the top honour at the world's most prestigious festival, while 100 or more are being shown here in other forums.

Leigh's film brought Turner's huge canvases of

ships tossed in stormy seas to a Cannes that this year is basking in steady sunshine.

"Turner is...one of the great painters of all times anywhere really, a great radical revolutionary painter," Leigh told reporters, explaining why he chose to focus on the 19th-century pre-Impressionist.

"I felt there was scope for what could be a fascinating film because of what may seem the tension between this very mortal, in some ways flawed and very inspired individual and this epic work, this spiritual way that he had of distilling, capturing and expressing the world." Another competition entry, "Timbuktu" by Mauritanian director Abderrahmane Sissako, went to another climatic extreme entirely, depicting the occupation of the Malian desert city by Islamist militants who impose their strict version of Islamic law on an uncomprehending local population.

Reuters

Preity Zinta talks about 'Perverts' and 'Perfect Image' in series of tweets

NEW DELHI, 16 May — Actress Preity Zinta's Twitter erupted some hours ago into a furious rant against fame. The Salaam Namaste star, who hasn't had a hit movie in years, posted a series of tweets, beginning with a confession about why she became an actress and ending in a public plea to treat celebrities with sensitivity. In between, she spoke about pictures of herself being morphed, being groped in crowds, the pressure to

look perfect all the time and the dating disadvantages of being famous.

Preity said she was speaking on behalf of all celebrities, but it's unlikely her meltdown (15 tweets in a few minutes - if that's not a meltdown, what is?) will lead to Bollywood stars being hounded less by paparazzi, sought after less for autographs, chased less by TV cameras.

Here are Preity's tweets, in the order that she posted them:—PTI



Preity Zinta posted a series of tweets beginning with a confession about why she became an actress. PTI

Kim Kardashian, Kanye West to get married in Florence?

LOS ANGELES, 16 May — Celebrity couple Kim Kardashian and her fiance Kanye West are reportedly planning to tie the knot in Florence, Italy instead of France.

The 32-year-old reality star and her rapper partner would apparently hold a pre-wedding dinner in Paris before flying the guests to Florence for the actual nuptials, reported Ace Showbiz.

"Kim and Kanye have told all guests different info. No one knows all of the details," a source said.

PTI



GENERAL

Malaysia says to review all data to pinpoint missing flight's location

KUALA LUMPUR 16 May — Malaysia, China and Australia have agreed to re-examine all data related to missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 to better pinpoint the search area, Malaysia's acting transport minister said on Thursday, as the hunt for the jet enters a new phase.

The three countries also agreed at a meeting in Canberra last week to undertake a survey to map the ocean floor and procure more deep-sea search vehicles and other equipment to scour it, minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters in Kuala Lumpur.

"I have briefed the Malaysia cabinet yesterday on the outcome of the meeting and it has been deliberated.

I now have the mandate to announce that the details of the transition phase have been approved by the Malaysian government," he said. The Boeing 777 with 239 passengers and crew disappeared on 8 March during a scheduled service between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing, and is believed to have gone down in the Indian Ocean, off western Australia. About two-thirds of the



Clouds hover outside the window of a Vietnam Air Force search and rescue aircraft An-26 on a mission to find the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, off Vietnam's Tho Chu island on 10 March, 2014.
REUTERS

passengers were Chinese nationals.

Australia would have responsibility for procuring new search assets from commercial contractors, Hishammuddin said, while Malaysia and China would assign additional equipment and services for the search. Hishammuddin said he would discuss the possibility of more US technical help with US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel at a summit in Singapore later this month.

Hishammuddin said it was vital to carry out the undersea bathymetric survey to map the new search area so that the expensive and scarce deep-sea autonomous vehicles and towed

sonar scanners could be deployed safely.

"It is important the bathymetric survey and deep water search needs to be seamless," said Hishammuddin, who is also defence minister.

The three governments would hold weekly video conferences to coordinate the search, starting on Monday. Based on groundbreaking analysis of satellite "pings" sent from the aircraft before it presumably crashed, searchers believed they knew the approximate position of wreckage of the plane some 1,550 km (960 miles) northwest of Perth.

The search was further narrowed on the basis of

acoustic signals believed to have come from the aircraft's black box recorders before their batteries ran out.

A massive search operation involving satellites, aircraft, ships and sophisticated underwater equipment capable of scouring the ocean floor has failed to turn up any trace of the plane.

The United States said in early May that it would only contribute its sophisticated Bluefin-21 underwater drone for one more month, placing pressure on Australia, China and Malaysia to find funding for the next phase of the search.

Reuters

Afghan forces kill 37 militants in 24 hours

KABUL, 16 May — Units of police backed by the army have killed 37 Taliban militants during series of operations across the country over the past 24 hours, Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement

released here on Friday.

"The operations which launched on Thursday and have covered parts of Kunduz, Faryab, Saripul, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Khost, Paktia, Farah and

Helmand provinces have left 37 rebels dead, six injured and four others detained over the past 24 hours," the statement contended. However, the statement didn't say if there were any casualties on the

security forces.

Conflicts and militancy have gotten new momentum since the launch of the so-called Taliban spring offensive on 12 May in the militancy-hit Afghanistan. —Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(17-5-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
- 2. Physical Exercises
- 6:35 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Songs
- 7:20 am
- 4. Business News
- 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. Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:20 am
- 9. TV Drama Series
- 12:00 pm
- 10. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 11. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News
- 2:30 pm
- 12. Business News
- 2:45 pm
- 13. Hyper Sports
- 3:30 pm
- 14. Documentary
- 4:00 pm
- 15. News
- 4:30 pm
- 16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Maths)
- 5:00 pm
- 17. News
- 5:25 pm
- 18. Game for Children
- 6:00 pm
- 19. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 20. MRTV's Youth Programme
- 7:00 pm
- 21. News
- 7:20 pm
- 22. Teleplay
- 8:00 pm
- 23. News /International News /Weather Report
- 8:35pm
- 24. Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- 25. News
- 26. Myanmar Series
- 27. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-5-14 07:00am~ 18-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - Charitable Associations
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady: Kalayar Moe
- * Local News
- * The Long-Lasting Royal Tradition
- * World News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations (Gem Stone Painting)
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
- * World News
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * Local News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Youth Leader
- * Local News
- * Sons of the lake
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Mon Traditional Wedding
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Mandalay
- * World News
- * Parents' Day

FA Cup win could spark success for Arsenal and Wenger

SINGAPORE, 16 May — The pressure is all on Arsenal ahead of Saturday's FA Cup final against Hull City, but if they can end their nine-year trophy drought then good times lie ahead with Arsene Wenger at the helm, former midfielder Ray Parlour has told Reuters.

The future of the French manager has been called into question this season with the club's Premier League title challenge fizzing out once again as the wait for a first trophy since the 2005 FA Cup goes on.

The Frenchman's contract expires in the coming weeks and while he has dropped strong hints he will stay on, no confirmation of a new

deal has been released, with some fans becoming restless and calling for change.

Parlour acknowledged the frustration but believed the club had made great strides this year under Wenger, who joined in 1996. Success in the Wembley showpiece would spur the manager and a core group of young players on to greater things.

"All the pressure is on Arsenal, obviously. It's a very important trophy for Arsenal," the former England midfielder said on the sidelines of the Singapore Cricket Club's soccer sixes tournament.

Parlour said Arsenal had a nucleus of good



Arsenal's manager Arsene Wenger reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester City at The Emirates Stadium in London on 29 March, 2014. — REUTERS

young players and getting an FA Cup win under their belt could drive them forward next season.

"And this first trophy, if they do win Saturday, the first one is always the hardest. If you can win that first one, it does give you massive confidence and belief for next season, and with the right signings, I'm sure they will be closer."

Even if the club lose the final to Hull on Saturday Parlour said it would be the wrong move to get rid of Wenger, talking up the need for stability and pointing at how the constant changing of managers at rivals Tottenham Hotspur had held them back.

Reuters

Myanmar national team leaves for Maldives to take part in AFC Challenge Cup

Myanmar selected its squad with 23 players to take part in the AFC Challenge Cup to be held in Maldives from 19 to 30 May.

Myanmar national team is included in Group (A) together with host Maldives, Kirgizstan and Palestine. Myanmar team

left for Maldives via Thailand on Friday.

Myanmar squad comprises Thiha Sithu, Kyaw Zin Phyoo and Vannal Harwel as goalkeepers, defenders Ye Win Aung, Thein Zaw, Zaw Min Tun, Khin Maung Lwin, Pyae Phyoo Aung, Aung Zaw, Aung Thaik,

Aung Hein Kyaw, Yan Aung Win, midfielders: David Dune, Min Min Thu, Yan Aung Kyaw, Nyein Chan Aung, Kyaw Min Oo, Yazar Win Thein, Sithu Aung, forward: Yan Paing, Kyaw Ko Ko, Kaung Sithu and Chit Su Moe.

Nyi Myat Thawda

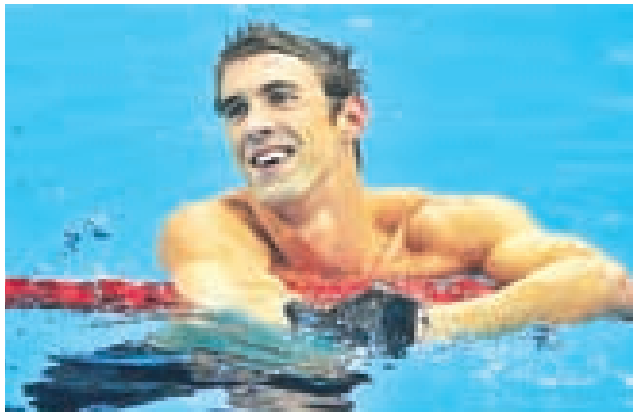


Myanmar players under training of Coach Avramovic. —PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Phelps set for second meet of his comeback

NEW YORK, 16 May — Michael Phelps will take another small step in his comeback to competitive swimming when he competes in two races on Friday but this time he will do it without the presence of his friend and greatest rival. The 28-year-old Phelps competed for the first time since retiring after the London Olympics when he plunged back into the pool at a Grand Prix meet in suburban Phoenix last month.

He was narrowly beaten in the 100 meters butterfly by Ryan Lochte, his uber-competitive team mate who Phelps credits



Michael Phelps

for driving him to greater heights.

That loss only helped the competitive juices to start flowing again in an ominous warning to his

rivals that he has his heart set on greater goals.

On Friday, Phelps will again compete in the 100m fly at a Grand Prix meet in Charlotte, North

Carolina, but without Lochte, who is taking a break to overcome a minor injury.

Phelps will also compete in 200m freestyle, an event he won at the 2008 Beijing Olympics when he captured a mind-boggling eight gold medals, but dropped from his programme for London.

Phelps has not said what his long-term plans are this time, insisting he is simply testing the waters to see if he still enjoys the grind of training, but he has not ruled out the possibility of competing at the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Reuters

Carles Puyol says goodbye to FC Barcelona

BARCELONA, (Spain), 16 May — FC Barcelona's veteran captain Carles Puyol said on Thursday goodbye to FC Barcelona after 15 years, a decision that had been previously announced on 4 March.

Puyol held a Press conference on Thursday where he received words of praise and admiration from his colleagues, ex-colleagues, presidents and ex-presidents, coaches and other figures from the world of football. Puyol said he wanted to recover.

"This year with the physical problems I have had I barely played and it is going to be something difficult to do in the future".

"I have lived the dream of millions of children, I have been lucky because I've been doing what I liked for 19 years," he said.

Puyol was grateful to all the staff of Barcelona and mentioned those people who had marked his career but passed away such as his father, Tito Vilanova, Luis Aragones,

Miki Roque and Antonio Oliveras.

"I have given it all for Barcelona and football and that is the way I would like to be remembered," he said.

Puyol had a contract with Barcelona until 2016 but decided to rescind it due to his physical problems. "After the two aggressive operations I have needed", he said on March when announcing he was leaving, "it has been very hard for me to recover the level I demand of myself



FC Barcelona's veteran captain Carles Puyol

to continue here".

The 36-year-old Puyol has played 392 times in La Liga with FC Barcelona's first team and 100 times for Spain. He has won six league titles, three Champions Leagues, two Copas del Rey, six Spanish Supercups and two European Supercups.

Xinhua

Haas rattles Wawrinka in Rome, Nadal to face Murray

ROME, 16 May — German veteran Tommy Haas provided a reminder of his claycourt skills to beat Stanislas Wawrinka on Thursday and reach the quarter-finals of the Rome Masters where Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray will resume their rivalry.

Haas recovered after trailing by a set and a break of serve to get past the Australian Open champion 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 and make the last eight at the Italian event for the first time since 2002 when he lost to Andre Agassi in the final. World number one Nadal will meet Britain's Murray after the Spaniard fought back from a set down to beat Russia's Mikhail Youzhny 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-1.

Nadal had been involved in a dogfight with Frenchman Gilles Simon late on Wednesday and looked weary as Youzhny pegged him back by claiming the first set on a tiebreak

and breaking early in the second. But the 13-times grand slam winner, who has endured a mixed start to the claycourt season by his own high standards, turned on the after burners, winning 11 straight games to take the match away from his opponent.

Murray celebrated his 27th birthday with a determined display to beat Austria's Jurgen Melzer 7-6(1), 6-4. The last time Murray and Nadal met was in a hardcourt encounter in Tokyo in 2011 in which

the Briton came out on top, but the Spaniard holds the upper hand overall in their rivalry with a 13-5 win-loss record.

"It's a positive match to play because you play against one of the best players in the world after two tough days," Nadal said ahead of Friday's match with Murray.

"I don't know how he has changed his play. I know he has a complete game but I have to focus on myself."

Reuters

Sizzling Swede Hanson takes control in Texas

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, (FL), 16 May — Two weeks after withdrawing from the Wells Fargo Championship with a back injury, Swede Peter Hanson charged into a one-shot lead at the Byron Nelson Championship on a course he barely knows on Thursday.

Hanson, despite having seen only the front nine at the TPC Four Seasons Resort Las Colinas in practice, piled up six birdies and a sole bogey to card a five-under-par 65 in breezy conditions in Irving, Texas.

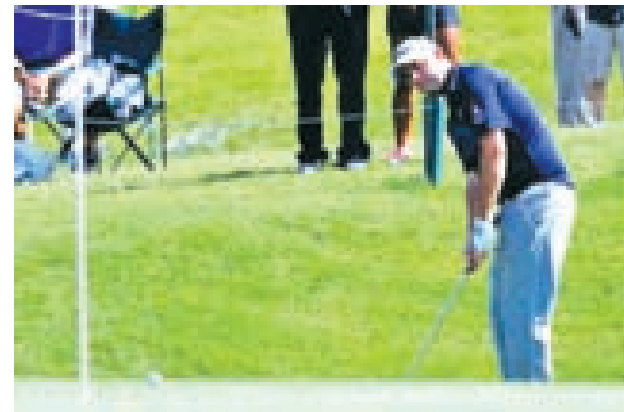
The 36-year-old stormed to the turn in

opening 65.

"It's always nice to get off to a fast start," the Swede told reporters after hitting a nine-iron approach to six feet at the par-four 18th to set up his sixth birdie of the day.

"I gave myself a few chances on the back (nine), made a bogey on 14 from the middle of the fairway and had a reasonable chance to make a birdie on 16.

"It was nice to get off with a birdie at the last. With the greens and how small they are and the run-off areas, if you start missing greens you get some



Marc Leishman chips up to the 9th green during the first round of The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass — Stadium Course.—REUTERS

five-under 30, then offset a bogey at the 14th with a birdie at the last to finish a stroke in front of Australian Marc Leishman, New Zealand's Tim Wilkinson and American former world number one David Duval.

Germany's Martin Kaymer, fresh from victory at the Players Championship on Sunday, and American Ryan Palmer were among a group of eight players knotted on 67.

Hanson, a six-times winner on the European Tour who has yet to taste victory on the PGA Tour, was delighted with his

very, very difficult lies and up and downs. Once you start chipping, you will make bogeys."

Duval, who plays a limited schedule on the PGA Tour, surged up the leaderboard with four birdies in his last five holes after very nearly withdrawing from the tournament earlier in the day because of pain in his right elbow.

"I'm tickled pink it feels as good as it does right now," Duval, who has not won on the PGA Tour since his sole major victory at the 2001 British Open, said of his elbow.—Reuters