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INSIDE

President U Thein Sein inspects Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway

Page-3

Improvement in infrastructure and better living conditions for health staff can improve hospital services: Vice President

Page-3

Cooperatives Ministry disburses loans to cooperative societies under micro-credit scheme

Page-3

MCEA, Sphere Exhibits to organize BuildTechYangon2014 from 22-24 May

By *Ye Myint*

Press conference on BuildTechYangon2014 and MCEA's annual meeting in progress.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

BuildTechYangon 2014 will be of great benefit to the rapidly growing Myanmar construction industry by shaping the future of the country's construction sector, said U Aye Lin, EC member of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association on Monday, only days before the opening of the exhibit.

Before the start of the press conference on the BuildTechYangon2014 and MCEA's 15th annual meeting, U Aye Lin told the New Light of Myanmar that MCEA and Sphere Exhibits Pte Ltd will jointly organize the first Myanmar Building Technology Industry and Supply Event at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon from 22 to 24 May. The event is aimed at bringing advanced construction technologies to the country and helping to overcome the shortage of skilled workers through training programs. The exhibit is not only designed for investors and developers but also for leading architects and construction companies that are willing to conduct training courses in Myanmar, he added.

Ms Ling Oh of Sphere Exhibits told the media at the press conference that business seminar will be held on Day 2 with a facility management and technology seminars organised for Day 3 of BuildTechYangon2014. She said it will serve as a platform for companies seeking joint-venture partners, construction professionals and parties interested in construction and engineering businesses.

The Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association was formed in 1996 and is a nongovernmental organization with 1,650 member companies expanding its activities with the aim of educating unskilled laborers in the infrastructure, building and construction sectors. Sphere Exhibits stands for "SPH Event, Roadshows and Exhibitions" and is a subsidiary of Singapore Press Holding Co., Ltd.

Trade value in April over US$ 185 million more compared to same month in last FY

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 19 May — In April, Myanmar earned about $735 million from exports, with imports worth $ 1.13 billion, reaching a total trade value of over $ 1.86 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The export value in the 39 days starting from 1 April to 9 May was over US$ 170 million lower than that in the same period of the last fiscal year.

However, the imports in those 39 days saw a rise of over US$ 355 million compared to the same period of the last fiscal year, bringing a rise of US$185 million in trade value compared to the trade value for the same time last year.

The country's exports by ship from 1 April to 9 May amounted to US$ 595.25 million and imports amounted to US$ around 983.29 million, bringing the total trade value by ship US$1.58 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the exports through border check points in the same period

(See page 9)

Nokia to help foster Myanmar mobile telecom services

By *Aung Khin*

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Nokia Solutions and Networks, said on Monday that it is making plans to help support mobile telecommunications services in Myanmar through its new technologies and human resources.

The Finland-based telecom company held its press conference at the Royal Kumudra Hotel in the capital to publicize its regional regulatory update and market developments in mobile telecommunications sector.

Raman Vattumalai, NSN Country Head of Myanmar giving a press conference

Ooredoo, that won one of the two licences made available to foreign operators in a bid process of Myanmar telecommunication business, recently selected NSN to supply its core and radio infrastructure for its 3G network in the Southeast Asian country.

NSN said through two offices in Yangon, it will provide employment opportunities to local youth and fresh graduates, and to empower the people of the country.

NSN will be operational to empower domestic operators to provide network coverage to a vast majority of users throughout Myanmar.

NSN is now making investments in technologies with a focus on three businesses; Networks, HERE and Technologies for advanced technology development and licensing through technologies, said officials.

Rajeev Suri, President and CEO of the Nokia Cooperation said: "Our goal is to optimize the company so that each business is best enabled to meet its goals. Where it makes sense to do so, we will pursue shared opportunities between the businesses, but not at the expense of focus and discipline in each."

He added that Nokia will invest in innovative products and services needed by telecom operators to manage the increase in wireless data traffic which is more than doubling every year.

(See page 9)

Two Chinese officials of copper mine released by villagers near Monywa after being held hostage

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Two Chinese citizens, who were held hostage for a day by villagers near Monywa, were released on Monday after lengthy negotiations with local officials, authorities said.

About 20 residents from Old Sete Village on 18 May stopped the car of the two Chinese citizens, who work for the Chinese-run Letpadaung Copper Mine Project in Salingyi Township near Monywa, and their Myanmar driver, according to officials.

The Chinese were said to have conducted air pollution tests about 500 metres from the village when they were stopped and taken to a primary school in the village.

The chairmen of the district and township administrative committees and officials negotiated with the villagers to release them three times between 2 pm to 6 pm without success. At 6:20 pm, the villagers released the driver but continued to hold the two Chinese.

To negotiate the release of the two Chinese, Sagaing Region Police Chief and officers and Salingyi township administrative officers left their base at Kyaukpyudine Village at 10:45 pm and arrived at the monastery of Old Zeedaw Village at 11:00. Upon arrival there,

(See page 9)

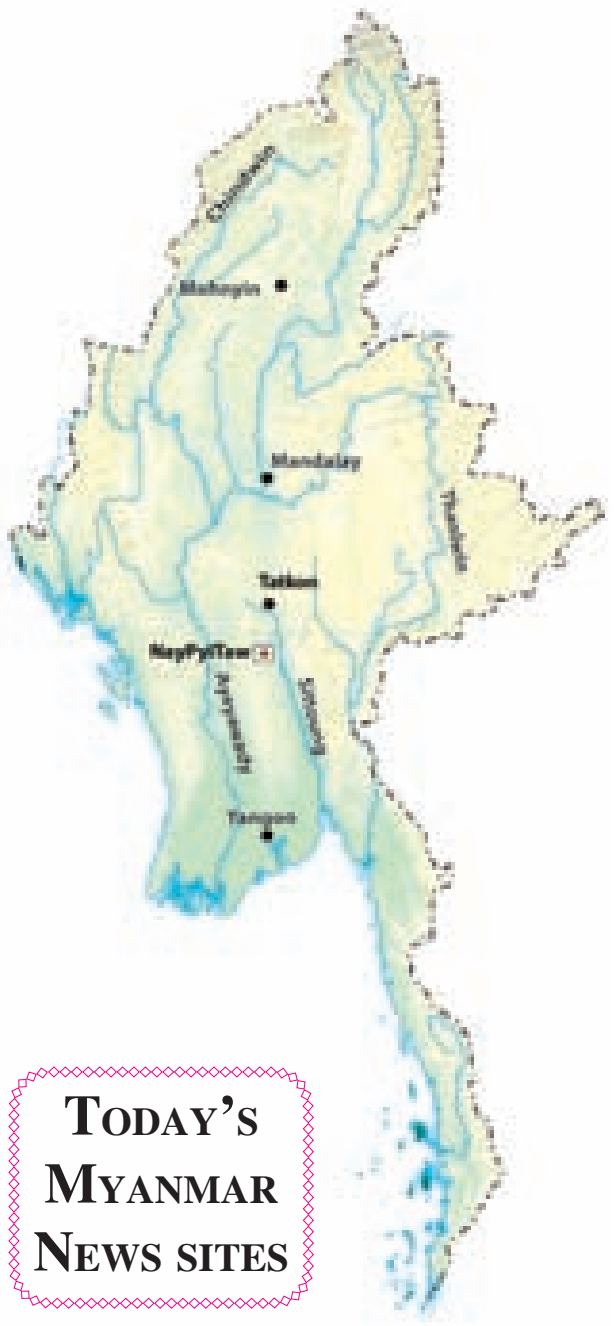
Police truck damaged by villagers.

New sub-power station to supply electricity to people of Indawgyi region

MOHNYIN, 19 May—The inauguration of a sub-power station and a power line was held in Hopin Sub-Township of Mohnyin District on 16 May, with Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe launching the facilities.

The 66/33 KV sub-power station and the 63.25 miles long 33 KV power line will supply electricity to residents living within 100 square miles of Indawgyi Lake. According to officials around 50,000 people live in the 39 villages there.

The Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Park in the central part of Kachin State is a tourist attraction and will according to UNESCO be nominated as a World Heritage Site.—*NLM-001*



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Election preparations coordinated in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 19 May—A meeting between the chairman of the District Election Sub-commission and chairmen and secretaries of Tatkon Township, Ward and Village-tract sub-commissions took place at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Tatkon on Sunday morning.

Chairman of District Sub-commission U Aung Lwin called for opening the sub-commission office daily to conduct coordination work and speed up preparations for the 2015 elections.

The chairman of the township sub-commission reported on progress of the tasks conducted by the township sub-commission.

Tatkon Township IPRD

Silk Air spreads its wings

MANDALAY, 19 May—Silk Air is preparing to launch its direct flight from Mandalay to Singapore, according to the press briefing organized by Silk Air.

The three-day-a-week flight (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) is scheduled to start from 10 June this year. A flight will cost 253 dollars per head. Planes under the joint venture between Silk Air and Singapore Airlines will take off from Mandalay International Airport at 3.55 pm and land at Changi Airport as scheduled.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Fire engulfs post-primary school in Tatkon

TATKON, 19 May—A fire broke out at No 1 Basic Education Post-Primary School in region-3 of Saya San Ward in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday.

Local authorities, police and firefighters put out the fire with three fire trucks and water pumps.

The fire was caused by a short circuit, and destroyed equipment and parts of the building, with the damage estimated at K 250,000, officials said.

Township IPRD

TALKS ON CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT AND CITIZENS RIGHTS IN MOHNYIN: 88 Generation leaders Ko Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Ko Phyone Cho will give talks on Constitution Amendment and Citizens Rights in Mohnyin on 19 May. Mohnyin dwellers prepare to welcome them by erecting billboards in downtown areas.—NLM-001

President U Thein Sein inspects Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—President U Thein Sein went on an inspection tour of the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway on Monday, gretting a briefing on the condition of the road and bridges.

President U Thein Sein inspects the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway.

MNA

The President received reports on maintenance works and works to upgrade the road by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin who attended the inspection tour.

The President called for a number of improvements, including an upgrade of the bridges along the road, expansion of the highway from four lanes to six lanes and quick implementation of repair works for the prioritized section accounting for 6 per cent of the entire road as suggested by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, more staff training and close supervision of maintenance works and road safety measures.

MNA

President sends felicitations to Timor-Leste

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, which falls on 20 May 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tour Matan Ruck, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Similarly, the President sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.—*MNA*

Improvement in infrastructure and better living conditions for health staff can improve hospital services: Vice President

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gives medicine to pregnant women at Thandwe district general hospital.

MNA

THANDWE, 19 May—Only when infrastructure and the living standard of health staff is developed can improvement in hospital services be achieved, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham during his visit to Thandwe district general hospital on Monday.

During his visit, Adventure Myanmar Co., Ltd and ACE Co., Ltd donated K 10 million for the medical fund of the hospital through the medical superintendent. On his inspection tour of Rakhine State, the Vice President was accompanied by Union Minister U Khin Yi, Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and officials visited Suddhama Garu (Pathein) monastery in Sittway and offered provisions to the monks.

On his arrival at relief camps and clinics in Sittway, he inspected several facilities and donated cash.

The Vice President also visited the Sittway Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and a senior care home.

MNA

Talks on citizens and laws given in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 19 May—Talks on citizens and laws organized by Wunthanu Democratic Party were held in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay this morning.

Advocate U Myint Thein gave a lecture on citizens and laws, and Secretary General Daw Nan Shwe Kya gave talks on the need to protect the rights of Buddhist Myanmar women.

Region (IPRD)

Villagers in NyaungU Tsp receive free medical care

NYAUNGU, 19 May — A 77-member mobile medical team of the Defence Forces gave free medical treatment to local peoples in Taungzin Village-tract in NyaungU Township on Sunday.

Divided into three groups, the mobile medical groups has provided medical care to 338 people from villages so far in Taungzin Village-tract, according to the NyaungU Township Information and Public Relations Department.

Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)

Thai PM in crisis meeting with Senate as protesters move to oust him

Thailand's acting Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongphaisan

An anti-government protester waves a Thai national flag during a rally outside the Government House in Bangkok on 17 May, 2014.—Reuters

Bangkok, 19 May — Thailand's acting prime minister was meeting senators on Monday to search for a way out of a protracted political crisis, as anti-government protesters step up pressure to remove him and install a new administration.

Thailand is stuck in political limbo following the dismissal of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and nine of her ministers on 7 May after a court found them guilty of abuse of power.

Commerce Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongphaisan replaced her but the anti-government protesters say he has no legal standing and want all remaining ministers to step down so a new government can be appointed to push through reforms.

As six months of protests reach a crescendo, Bangkok is now the scene of a tense stand-off between government supporters loyal to Yingluck and her brother, ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and opposition demonstrators drawn from Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment.

Thailand has not had a functioning lower house since Yingluck dissolved parliament in December.

The upper house Senate, the country's only remaining legislative body, says it could select an interim prime minister but its leader wants to consult the government first.

That has incensed protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, who wants the caretaker government removed right away.

"We will take democratic power and hand it back to the people," Suthep told supporters in a speech late on Sunday.

"From Monday we will chase the remnants of the Thaksin regime out. Ministers, resign! You are stunting Thailand's progress," said Suthep, who has promised to surrender to the authorities on 27 May if this final push does not succeed.

The uncertainty has damaged the economy, which shrank by 2.1 percent in January-March from the final quarter of 2013, according to data on Monday from the state planning agency. It cut its forecast for 2014 growth to between 1.5 and 2.5 percent, from a range of 3.0 to 4.0 percent. [ID:nL3N0O50HN]

It noted that public investment was 19.3 percent lower than a year before as the caretaker government has no authority to begin new projects, while private sector investment fell 7.3 percent as business confidence slumped.

The government and its supporters view a new general election as the best way to solve the crisis — the ruling Puea Thai Party would be well placed to win — but a vote tentatively scheduled for 20 July now looks to be off the table.

A 2 February election was disrupted by Suthep's supporters and then declared void by the Constitutional Court. The protesters say they will disrupt any new vote that takes place before changes to the electoral system are pushed through. Thaksin was ousted by the army in a 2006 coup and convicted of abuse of power in 2008. He now lives in self-imposed exile. His enemies accuse him of being a corrupt crony capitalist whose legacy has poisoned the country's governance. Thousands of pro-Thaksin "red shirts" have been camped out in Bangkok's western outskirts to oppose any efforts to install an unelected prime minister.—*Reuters*

Indonesian presidential frontrunner picks popular ex-VP as running mate

Jakarta governor and presidential candidate from the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) party, Joko Widodo, and his wife Iriana cast their ballot papers during voting in the parliamentary elections in Jakarta on 9 April, 2014.
Reuters

Jakarta, 19 May — Indonesian presidential frontrunner Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on Monday named popular former vice president Jusuf Kalla as his running mate in July's election, boosting his chances of becoming the next leader of the world's third largest democracy.

Recent opinion polls show a pairing of Jokowi from the main opposition party PDI-P and Kalla from the country's second biggest party Golkar has a significant lead over their main rival. If no ticket wins more than 50 percent of the vote in the 9 July election, there will be a second round in September.

"After meeting all the party chairpersons...it was agreed on Jusuf Kalla," PDI-P vice secretary general Tjahjo Kumolo told reporters.

Jokowi and Kalla are up against rivals Prabowo Subianto, a former general with a checkered human rights record, and his running mate Hatta Rajasa, a former chief economic minister.

One recent poll showed Jokowi's lead had narrowed slightly, although he was still 15 points ahead of Prabowo.

Jakarta stocks rose more than 1 percent on reports that Kalla would be the choice for running mate.

Kalla is seen as bringing strong business credentials to the ticket, as Jokowi is regarded as relatively inexperienced having enjoyed a meteoric rise on the political scene since becoming the governor of Jakarta in late 2012.

Kalla, 72, served as vice president during outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's first term in office from 2004 to 2009, where he gained the reputation of being a can-do and astute politician.

Since leaving office, he has remained prominent in the public eye as the head of the Indonesian Red Cross, a humanitarian aid organization with extensive reach across the vast archipelago.

A native of the eastern island of Sulawesi, Kalla appeals to voters both in and outside the main island of Java.

Jokowi's popularity lies in a common touch and straightforward style, that sets him apart from an aloof and elitist political establishment that has long dominated Indonesia.

Kalla is also hugely popular within his own Golkar party and is likely to encourage support from both party members and voters.

Candidates and their running mates must be registered with the election body by 20 May.

Reuters

China 'uses channels' to warn North Korea against fourth nuclear test

Beijing, 19 May — China has used various diplomatic channels to warn North Korea not to conduct a fourth nuclear test, multiple China-based diplomatic sources told *Reuters*, after the reclusive state renewed its threat of "counter-measures" against perceived US hostility.

North Korea, which regularly threatens the South and the United States with destruction, is already under heavy sanctions imposed by several UN resolutions beginning in 2006 but has defied pressure to abandon its missile and nuclear programmes. It last conducted a nuclear test in February 2013. "China has told North Korea that there is no justification for a new nuclear test and that they should not do it," said a Western diplomat who was briefed by Chinese officials. The sources said China had used diplomatic channels in Beijing and Pyongyang to convey its anxiety about the possibility of a fourth test to the North.

China is North Korea's most important diplomatic and economic ally, though three nuclear tests and several rounds of saber rattling have tested Beijing's support.

The United States has said it hopes China will use its influence to coax the North to abandon its banned nuclear weapons programme. In recent public statements, Chinese foreign ministry officials have repeatedly called on all parties to "exercise restraint" on the Korean peninsula, without pointing the finger at North Korea alone.

China signed on to tougher UN sanctions last year after the third nuclear test, but has come under criticism from western countries and independent experts for failing to properly implement them. North Korea's official *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said this month the country was justified in using all available means at its disposal to counter aggressive challenges by the United States and South Korea aimed at stifling its sovereignty.—*Reuters*

US Republican chairman: Clinton's age, health 'fair game'

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton participates in an event on empowering woman and girls, at the World Bank in Washington on 14 May, 2014.—Reuters

Washington, 19 May — Hillary Clinton's age and health are valid campaign issues if the 66-year-old Democrat makes another run for US president in 2016, the Republican Party leader said on Sunday.

Reince Priebus, the Republican National Committee chairman, was asked on NBC's "Meet the Press" about Republican strategist Karl Rove's reported comments that Clinton might have suffered brain damage from a 2012 blood clot. Priebus refused to distance himself from Rove's remarks or say he should apologize.

"I think that health and age is fair game," Priebus said. "It was fair game for Ronald Reagan. It was fair game for John McCain."

Reagan took office in 1981 at age 69; McCain, the Republican candidate in 2008, was 72 on Election Day that year. The *New York Post* reported that Rove made the suggestion at a recent conference. Rove denied using the phrase, but told Fox News Clinton's health would be an issue should she run.

Clinton suffered a blood clot in her head in December 2012 after falling at her home and received several days of treatment at a New York hospital. The incident raised health concerns for Clinton, who was a widely traveled secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term.

Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, said last week, "There was nothing to it ... She is strong. She is doing great."

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg blasted Rove's comments as beyond the pale. "I thought his remarks just were outrageous," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday. Bloomberg called Clinton a "great American" who would make a "spectacular candidate on the Democratic side." "You can't ask somebody to do more than she has done for her country," said Bloomberg, a long-time Democrat who switched to the Republican Party when he first ran for mayor. He later dropped his party affiliation altogether. Democrats accuse Republicans of politicizing the blood clot as part of a strategy to discourage Clinton from running.

"They do not want Hillary Clinton," Senator Claire McCaskill told NBC. "Because they know she is going to ignite a spark of enthusiasm across this country and she has got the strongest resume for president of anyone who's run in a very long time."

She called Rove's reported comments, which also drew a swipe last week from White House spokesman Jay Carney, "a cheap political shot."—*Reuters*

S Korea's Park, sorry over ferry disaster, breaks up coast guard

Seoul, 19 May — South Korean President Park Geun-hye formally apologized on Monday for a ferry disaster last month that killed about 300 passengers, mostly school children, and said she would break up the coast guard because it had failed in its rescue mission.

Park has been hit hard by an angry nation-wide outcry over the government's response to South Korea's worst civilian maritime disaster in 20 years and the seemingly slow and ineffective rescue operation. Polls show support for Park has dropped by more than 20 points since the 16 April disaster.

"I apologize to the nation for the pain and suffering that everyone felt, as the president who should have been responsible for the safety and lives of the people," Park said in a televised national address, her first since the ferry Sewol capsized and sank with 476 passengers and crew on board.

At least 286 people were killed and 18 remain missing. Only 172 people were rescued, with the rest presumed to have drowned.

Of the passengers, 339 were children and their teachers on a field trip from a high school on the outskirts of Seoul. Park fought back sobs as she remembered some of the teenagers who perished while trying to help each other. She vowed sweeping reforms to improve oversight, as well as tough punishment for bureaucrats and businesses whose negligence endangers public safety.

"A 20-year-old vessel was bought and refurbished to add excessive capacity, then it was loaded with much more cargo than allowed with a false reporting on weight, but not a single person in the position to supervise stopped any of it," Park said.

She singled out structural problems within the coast guard as the main reason why there was such a high casualty toll from an accident that played out on national television as the vessel gradually sank with most of the passengers trapped inside. "Had there been an immediate and proactive rescue operation after the accident, we would have been able to reduce the casualties," Park said.—*Reuters*

South Korean President Park Geun-hye

Tamils say barred from commemorating war dead, Sri Lanka denies

Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa (in white) takes part in a War Victory parade in Matara on 18 May, 2014. Reuters

Colombo, 19 May — Minority ethnic Tamils said on Sunday they had been banned from commemorating the deaths of their relatives five years ago in the final battle of a 26-year war with Sri Lanka's military, a charge denied by the army.

While President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is under international pressure to investigate war crimes in the battle, watched a victory parade in the south of the island, Tamils said they had been barred from attending Hindu temples in the north.

Ananthi Sasitharan, wife of a rebel leader missing since his Tamil Tiger separatists surrendered to the army on 18 May, 2009, said the military used "abusive language" when she tried to enter the temple in Keerimalai. "They didn't allow me to Keerimalai Hindu temple to conduct my usual rituals to remember my relatives killed in the war and my husband. This is a blatant human rights violation. It exposes the government's heavy military control over Tamil civilians," she said.

Five other residents also said they had been banned, but declined to be identified due to possible reprisals. They said security was tightened across the northern Jaffna peninsula, with roads closed to prevent any commemorative events. They said the military had ordered Tamils not to hold any commemorations.

Military spokesman Ruwan Wanigasooriya said families had not been barred from their rites, but some additional security had been established to maintain stability as some parties were trying to create what he described as an "unwanted situation".

"There was no prevention of individual families commemorating their dead. Our concern was mainly about any organized move to politically incite people and ... commemorating terrorists would not be allowed," he said.

Wanigasooriya said the military saw some Tamil families observing religious rituals in temples, including in Keerimalai.

While both sides mark the end of the war every year, this fifth anniversary comes after the main ethnic Tamil party secured a landslide in a provincial poll in September, rekindling the animosity between the sides.—*Reuters*

Colombia election candidate says Zuluaga should quit race over spying

BOGOTA, 19 May — A candidate in Colombia's presidential elections next Sunday has called on the leading opposition candidate, Oscar Ivan Zuluaga, to quit the race after new video evidence of spying by his campaign consultant on peace talks with leftist rebels.

Zuluaga's recent surge in polls of voter intentions could be challenged after local Press published a video showing him and a former campaign manager being briefed about government intelligence by a man now in custody and facing spying charges.

The campaign manager, Luis Alfonso Hoyos, quit earlier this month after the arrest of the accused hacker, Andres Sepulveda, and after Colombian broadcaster RCN said the two men had offered it confidential information about the peace talks.

In the video Sepulveda informs Zuluaga that he is in possession of military intelligence. Zuluaga shows no surprise and does not question how he obtained secret state information.

"Oscar Ivan Zuluaga should immediately renounce his candidacy to the presidency and present himself to the judiciary to answer for these crimes," said Green Alliance candidate Enrique Penalosa, a distant third in polls.

Zuluaga on Sunday appeared to cast doubt on the video's authenticity, calling it a "montage" and "crude" and that his campaign had been infiltrated by people working against him. He did not explain further why the video and audio published on news magazine *Semana*'s web site www.semana.com, were dubious.

Sepulveda's arrest was made in early May after a raid on his Bogota office where he is alleged to have spied on a FARC member handling its communications at the peace talks in Cuba and hacked into the email of two Cuban journalists.

Zuluaga's campaign acknowledged after Sepulveda's arrest that he worked for the campaign, consulting on social networks. It said then it condemned illegal spying but awaited the results of an investigation.

President Juan Manuel Santos, neck and neck with Zuluaga in election polls, has made the peace talks the hallmark of his four-year mandate and says he needs a second term to finalise and implement a deal to end five decades of fighting.

The talks are widely backed by the public but Zuluaga, the candidate supported by former President Alvaro Uribe, has drawn support from voters who fear talks will lead to impunity for guerrillas in a conflict that has killed more than 200,000.

Juan Fernando Cristo, a Liberal Party senator who backed Santos' re-election bid, condemned the revelations.

"The video shows Oscar Ivan Zuluaga has been lying to the country. It's an extremely serious doing, it's a conspiracy they have created against peace in Colombia," he said.

Santos' own election bid was briefly marred after campaign strategist Venezuelan JJ Rendon, quit amid allegations he took a $12 million bribe to use his influence to prevent the extradition of several drug traffickers to the United States. He denied receiving money.

A key advance in peace negotiations came on Friday when the government announced on Friday it reached an agreement with the FARC on how to end the illegal drugs trade. That could boost support for Santos as he seeks to convince voters the talks will succeed after failed attempts by previous governments.

Reuters

Colombian presidential candidate Oscar Ivan Zuluaga speaks during a campaign rally in Cali on 12 May, 2014.
REUTERS

Egypt court jails more than 160 Brotherhood supporters

CAIRO, 19 May — An Egyptian court jailed more than 160 Muslim Brotherhood supporters to up to 15 years in prison on Sunday, pressing a crackdown on the Islamist group before a presidential election former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is expected to win.

Defendants chanted "Down with military rule" as Judge Hassan Fareed handed down 10-year jail terms to 126 Brotherhood supporters accused of violence and membership of a terrorist group in one of the cases. A further 37 people received 15-year sentences in a second case related to an alleged attempt to blow up a Cairo metro station.

The security forces have detained thousands of Brotherhood supporters since the military deposed president Mohamed Mursi last July following mass protests against his rule.

Sisi, expected to easily win the 26-27 May vote, has signaled there will be no reconciliation with the Brotherhood. Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie, who was among 683 people sentenced to death last month, made a rare address in court, rejecting the accusations leveled against his group.—*Reuters*

***Member of the Muslim Brotherhood Mohamed Beltagy (L) speaks during his trial at a court in Cairo, on 18 May, 2014.*—REUTERS**

Hard for NATO to defend Baltic states from Russia

BERLIN, 19 May — NATO would struggle to defend the Baltic states from any Russian aggression "with conventional means", Germany's *Spiegel* magazine reported on Sunday, citing sources close to the organisation and a draft of a NATO planning document.

Eastern European states are nervous about Russia after it annexed Ukraine's Crimea region and massed 40,000 troops on Ukraine's borders.

The United States has sent 600 soldiers to the three Baltic countries — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — and Poland to take part in exercises to bolster NATO's presence in eastern Europe.

"Russia's ability and intention to undertake significant military action without much forewarning poses a far-reaching threat for the maintenance of security and stability in the European-Atlantic area," the weekly magazine said, citing a NATO defence planning committee document.

***Latvia's border guards special task unit prepares for patrolling over the EU external border with Russia in the airbase in Ludza, on 2 May, 2014.*—REUTERS**

Russia is capable of building up a local or regional military threat at short notice and at an arbitrary spot, the draft document continued.

However, Europe at the end of the Cold War had concluded that "it could reduce its capabilities for fighting conventional, large scale and high intensity conflicts in Europe".

"While we never comment on alleged leaks or on our defence plans, NATO's core task is collective defence and we will do what it takes to defend any ally under attack," said NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu.

"In light of the new security situation created by Russia's illegal and illegitimate aggression against Ukraine, we have taken immediate measures to enhance collective security in the air, at sea and on the ground."

The Ukraine crisis has compelled the alliance to refocus on its core mission of defending its members after years in which its main effort has been far away in Afghanistan.—*Reuters*

Gunmen loyal to ex-general storm Libyan parliament, demand suspension

Smoke rises over the General National Congress building in Tripoli on 18 May, 2014. — Reuters

Tripoli, 19 May — Heavily armed gunmen stormed Libya's parliament on Sunday demanding its suspension and claiming loyalty to a renegade army general who has vowed to purge the country of Islamist militants.

Smoke rose over parliament after gunmen attacked and then withdrew, and gunfire erupted across Tripoli, where rival militias clashed in some of the worst violence in the city since the end the 2011 war against Muammar Gaddafi.

Details of who was involved Sunday's chaotic attack were unclear, but loyalists of retired General Khalifa Haftar said his forces and militia allies had planned the parliament assault in a campaign to rid Libya of Islamist hardliners.

Any alliance of militias lining up against Islamist groups threatens to deepen chaos in the OPEC oil producer where a fragile government already struggles to gain legitimacy and impose authority over brigades of former fighters.

"We announce the freezing of the GNC," said Colonel Mukhtar Fernana, a former military police officer from the Zintan region, reading out a statement on al-Ahrar TV.

Haftar's spokesman Mohamed al-Hejazi said Fernana's group was allied to the former general.

Fernana said their movement was not a coup, but said the parliament had no legitimacy and should hand over power to a 60-member body that was recently elected to rewrite Libya's constitution.

It was not immediately clear how much backing Haftar's men had within Libya's nascent regular armed forces and the country's powerful brigades of former rebels or whether the parliament was fully under government control after the attack.

Justice Minister Saleh al-Mergani condemned the assault on parliament and rejected the group's demands. — *Reuters*

Suicide car bomb kills five in bar district of north Nigeria's Kano

Kano, 19 May — A suicide car bomber killed five people on a street of popular bars and restaurants in the northern Nigerian city of Kano on Sunday evening, in an area mostly inhabited by southern Christians, police said. Kano police spokesman Musa Majiya said the bomber struck Gold Coast Street in the Sabon Gari or "foreign quarter" of the North's biggest city. "I heard a loud blast. And there was a lot of smoke. Soldiers came in to cordon off the place and ambulances were rushing people to hospital," witness Abdul Dafar, who lives a block away from the blast, said, adding that he had seen four dead bodies in the aftermath.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but blame is likely to fall on violent Islamist group Boko Haram, whose struggle against the Nigerian state has killed thousands over the last five years.

The militants also operate in neighbouring Niger, Cameroon and Chad, and President Goodluck Jonathan described them as West Africa's al-Qaeda on Saturday in Paris, where regional leaders met France's President Francois Hollande to discuss how to tackle the growing threat posed by the group. The Islamists grabbed world headlines with abduction of more than 200 school girls a month ago from a remote village in the northeast. Britain, the United States and France have pledged to help rescue them. — *Reuters*

Exit polls show Greece's far-left Syriza leading in local vote

Athens, 19 May — Exit polls showed Greece's radical leftist Syriza party ahead in local elections in Athens and the wider Attica region on Sunday, in a surprisingly strong performance that represents a setback for the country's fragile ruling coalition.

The vote, along with European Parliament elections a week later, are being closely watched as a gauge of sentiment towards the coalition of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, who is facing his first electoral test since coming to power two years ago.

Syriza's candidate for Athens mayor, Gabriel Sakellaridis, led the incumbent, leftist-backed independent George Kaminis, by less than 2 percentage points, two exit polls showed.

The candidate for the far-left party, which has called this month's vote a referendum on Samaras's pro-bailout, austerity policies, was also in the lead for the race for prefect — similar to state governor — of the wider Attica region.

If confirmed, the vote would raise pressure on Samaras's New Democracy party and his coalition partner PASOK, who hold a wafer-thin two-seat majority in parliament.

"It is a punishment vote and reflects the internal divisions within the ruling parties," Constantinos Routzounis, head of Kapa Research, told *Reuters*.

"The following Sunday, we will see whether this vote has a deeper political significance." The Attica region, which includes the Athens municipality, counts nearly 3 million out of the 10 million eligible voters in Greece, making the two races the most closely watched in the first round of voting on Sunday.

Elections were held for mayors and town councils in 325 municipalities as well as prefects for 13 regions across Greece, with a run-off vote to be held on 25 May. — *Reuters*

Members of an electoral commission sort ballots into stacks before counting them after the end of voting at a polling station in Hellenikon, a southern suburb of Athens on 18 May, 2014. — Reuters

Fire on Colombia church bus fire kills 31 children, one adult

Bogota, 19 May — Thirty-one children and one adult were killed in Colombia on Sunday when fuel exploded on a broken-down bus returning from a church event, an emergency response coordinator said. The charred bodies of victims were being identified using dental records in Barranquilla, the nearest city to Fundacion town where the accident happened, said Major Eduardo Velez, coordinator of Magdalena province's emergency response corps.

Eighteen people managed to escape and were being treated at hospitals in the region.

"There was a canister of gasoline inside the vehicle. The fire spread very fast," Velez told *Reuters*.

He said the fire started after the driver attempted to start the faulty bus by pouring fuel into the engine which he accessed through the floor of the cabin. The driver escaped unharmed and was being questioned by police, he said. The bus was owned by a private transport company and was used during the week to took children to and from school. President Juan Manuel Santos was traveling to Fundacion to console relatives of the victims.

Reuters

Mali sends troops to retake town from Tuareg separatists

Kidal, (Mali), 19 May — Mali sent in troops on Sunday to retake Kidal from Tuareg separatists after six government workers and two civilians were killed, according to the United Nations, during an attack on the regional governor's office. At least eight soldiers were also killed and around 30 civil servants captured by rebels during clashes that broke out while Prime Minister Moussa Mara was on a visit to the northern town.

A spokesman for the separatists denied that anyone had been killed inside the government building.

Gunfire had already broken out before Mara's arrival early on Saturday and he was forced to take shelter in an army base.

"In light of this declaration of war, the Republic of Mali is henceforth at war," Mara told a *Reuters* reporter inside the base overnight. He told a news conference on Sunday after he moved to Gao, another city in the north, that the government had already sent troops, including special forces, to retake Kidal. "Reinforcements are on the way to Kidal. The objective is to totally retake Kidal," a senior military source also told *Reuters*, asking not to be named.

Mara was visiting the town, a stronghold of Tuareg separatists, for the first time since his appointment last month as part of efforts to revive long-delayed talks with northern armed groups.

Mali was thrown into turmoil in 2012 when al Qaeda-linked Islamists took advantage of a Tuareg-led rebellion and seized control of the country's north before a French-led military operation, known as Serval, drove them back last year.— *Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 20 May, 2014

Yangon's real estate market cannot meet demands as number of foreign residents is growing fast

By Myint Win Thein

With Myanmar opening up to investment, more and more foreigners come to to tap the last frontier market. This is good news for the country and its people alike. However, the commercial hub Yangon, where most foreign investor set up their offices, neither has enough office space nor hotel rooms to accommodate all of them.

The influx of foreigners has caused steep demand for offices as well as residential property in Yangon. With no available space for offices and residence, foreign companies have to resort to residential properties in Yangon including villas and condominiums. As a result, rents for condos and apartments rose up dramatically and some experts are beginning to worry that this will hamper foreign investment.

To solve the problem, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is encouraging local companies as well as foreign companies to invest in the hotel sector. The government is also inviting foreign companies to develop hotels and office towers in Myanmar.

Although land prices in Yangon are higher than in most cities in the world, land is still available for foreign investors under the B.O.T system. Former ministry buildings are also still available in Yangon. Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar is building a US$440 million complex where once a ministry building was located. The first phase of the project includes a commercial center, a five-star hotel with 480 rooms, and a 27-story office building for lease.

Recently, the ground breaking ceremony for the Daewoo Amara Hotel was held in the former White Elephant Complex, formerly owned by a government ministry in Hline Township, Yangon. The 667-room hotel project is a joint venture between Daewoo International and Myanmar IGE Company. Such foreign joint-venture projects on land owned by government ministries will ease the problem in the near future.

Private companies are speeding up construction of new hotels and service apartments to meet the demand, but it will take time to successfully handle the situation.

Ko Sai Nge, who lived in a condo at the MWEA tower on Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, has now moved to a relatively small apartment in Sint Oo Tan Street in order to lease his condo apartment to foreigners who are working in Myanmar.

He said he was offered US$ 3,000 per month by Chinese citizens for his newly furnished and renovated condo apartment. But he is waiting for other foreigners who can pay him US$ 4,000 per month.

He said his condo apartment has a parking space, a phone line, internet access, one master bedroom and two bedrooms. At first he did not even consider moving to another place in order to lease his apartment until a rental agent urged him to do so. The agent told him that he could get as much as US$ 5,000 per month for his condo apartment.

Rents in Yangon are rising at unprecedented speed. Sakura Tower, located near the Sule Pagoda and across from the Sule Shangrila Hotel, is leasing its office rooms for about US$ 90 per square metre and some of its occupants moving to other cheaper locations where rents are only US$ 65 per square meter.

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.

C-in-C meets Minister of National Defence of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a Chinese delegation led by General Chang Wanquan, state councillor and minister of National Defence of the People's Republic of China, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday evening.

The Commander-in-Chief asserted that any actions that can harm peace and stability of neighbouring countries will not be allowed through national race armed groups in border region.

The visiting minister said China wants to see a lasting peace in border region.

MNA

C-in-C Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for photo together with Chinese delegation led by General Chang Wanquan.—MNA

Diplomacy Course opened

YANGON, 19 May — The Opening Ceremony of the Course in Diplomacy (3/2014) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry at 10 am today, with an opening address delivered by HE U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Course is aimed to enhance the ability and knowledge of the newly recruited junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The curriculum includes the subjects related to political and security matters, international and domestic economics, cultural and social matters, protocol, consular and legal matters, communication skills, administrative and budgetary matters, diplomacy and ASEAN related matters.

The period of the Course is 11 weeks and altogether 25 Heads of Branch/ Third Secretary will participate in the Course.—*MNA*

Strategic Direction

- To effectively implement the role of ASEAN Chair as prescribed by the ASEAN Charter;
- To play a leading role in fulfilling the objectives and vision of ASEAN.
- To enhance the centrality of ASEAN in cooperation withcountries around the world, international and regional organizations;
- To play an independence and active role in international and regional organizations in accordance with Myanmar Foreign Policy and its priorities.
- While promoting the region's interest in leading ASEAN, it will also be linked with the promotion of national interest of Myanmar.

FM sends felicitations to Timor-Leste

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May —On the occasion of the 12th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, which falls on 20 May 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jose Luis Guterres, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

MNA

Cooperatives Ministry disburses loans to cooperative societies under micro-credit scheme

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May —The Ministry of Cooperatives has handed over K 321.8 million on Monday to cooperatives societies in four townships which had paid off previous loans to the ministry and over K738.067 million to newly formed 44 cooperative societies under a micro credit scheme in the presence of Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

At a ceremony to promote development and socio-economy of rural areas held at the National Indoor Stadium No. 1 in Thingangyun Township, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan gave the loans to over 330 cooperative societies in Dawbon, Mayangon, Thongwa and Taikkyi townships.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President U Nyan Tun called on the people and officials of the ministry to cooperate with each other as part of efforts for improving the standard of living and reducing poverty.

During the ceremony, the Ministry of Cooperatives said it will also disburse agricultural loans amounted to K267 million and will sell 630 tractors to farmers in 44 townships in Yangon region through regional cooperative societies. The ministry is also planning to sell sewing machines, tricycle-motorized vehicles and 2,044 tools and machines worth K701 million to local people by installment.

As from October, 2012, the ministry has already disbursed over K145 billion to people under the microdot scheme to be able to use the loans as a capital.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun at ceremony to promote development and socio-economy of rural areas.—MNA

Meanwhile, the ministry has sold agricultural machinery, vehicles and machines worth K5 billlion to farmers and peoples by instalment.

The government made efforts for getting the loans from foreign countries and has been implementing the micro-credit scheme nation-wide.

MNA

ASLOM to discuss protection of migrant workers

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May— Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung highlighted the four strategic priorities under the ALM Work Programme, in his opening speech of the 10th ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting at MICC-II on Monday.

The priorities are legal foundation, institutional capacity, social partners and labour markets workplace development, and have been addressed to facilitate the implementation of the various labour sector areas in the region.

The ASLOM has the responsibility to monitor the progress of ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme, discuss how to measure the outcomes of it and implement the tasks of ASEAN Senior Labour Officials, given by the ASEAN Labour Ministers.

The director-general of the ministry said, "The affairs of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers, besides creating interest of workers in the ASEAN region would be discussed at ASLOM with 26 agendas."

"In addition, instruments on protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers are still being drawn. When the instruments come into effect, migrant workers will see the benefits," he said.

The essence of the overall objective of ASEAN cooperation under the framework of ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme (2010-2015) is the subject of the main theme of this year's ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting, "Enhancing Competitive Labour Force for Harmonious, Progressive and Prosperous Workplace".—*NLM*

Committee reviews constitution for amendments

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May —The meeting of the committee to review and redraft the table 1, 2 and 5 of the 2008 State Constitution was held in Nay Pyi Taw today.

It was attended by Chairman of the committee Union Minister for President's Office U Soe Thane, Vice-chairmen Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein and Union Minister U Hla Tun and regional ministers.

They reviewed 112 points of the sections of the state constitution. The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Two Chinese officials of copper...

(from page 1)

they were attacked with stones, catapults and burning wood by villagers from Sete, Mogyo Pyin and Ton Nay villages, forcing the team to return to Kyaukpyudine Village.

At about midnight, the villagers attacked the Basic Education Primary School, where police and town officials were stationed. Police tried to disperse them by firing rubber bullets, but had to withdraw.

During the attack, two policemen identified as Sein Myint and Kaung Myat Thu were injured and hospitalized, while twelve police motorcycles and five vehicles were destroyed, according to the Sagaing Region Government.

The Chinese were finally released at 4 pm on Monday, after the vice speaker of the regional parliament, regional ministers, the regional police chief, government officials and monks urged the villagers to solve the issue peacefully. They were later handed over to Wanbao Company, officials said.

MNA

Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—The Second Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 19 May 2014. The Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw delivered the opening statement.

Experts from ministries and Union Attorney General Office, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the representatives led by H.E Mr. Jun Shinml, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau and Ambassador in charge of UN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan attended the dialogue.

At the dialogue, both sides discussed and exchanged views on the progress made in Myanmar human rights situation, the situation of human rights in Japan and Myanmar-Japan cooperation in the field of human rights.—*MNA*

Sales of pulses and beans flat in Mandalay

Despite demand for pulses and beans from Yangon, the sales are flat in Mandalay and prices are dropping as the crops are brought to the local market from different regions of the country. Prices of sesame are stagnant on the market. Prices for peanuts have, however, been on the rise due to the demand from China. One viss of peanut fetches as much as K 1,700.

Although rice grown in the dry season is also sold on the markets, rice prices have risen in Mandalay.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Nokia to help foster Myanmar...

(from page 1)

Through the type of HERE business, Nokia will also further develop its location cloud to make it the leading source of location intelligence and experiences across many different operating systems, platforms and screens.

At the event, the official of Nokia talked about the update features of fiber, microwave, GSM/3 G and long-term evolution (LTE) known as 4G LTE on the market and a standard for wireless communication of high-speed date for mobile phones and data terminals, value added services and working relationship.

Raman Vattumalai, NSN Country Head of Myanmar said: "Our company has fully committed to support the Myanmar government to achieve the target of 70 to 80 per cent penetration by 2015, and we will recruit Myanmar fresh graduates and provide training to encourage the human resources development of the country." NSN, with headquarters in Finland's city of Espoo, operates in over 120 countries and had net sales of approximately 11.3 billion euros in 2013. After buying out of Siemens AG in 2013, NSN is now wholly owned by Nokia Corporation.

Trade value in April...

(from page 1)

amounted to US$139.25 million and the imports were at US$ 149.11 million, bringing the total trade value by vehicle to US$288.36 million.

The export value saw a decrease in April due to the decline in exports of peas and pulses, fishery products and livestock products by both ship and vehicle.

According to statistics, the imports, especially communication equipment and devices, computers and its accessories, vehicles and parts in April by both ship and car have seen a decrease though they are in high demand at home, said the Market Information and Research Division of the Ministry of Commerce.

The Commerce Journal, a weekly journal published by the Ministry of Commerce, meanwhile, urged traders and merchants to work trade through legal routes.

AT&T makes bet on video with $48.5 billion DirecTV bid

LOS ANGELES, 19 May — AT&T Inc plans to pay $48.5 billion to buy DirecTV, in the latest sign that the wireless industry and the US television market are set to converge as customers consume more video on their mobile devices.

The deal, announced on Sunday, highlights AT&T's pressing need for fresh avenues of growth beyond the maturing US cellular business, which has become increasingly competitive.

The combination with DirecTV, the No1 US satellite TV provider with 20 million customers, would beef up Dallas-based AT&T's packages of cellular, broadband, TV and fixed-line phone services.

For DirecTV, the deal will enable it to offer broadband Internet for the first time to its US customers, filling in a gap that had made the company vulnerable to cable rivals, which can provide Internet service through their networks.

The headquarters building of US satellite TV operator DirecTV is seen in Los Angeles, California on 18 May, 2014.—REUTERS

"It gives us the parts to fulfill a vision we have had for a couple of years, that is, the opportunity and the ability to take premium content and deliver premium content over multiple points for the customer, whether it be through a smartphone, through a tablet, or television or laptop," said AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson, speaking on a conference call.

Stephenson's counterpart at DirecTV, Mike White, will stay on to run the satellite television business, which will continue to be based outside Los Angeles in El Segundo, California.

AT&T currently offers a video service known as U-Verse and Stephenson said during a conference call the company would continue to offer it after the acquisition is completed. It expects the deal to close in about a year.

AT&T and DirecTV made their announcement just a few months after Comcast Corp offered $45 billion for Time Warner Cable Inc, a transaction that would create the leading US cable and broadband Internet powerhouse. The Comcast proposal is now awaiting regulatory approval.

Home prices drop in more Chinese cities

BEIJING, 19 May—China's property sector showed new signs of cooling in April, with more Chinese cities reporting month-on-month drops in prices and fewer cities reporting gains, official data showed on Sunday. Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities, new homes in eight cities saw month-on-month price declines in April, double of that for March, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement.

A total of 44 cities saw month-on-month price gains in new home prices last month, down from 56 for March and 57 for February, the NBS data showed. Among the 44 cities with rising new home prices, growth decelerated in 31 last month.—*Xinhua*

Foreign doctors, nurses in Saudi Arabia could take MERS global

NEW YORK , 19 May — The biggest risk that Middle East Respiratory Syndrome will become a global epidemic, ironically, may lie with globe-trotting healthcare workers.

From Houston to Manila, doctors and nurses are recruited for lucrative postings in Saudi Arabia, where MERS was first identified in 2012. Because the kingdom has stepped up hiring of foreign healthcare professionals in the last few years, disease experts said, there is a good chance the MERS virus will hitch a ride on workers as they return home.

"This is how MERS might spread around the world," said infectious disease expert Dr Amesh Adalja of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

It can take five to 14 days for someone infected with MERS to show symptoms, more than enough time for a contagious person to fly to the other side of the world without being detectable. Healthcare workers "are at extremely high risk of contracting MERS compared to the general public," Adalja said. The threat has attracted new attention with the confirmation of the first two MERS cases in the United States. Both are healthcare workers who fell ill shortly after leaving their work in Saudi hospitals and boarding planes bound west.

About one-third of the MERS cases treated in hospitals in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah were healthcare workers, according to the World Health Organization.

Despite the risk, few of the healthcare workers now in, or planning to go to, Saudi Arabia are having second thoughts about working there, according to nurses, doctors and recruiters interviewed by Reuters.

Michelle Tatro, 28, leaves next week for the kingdom, where she will work as an open-heart-surgery nurse. Tatro, who typically does 13-week stints at hospitals around the United States, said her family had sent her articles about MERS, but she wasn't worried.—*Reuters*

Pfizer raises bid for AstraZeneca to $117 billion

The Pfizer logo is seen at their world headquarters in New York on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 19 May — US drugmaker Pfizer said on Sunday it had raised its offer for British rival AstraZeneca to 69.3 billion pounds ($116.6 billion), or 55 pounds a share, and would walk away if AstraZeneca did not accept it.

But the latest bid was still viewed as falling short of properly valuing AstraZeneca and the company is likely to publicly reject it as early as Monday, according to the *Financial Times*, which cited people familiar with the matter.

Pfizer wants to create the world's largest drugs company, with a headquarters in New York but a tax base in Britain, where corporate tax rates are lower than in the United States. It has met entrenched opposition from AstraZeneca, as well as many politicians and scientists who fear cuts to jobs and research.

The US group said its new offer was final and could not be increased. It said it would not make a hostile offer directly to AstraZeneca shareholders and would only proceed with an offer with the recommendation of the AstraZeneca board.

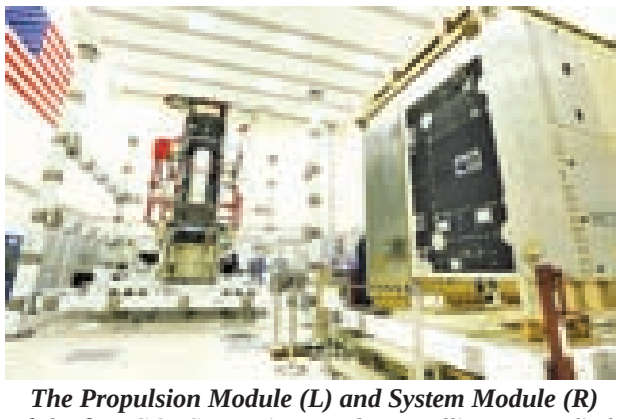
Pfizer also increased the cash element in its offer to 45 percent, with AstraZeneca shareholders set to receive 1.747 shares in the enlarged company for each of their AstraZeneca shares and 24.76 pounds in cash.

The new offer represents a 15 percent premium over the current value of a cash-and-share approach made on 2 May — worth 50 pounds a share at the time - which was swiftly rejected by AstraZeneca.

Nonetheless, two analysts — Raghuram Selvaraju of Aegis Capital and ISI Group's Mark Schoenebaum — said they believed the sweetened offer would boost Pfizer's earnings quickly, with Schoenebaum predicting an uplift from 2015.

Reuters

Lockheed starts final assembly of new US weather satellite



The Propulsion Module (L) and System Module (R) of the first GOES-R series weather satellite are readied for integration and testing at Lockheed Martin's clean room near Denver in this Lockheed Martin handout photo taken on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

LITTLETON, (Colorado), 19 May—Lockheed Martin Corp has begun final assembly of a new US weather satellite that will allow the US government to provide far earlier warnings about potentially deadly tornadoes and solar flares when it is launched in early 2016.

Lockheed this week powered on a key part of the satellite for the first time in a special "clean room" at a sprawling facility south of Denver, where engineers are assembling the satellite and testing components before the whole spacecraft moves to environmental and thermal vacuum testing in July. The company won a $1.09 billion contract in 2009 to build two 30-foot, 14,000-pound Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series (GOES-R) satellites for NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which have since exercised options for two additional satellites.

The first of the new satellites is on track for delivery to the government by October 2015, followed by launch into geosynchronous orbit about 35,000 km (22,300 mi) above the Earth in early 2016, Steve Jolly, chief engineer for the GOES-R programme, told *Reuters* during the first media tour of the cavernous "high-bay" room where the satellite is being built.

To minimize any debris, visitors and workers wear special coveralls, head bonnets and slippers over their shoes, while fans blow air down through the room to reduce the possibility that even a stray bit of dust could harm the performance of the sophisticated cameras on board once they get out to space.

The GEOS-R satellites are being assembled at a Lockheed facility tucked away in a canyon south of Denver where the company built the nation's first intercontinental ballistic missile in 1955, and continues to work on a range of other military and intelligence satellites today.—*Reuters*

Lockheed eyes avatars, 3D printing to lower satellite costs

LITTLETON, (Colorado), 19 May — Lockheed Martin Corp, the Pentagon's biggest supplier, is ramping up its use of 3D printing and virtual reality simulators to drive down the huge costs of producing national security satellites and safeguard profits in the face of reductions in US defence spending.

The company expects to finalize a government contract to buy two new missile-warning satellites in coming weeks for 40 percent less than projected by Pentagon cost estimators due to changes in its manufacturing methods, plant closures and layoffs. Analysts say the deal will be worth around $2 billion.

"We're trying to find new ways of doing things. We're leaving no stone unturned," Mark Valerio, vice president and general manager of military space for Lockheed, told *Reuters* in an interview at the company's facility south of Denver.

Valerio said Lockheed was pushing hard to continue lowering costs so it could maintain strong operating profits even as lower military spending squeezed revenues. "We haven't hit a wall yet," he said. "But that's when you bring in technology."

He said Lockheed had reached agreement with the Air Force on the 5th and 6th Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) missile-warning satellites, and hoped to finalize the details by early July, the company's first confirmation a contract is near.

Last year, Lockheed signed a deal with the Air Force for a separate programme to build two military communications satellites for $2.2 billion, $1 billion less than initially expected.

Lockheed, which built the first *Titan* intercontinental ballistic missile at the Littleton, Colorado, site in 1955, and Boeing Co have long dominated the US government military space market. But the weapons makers are scrambling to cut costs and hold onto their share of the military satellite market, given a downturn in US military spending, and efforts by the US Air Force to bring in new competitors.

The cost of military satellite programmes has begun to edge lower in recent years, but most bigger satellites still cost upwards of $1 billion to build since it is difficult to achieve the economies of scale seen on weapons with large volumes.

Those costs have driven the Air Force to study smaller satellites that would be less complex to build and cheaper to launch, an area that is drawing interest from smaller companies that have long been shut out of the lucrative market.

Lockheed executives say additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, could trim the weight of key components on spacecraft, allowing the government to pack on more sensors, or launch satellites on smaller, less expensive rockets.

Lockheed engineers are evaluating which satellite components could be made with an in-house 3D printer instead of sending specifications to outside suppliers. That could save money and bring more manufacturing back to Lockheed, which relies on suppliers to build about 60 percent of its satellites. The new manufacturing process allows Lockheed to use fine titanium dust to build lighter-weight parts than possible with older machining techniques and reduces waste, said Dennis Little, vice president of production.

Valerio said he was confident the government would eventually approve use of 3D parts on the new SBIRS and other military satellites, noting no major concerns had been raised. "We'll get there; it's not that hard," he said.

Lockheed's interplanetary Juno aircraft, which was launched in 2011 to carry out a NASA mission over Jupiter, carries a part made with 3D printing, and similar parts are used on the company's revamped A2100 commercial satellites.

Valerio said Lockheed was also working on using the new manufacturing technology to build propulsion tanks. "In the next decade, we will completely change the way a satellite is designed and built. We will print a satellite," he said. "It's real. We're flying it on satellites now."—*Reuters*

Facebook developing video-chat app to rival Snapchat

A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013.
REUTERS

NEW YORK, 19 May — Facebook Inc is developing its own video-chat app, known internally as Slingshot, after its failed attempt to acquire mobile messaging startup Snapchat, the *Financial Times* reported on Sunday. Facebook has been working for several months on the planned video-chat app, which would allow users to send short video messages using a touch-screen, the *FT* said, citing people familiar with its plans.

Slingshot could be launched this month, the paper cited one source as saying, while noting that Facebook might ultimately decide not to proceed with the launch of the app.

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg has been overseeing the "top-secret" project after the social network company was unable to win Snapchat's creators, Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy, with its $3 billion takeover offer late last year, the *FT* said.

Snapchat, popular among teenagers, allows users to send smartphone photos that automatically disappear after a few seconds.

Reuters

Google said to be in talks to buy streaming-video site Twitch

NEW YORK, 19 May — Google Inc was said to be in talks to acquire video-streaming service Twitch, according to a report in *The Wall Street Journal* on Sunday.

Officials at Google and Twitch declined to comment on the matter.

The report said the size of the deal could not be learned and discussions between the parties were at an early stage. In addition, the company was said to be looking at raising additional funding instead of selling itself.

A Google logo is seen at the garage where the company was founded on Google's 15th anniversary in Menlo Park, California on 26 Sept, 2013.
REUTERS

In September, Twitch raised $20 million in funding from Thrive Capital, WestSummit Capital and Take-Two Interactive Software Inc, among other parties.

Reuters

People sit around the largest known dinosaur fossil, in Chubut Province, Argentina, on 17 May, 2014. According to Argentina's Telam news agency, the discovery will allow to solve the questions about the climatic condition in the Patagonia millions of years ago. — XINHUA

SpaceX Dragon splashes down to Earth from space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 19 May — A *Dragon* cargo ship owned by California-based Space Exploration Technologies ended a 28-day stay at the International Space Station on Sunday, parachuting into the Pacific Ocean. Space Station commander Steven Swanson used a robotic crane to release the Dragon capsule, built and operated by the company more commonly known as SpaceX, at 9:26 am ET (1326 GMT) as the two vehicles soared in orbit 266 miles (428 km) above Earth.

"Thanks to everybody who worked this *Dragon* mission. It went very well," Swanson radioed to flight directors at NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston after *Dragon* left the station's orbit.

About five and a half hours later, the capsule made a parachute descent into the Pacific, splashing down about 300 miles (482 km) west of Mexico's Baja California peninsula.

"Splashdown is confirmed! Welcome home, *Dragon*," SpaceX posted on Twitter.

The capsule returned with more than 3,500 pounds (1,586 kg) of science samples for analysis on Earth, along with equipment no longer needed aboard the space station and spacesuit components in need of refurbishment.

A recovery ship will retrieve the capsule and bring it to a port near Los Angeles.

Dragon arrived at the space station on 20 April, with a delivery of food, supplies and science experiments for the crew, a pair of legs for the experimental humanoid robot aboard and a new high-definition video camera.

The mission marked the third of 12 under SpaceX's $1.6 billion contract with NASA for space station cargo runs.

The company also is vying against Boeing and privately-owned Sierra Nevada Corp, for a related NASA project to develop space taxis to ferry astronauts to and from the space station.

Reuters

The SpaceX Dragon commercial cargo spacecraft is grappled to Canadarm2 at the International Space Station in this NASA picture taken on 20 April, 2014.
REUTERS

Cambodian defence minister flies to Myanmar for ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting

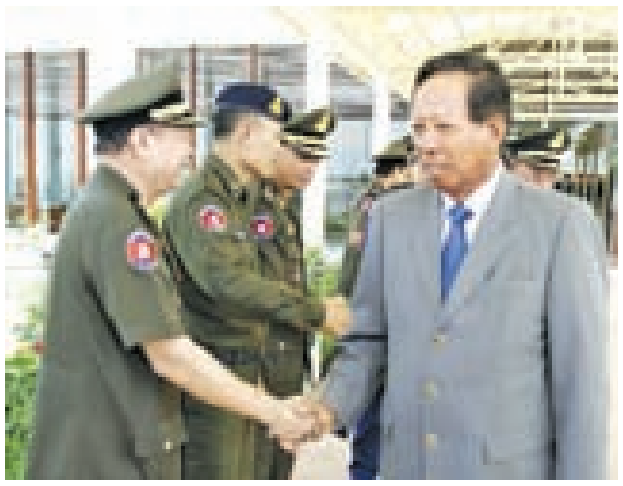
PHNOM PENH,19 May — Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh flew to Nay Pyi Taw, the capital city of Myanmar, on Monday to attend the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (8th ADMM) to be held from Monday to Wednesday.

"The meeting will serve as a follow-up to the 7th ADMM in Brunei last May,"Nem Sowath, chief of the Cambodian Defence Ministry's Policy and Foreign Affairs Department, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport before departure."The ASEAN defence ministers will also exchange views on security and defence issues in the region and the world."

The meeting will adopt concept documents on a three-year work programme (2014-2016) and the establishment of a direct communications link among ASEAN defence ministers.

At the end of the meeting, ASEAN defence ministers will issue a joint declaration on "defence cooperation towards a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN community".

Founded in 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—*Xinhua*



Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh (R) shakes hands with his military officials at Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 19 May, 2014.
XINHUA

*Russian anti-surface destroyer Bystry arrives at a naval port in Shanghai, east China, on 18 May, 2014. Six ships from the Russian Pacific Fleet will take part in the "Joint Sea-2014" drill in the northern part of the East China Sea between 20 and 26 May. A total of 14 surface ships, two submarines, nine fixed-wing warplanes, six shipboard helicopters and two operational detachment-alphas (ODAs) have rallied in Shanghai on Sunday. This will be the third such exercise after joint drills off the coast of Russia's Far East in July 2013 and the Yellow Sea in April 2012. —*XINHUA

Forces recover huge cache of arms in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 19 May— Paramilitary troops recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition in Pakistan's southwest Chaman district on Monday morning, local media reported. Quoting unnamed sources from Paramilitary troops Frontier Corps (FC), local Urdu TV channel Samaa said that the forces seized a truck carrying explosive materials on an intelligence tip off in Chaman area, a district in the country's southwest Balochistan Province.

The explosives were being brought into the province from some unknown place, said the report. The troops recovered 170 bags of explosive materials, 200 remote controlled detonators and over 100 primacords from the custody of the militants.

Another 45 bombs, 100 guns and 135 pistols were also recovered during the operation by FC, said the report. The sources from FC were quoted as saying that the militants were planning to take the lives of innocent and vulnerable people but the intelligence apparatus timely foiled their plans.

The truck driver was arrested and shifted to some unknown place for investigations. Balochistan has been under the grip of violence for more than a decade. Militants including Taliban and separatist groups usually smuggle weapons from Afghanistan and use them in attacking people and blowing up gas pipelines, power pylons and railway tracks in the province.—*Xinhua*

Japan, US resume TPP talks as ministers gather in Singapore

*US Trade Representative Michael Froman (L) and Akira Amari, Japan's minister in charge of Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, shake hands before starting their talks in Singapore on 19 May, 2014. —*KYODO NEWS

SINGAPORE, 19 May — Japan and the United States resumed their discussions over outstanding bilateral issues related to a Pacific free trade agreement Monday in Singapore, where ministers from the 12 negotiating members are gathering to seek further progress.

The ministers, however, are not expected to announce a broad agreement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership at the two-day meeting through Tuesday. It is seen as an opportunity for the countries to assess how much progress has been made and to scrutinize the current situation, negotiation sources said.

The meeting is aimed at "accelerating bilateral talks with each country and evaluating progress made so far," Akira Amari, Japan's minister in charge of TPP negotiations, told reporters before holding talks with US Trade Representative Michael Froman on the sidelines of a TPP plenary meeting.

"It's important to have a sense of urgency" to strike a broad agreement "so (the TPP) won't be left with nowhere to go," Amari said. Amari and Froman met for the first time since they held marathon talks in April, when the two sides moved closer over how to deal with Japanese tariffs on key farm products and US auto tariffs, the biggest sticking points. Japan will also hold bilateral meetings with six other countries including Singapore, according to government officials.

Kyodo News

Turkey keeps three suspects in custody in mine disaster probe

SOMA, 19 May — A Turkish court ordered three suspects to be kept in custody on Sunday on a provisional charge of "causing multiple deaths" in last week's mine disaster, as the last of the 301 victims were buried.

Of the remaining 22 people detained earlier, six suspects have been released but could face prosecution later. Questioning of the other 16 people was continuing.

The detentions came five days after a fire sent deadly carbon monoxide coursing through the mine in the western Turkish town of Soma, causing the county's worst ever industrial accident.

The disaster has sparked protests across Turkey, directed at mine owners accused of ignoring safety for profit, and at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government, seen as too close to industry bosses and insensitive in its response. An initial report on the possible causes of the accident indicated the fire may have been triggered by coal heating up after it came into contact with the air, Prosecutor Bekir Sahiner told reporters outside the Soma courthouse, rejecting initial reports that a transformer explosion was responsible.

"The crime of which the suspects are accused is causing multiple deaths and injuries due to negligence," he said. The prosecutor did not identify the three suspects kept in custody but media reports said they were the plant manager and two mine engineers.—*Reuters*

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MV KOTARAKAN VOY NO (RKN373)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (RKN373) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (104)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV KOTARESTU VOY NO (RSU385)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU385) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (237)

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

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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;

(a) The submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 26.05.2014 from 15.05.2014,

(b) 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.

(c) Only the companies that submitted 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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
   (a) Certificate of incorporation
   (b) Memorandum of association
   (c) Articles of association
   (d) Company profile
   (e) Financial statements for last three years
4. 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.
5. Applicants shall be the company running jet fuel distribution at least three International airports in three different countries.
6. Documents and detailed information regarding EOI are available at http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement and applicants can personally contact jetfueltender@gmail.com and the 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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Aung Naing Moe,Advocate
May Phyo Kin, H.G.P
For Allcor Inc.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph:09732200223
Dated:20 May 2014

Taleban key commander detained in E Afghan province

KABUL, 19 May—Afghan forces captured a Taleban key commander in the eastern Logar province on Monday, Interior Ministry said in a statement released here.

"Units of police and army during joint operations in Saydan area outside Provincial capital Pul-e-Alam 60 km south of Kabul captured Taleban key commander Mullah Abdullah on Monday morning," the statement said. A walkie-talkie and three motorbikes were also recovered from his hideout, the statement added.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Major military exercise testing New Zealand armoured units

WELLINGTON, 19 May —New Zealand and United States troops are using one of New Zealand's biggest military exercises to test new equipment in its armoured units, the exercise commander said on Monday.

More than 600 soldiers and 60 officers were taking part in Exercise Alam Halfa on the Waiouru training ground at the center of the North Island, Lieutenant Colonel Sholto Stephens said.

"Each day is different and they are learning how to utilize their skills in different situations and game plays," said Stephens said in a statement.

The list of tasks was extensive with the troops and equipment being put through their paces in grueling battle simulations that test agility and capability in a life-like scenario, he said.

The exercise was being watched by observers from the US Marines and US Army who debriefed command each day and advised on what could be done better.

Xinhua

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U Than Maung, *Advocate*
For **Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc.**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**
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Dated 20 May 2014

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(7.4.2014)

Reg. No. 4/4165/2014
(9.4.2014)

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U Than Maung, *Advocate*
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utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 20 May 2014

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Dated 20 May 2014

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utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 20 May 2014

"Godzilla" dominates North American box office

LOS ANGELES, 19 May — Monster movie "Godzilla" trampled its rivals at US and Canadian theaters this weekend, raking in a massive 93.2 million US dollars, far ahead the second-place finisher comedy "Neighbours."

The monster film opened in a monstrous start with 38.5 million dollars revenue at 3,952 locations on Friday for Warner Bros and Legendary Pictures, becoming the biggest opening of the year ahead of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" (36.9 million dollars) and "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" (35.2 million dollars).

"Godzilla" delivered the second largest opening weekend of 2014 to date, as it debuted just below the 95 million dollars start of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" and a little bit ahead of the 91.6 million dollars start of "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," according to Rentrak.

At a budget of 160 million dollars, directed by Gareth Edwards, a young British director, "Godzilla" earned a "B+" on CinemaScore. About 72 percent of critics on Rotten Tomatoes recommended it. The audience breakdown for the film skewed towards moviegoers over the age of 25 (60 percent) and towards male moviegoers (58 percent). "Godzilla" is doing well in IMAX theaters. The giant lizard has gathered 14.1 million from 352 IMAX locations for the first weekend. That represented 15.1 percent of the film's overall gross this weekend.

Seth Rogen and Zac Efron's "Neighbors" earned 26 million dollars to take the second-place in its second week in theaters, dropping from the first place with a steep 47 percent drop. " Neighbors" has grossed 91.5 million dollars through 10 days of release. Sony's "Amazing Spider-Man 2" fell 53 percent in its third weekend, earning an estimated 16.8 million for a total gross of 172.2 million dollars.

Xinhua

Stallone's "arthritic" action heroes roll their tanks through Cannes

Cast members Sylvester Stallone (L), Dolph Lundgren (2ndL), Harrison Ford (2ndR) and Jason Statham pose on a tank as they arrive on the Croisette to promote the film "The Expendables 3" during the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 18 May , 2014.—REUTERS

CANNES, (France), 19 May — Tanks rolled down the beachfront in Cannes on Sunday, as Sylvester Stallone led an invasion of action stars "with arthritis" to publicise "The Expendables 3".

Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mel Gibson waved at fans from three tanks that drove slowly down the main boulevard in the French Riviera town where the international film festival is in its fifth day.

Later, when the cast of the film walked the red carpet at the main festival venue, they held up signs saying "Bring back our girls" in support of the campaign to free the Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by Islamist militants.

The film, which is not in competition, also features Harrison Ford, Antonio Banderas, Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren and Wesley Snipes and the cast was asked by reporters to describe just what makes a good action star.

"You have to be incredibly intelligent, handsome, sexy, good teeth, high IQ, a lot of hair ..." Stallone joked.

"What makes the audience like a person, it's not a matter of muscles," he told a news conference.

"There's something that's almost intangible and I don't know what it is, but I know it's very rare because there have only been about 15 action heroes, real serious ones, in history."

Stallone, one of the film's writers, said it took three movies to get the "Expendables" formula just right, judging the first as being too violent and the second too soft.

"I believe we finally got it right in the third one - kind of like marriage."

Reuters

GENERAL

Convicted rogue trader Kerviel arrested in southern France

MENTON, 18 May — Convicted rogue trader Jerome Kerviel was arrested in southern France late on Sunday to serve a three-year jail sentence in a high-profile case he has depicted as one individual's struggle against high finance.

Kerviel, 37, has spent years fighting charges stemming from massive market bets that brought French bank Societe Generale close to collapse in 2008. He was convicted of breach of trust, forgery and fraudulent data manipulation.

For weeks, the former trader had been marching to Paris from Rome where he met the pope earlier this year, in protest "against the tyranny of financial markets". He had been followed by a crowd of reporters and live television crews.

He had been required by French judges to report to a French police station by midnight to start serving his sentence, which was confirmed by France's highest appeals court in March.

*Journalists surround convicted rogue trader Jerome Kerviel (L) as he arrives on the Franco-Italian border in Menton on 18 May, 2014.—*REUTERS

On Sunday afternoon, Kerviel threatened to stay in Italy and appealed to France's president to intervene in his case. But he changed tack later on, crossed the border a little before midnight and was swiftly arrested by French police. "The fight will go on. Whatever happens, Societe Generale and finance in general will continue to hear from me," Kerviel said a few hours before his arrest.

Kerviel has never denied masking his 50 billion-euro ($68.52 billion) positions, but he says his bosses knew what he was doing. The courts, however, have each time backed SocGen's insistence that the trader acted alone.

In March, France's highest appeal court upheld his three-year jail term. But it quashed 4.9 billion euros in civil damages that judges had ordered Kerviel to pay to compensate SocGen for its losses when the bank unwound the trader's positions in the midst of the financial crisis.

Over the weekend, Kerviel appealed to French President Francois Hollande to give immunity to unnamed witnesses he said would be willing to testify in his favor. He claimed he was not guilty and that his criminal conviction was unfair.

The French president's office has only replied that if Kerviel asked for presidential grace, his request would be examined according to usual procedures. Kerviel rejected that offer, saying it would imply an admission of guilt on his part. — *Reuters*

Revising WWII results "unacceptable," Putin says ahead of China visit

SHANGHAI, 19 May — Russia's President Vladimir Putin has stated on the eve of his visit to China that the two countries jointly oppose any attempts to "revise the results" of World War II, the Kremlin said on Monday.

"We share an idea that it is unacceptable to revise the results of the war, as the consequences will be extremely grave," Putin told Chinese reporters before traveling to Shanghai to attend a summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, slated to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday.

He was responding to a question about joint Russian-Chinese efforts to oppose the attempts aimed at challenging the results of the war, something that China has repeatedly accused Japanese government of doing amid a heated territorial dispute over the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

In a transcript of his remarks posted online by the Kremlin, Putin made no direct mention of Japan in his response to the question.

Instead, the Russian leader cited the "tragic events" unfolding in neighbouring Ukraine "where violent neo-Nazis are waging a real campaign of terror against civilians."

"We will certainly continue to oppose attempts to falsify history, heroize Nazis and their accomplices, blacken the memory and reputation of heroic liberators," he said.

Putin noted that in 2015, Russia and China will jointly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the war's end by organizing a series of events.

Regarding the Pacific phase of the war involving Japan, Putin recalled how Russia helped liberate northeastern China from Japanese control.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(20-5-2014,Tuesday)

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

6:30 am
2. The mirror images of the Musical Oldies

7:00 am
3. News/ Weather Report

7:40 am
4. Documentary

8:00 am
5. News/ International News

8:30 am
6. India Drama Series

9:00 am
7. News/ International News

9:30am
8. **Documentary**

10:15 am
9. TV Drama Series

11:35 am
10. Tamyethnar Takwetsar

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

12:25 pm
12. Myanmar Video

2:45 pm
13. Traditional Boxing

3:15 pm
14. Documentary

4:00 pm
15. News/Weather Report

4:25 pm
16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Botany)

5:00 pm
17. News

5:30 pm
18. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
19. News/ Weather Report

6:20 pm
20. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

6:50 pm
21. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
22. News

7:20 pm
23. TV Drama Series

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

8:35 pm
25. Documentary

8:50 pm
26. Hit Songs of Star

9:00 pm
27. News
28. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-5-14 07:00am~ 21-5-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe
* World News
* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
* Local News
* Shrinking Footprints
* World News
* Sticky Shan Snack
* Local News
* Myanma Traditional String Puppetry
* World News
* Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
* Local News
* To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Episode-2)
* World News
* Sagaing: Gold Leaf
* Local News
* Unique Art of Stucco Work
* World News
* Famous pagodas of Sagaing
* Local News
* Food Trip (Episode-2)
* World News
* In The Studio : May Phyu Phyu
* Local News
* The Art of Making Glaze Ware
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass "Caricature"
* Local News
* Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-1)
* World News
* Myanmar Movies Review "Satan Dancer"

Novak Djokovic of Serbia holds the trophy after winning the men's singles final match against Rafael Nadal of Spain at the Rome Masters tennis tournament on 18 May, 2014. — REUTERS

Djokovic throws down gauntlet to Nadal with Rome win

ROME , 19 May — Novak Djokovic laid down the gauntlet ahead of Roland Garros when he came from a set down to dismantle claycourt king Rafael Nadal in the Italian Open final on Sunday.

The Serb's 4-6 , 6-3 , 6-3 victory was his fourth successive victory over Nadal but only his fourth on clay in their 41-match head-to-head series dating back to 2006.

After a slow start in which he twice dropped serve, Djokovic took control of the baseline rallies and finished the match with a flurry of precision groundstrokes that had Nadal reeling.

"Beating Rafa on clay is definitely a confidence booster," Djokovic, who claimed his third Rome title and the 44th of his career, told reporters.

"Let's hope it's something I can take into Roland Garros."

Beating Nadal in the French capital is a different proposition altogether but the way Djokovic managed to dominate the Spanish world No1 augurs well for his chances of completing his career grand slam next month.

He has won eight of the last nine sets they have contested.

"It's been a great week considering where I was a few weeks ago with the wrist injury," said an emotional Djokovic, who was making his comeback in Rome after injuring himself in the Monte Carlo Masters last month and missing the Madrid Masters.

"I tried to be aggressive from the beginning to the end. It didn't work at the start but I didn't change the game plan and I found the right rhythm and everything started going in."—*Reuters*

The New Light of Myanmar

Japan wallop Jordan to book spot in World Cup

Ho Chi Minh City, 19 May — Reigning World Cup champion Japan thrashed Jordan 7-0 on Sunday to book a spot in the semifinals at Women's Asian Cup and an automatic berth at next year's World Cup in Canada. Midfielders Emi Nakajima and Mizuho Sakaguchi both scored a brace and Japan, who led 2-0 at halftime at Binh Duong Stadium, piled on five goals after the break to demoralize Jordan in their final match of Group A.

"The main point is we have booked a spot in the World Cup. We'll aim for the title from now," said Japan coach Norio Sasaki. "Now we want to continue to keep in good form for our next match," he said.

Kyodo News

Midfielder Emi Nakajima (L) scores Japan's second goal in the first half of a Women's Asian Cup Group A soccer match against Jordan at the Women's Asian Cup at Binh Duong Stadium in Vietnam on 18 May, 2014. — Kyodo News

Azarenka out of French Open due to foot injury

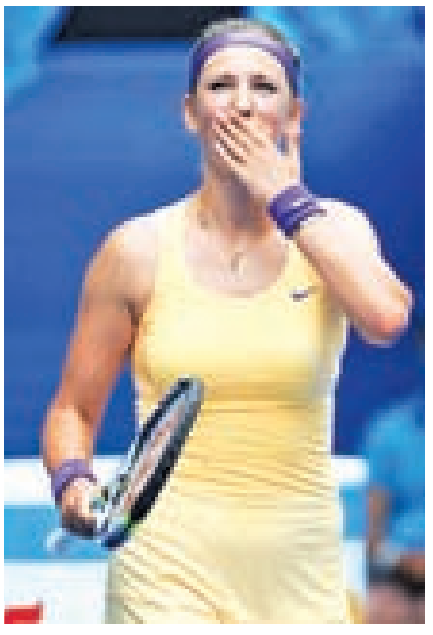
Wellington, 19 May — World number five Victoria Azarenka has withdrawn from the French Open as she continues to recover from a foot injury that forced her earlier withdrawals from tournaments in Doha, Miami, Madrid and Rome.

"Unfortunately I will not be able to compete in Roland Garros this year," the two-time Australian Open champion wrote on her Twitter page.

"Working hard on my recovery and getting back on court."

Azarenka has battled an injury to her left foot for more than two months, playing just one match — a loss to American Lauren Davis in her opening encounter at Indian Wells in early March.

Her foot problem flared up at the Australian Open in January, where she was the two-time defending champion, though was beaten by Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in the quarter-finals.



Victoria Azarenka

The French Open begins on Sunday and runs until 8 June . World number one Serena Williams is the defending women's champion.

Reuters

Williams beat Errani to win Italian Open title

Serena Williams win her third Italian Open title on Sunday.

Rome, 19 May — Top ranked Serena Williams beat 10th seed Sara Errani 6-3, 6-0 to win her third Italian Open title on Sunday.

Williams thwarted Errani's bid to become the first Italian to win the tournament in nearly 30 years by quickly taking control of both sets.

Errani appeared to have suffered a left thigh problem, and left the court to have her thigh bandaged while trailing 5-3 in the opening set.

"Sara played really well in the first set. She was doing everything right and I could tell she had obviously improved since our last meeting in Paris last year," Williams said.

"It was unfortunate she got injured in the last game of the set, but overall I thought she was playing really well out there," she added.

Williams also won in Rome in 2002 and last year, before she went on to win the French Open on both occasions.

Xinhua

Lampard named England vice-captain in Brazil

London, 19 May — Frank Lampard will be England's vice-captain at next month's World Cup in Brazil, manager Roy Hodgson said on Sunday.

The 35-year-old Chelsea midfielder, who has played 103 times for his country and skippered the team six times, was chosen as Steven Gerrard's deputy ahead of striker Wayne Rooney.

"Frank's been the vice-captain all along in Steven's absences, which I think has been twice," Hodgson told the FA website. "He's stepped up quite brilliantly."

"I've always thought that he was going to be a key member of this 23 because of his experience and what he brings to the team apart from pure footballing ability."

"He brings a lot of other things to us in terms of his leadership qualities and characteristics."

England have friendlies against Peru, Ecuador and Honduras before starting their World Cup campaign against Italy on 14 June. They also play Uruguay and Costa Rica in Group D. — *Reuters*

England's Frank Lampard

Todd clinches first PGA Tour victory in style

Cary, (North Carolina), 19 May — A brilliant left-handed recovery shot helped American Brendon Todd to his first PGA Tour title, a two-stroke victory at the $6.9 million HP Byron Nelson Championship in Texas on Sunday.

Todd, who had never finished better than sixth on tour, displayed impressive poise and a sizzling short game to card a bogey-free four-under-par 66 at the Four Seasons TPC in Irving.

He finished at 14-under 266, while Canadian Mike Weir (67), without a win since 2007, claimed second place on 12-under.

Todd collected $1.24 million and an invitation to next year's Masters, less than two hours down the road from where he went to college at the University of Georgia in Athens.

"I thought I could win on the PGA Tour. It's taken a while but now that I've won it's a dream come true," the 28-year-old told reporters.

"I'm really excited, the relief I finally have a chance to play the PGA Tour for multiple years (but) number one (is) going to Augusta."

Todd hit a number of good shots, including a bunker shot he holed at the par-three second, but none was more memorable than his second shot at the par-three 13th.

After yanking his tee shot 20 yards left of the hole, he was stymied by a tree, so the right-hander instead chipped his second shot left-handed.

He made near perfect contact and his ball trundled down to within seven feet of the hole, from where he sank the putt for an unlikely par.

"I just took my four-iron and just hit it with the back of the club," he said.

"It just ran down there perfect. I didn't care where it went. I just wanted to get it down near the hole."

Buoyed by the reprieve, Todd parred his way home, although victory was not assured until he drilled a 15-foot par putt at the 17th and then avoided water with his tee shot at the last.

"There were so many up-and-downs on the back nine but that putt on 17 was huge. It allowed me to play a little more conservatively on 18. I couldn't even explain how (nervous) I felt on the back nine today.

"I made one double-bogey in the first round and after that absolutely scored my pants off. I have a great short game and even I'll say it was amazing this week."

Weir, meanwhile, recorded his best finish since 2010. The 2003 Masters champion was the only one to exert any pressure on Todd on the back nine as one player after another fell away.

Reuters

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