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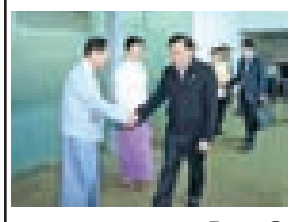

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Preservation of colonial buildings in Yangon

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Participants of UPWC-NCCT meeting hope to conclude second draft single text document at Thursday's meeting

Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, General Secretary of KNU.

Dr Salai Hlyan Hmon Sar Khaung of the Chin National Front.

By *Ye Myint*

"More trust could be built between the two sides by a series of meetings seeking compromise on a single text document for the nationwide ceasefire agreement," said U Hla Maung Shwe of Myanmar Peace Centre on Wednesday.

Giving an interview to media after a first-day single text meeting between Union Peace-Making Work Committee and National Ceasefire Coordination Team-NCCT, he expressed his willingness for political dialogue before the end of this year. Under a proposal to conclude drafting the single text document this July, both sides paid more attention on completion of the document but points temporarily agreed at Wednesday's meeting have to be submitted to the leaders of both sides, he added.

Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Lt-Gen Thein Htay and Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn were among the attendees from UPWC led by Union Minister U Aung Min. An eight-member team of NCCT formed with 16 ethnic armed groups was led by Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, general secretary of KNU. Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win asserted in his briefing to media at Myanmar Peace Centre that hosted UPWC-NCCT's single text meeting that both sides reached agreements over a use of terminology that made disputes between the two sides before and most of the points facing both sides difficult to accept.

Col Khun Okkar, chairman of Pa-O National Liberation Organization, who is also a member of NCCT said Wednesday's meeting focused on more detail about vocabularies stated in the points agreed last April meeting. The discussion has reached Chapter 3 of the document in which there are seven chapters and it is expected to conclude discussions on the remaining chapters at the following meeting, he voiced.

Col Khun Okkar, chairman of Pa-O National Liberation Organization.

U Hla Maung Shwe of the Myanmar Peace Centre.

Dr Salai Hlyan Hmon Sar Khaung, another member of NCCT and also the head of Chin National Front, defined Wednesday's meeting as a more constructive discussion seeing progress in building mutual understanding.

Discussions on the detailed principles covered the government-proposed "Three Main National Causes" and a genuine federal union based on democracy, equality and self-determination that ethnic armed groups called for.

UPWC and NCCT launched the two-day talks to discuss a first draft single text document for a nationwide ceasefire at Myanmar Peace Centre on 5 April.

Should no consensus be reached at the end of the two-day meeting on Thursday, the talks will be extended until Friday, officials said.

***The number of species of orchids has been declining in Myanmar. According to horticulturists, two rare species, the Rainbow Orchid (Paphiopedilum wardii) and the Hirsute Paphiopedilum (Paphiopedilum villosum) are completely extinct in Myanmar. According to the Myanmar Forest Department statistics, there are over 840 species in Myanmar.—*PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Marble sculptors to urge Ministry of Mines to ban illegal marble mining

www.panoramio.com

YANGON, 21 May — A marble sculptors' group in Mandalay is planning to lodge a complaint to the Ministry of Mines about illegal marble mining in Madaya, Mandalay Region.

Local marble sculptors are experiencing job shortages as Chinese nationals,who have obtained the right to mine from locals, are exploiting the resources for the Chinese market.

Officials said that the locals have only leased the blocks and are therefore not allowed to sell the mines, but must return them to the ministry if they do not want to continue work there, according to the Mining Law.

Illegal sales of blocks to Chinese are, however, rampant and the result is the destruction of the local, formerly huge job market for sculptors, a marble sculptor said, adding that the marble stones are all being sent to China for sculpting.

The foreign miners started to buy mining blocks at Yechantaung and Myaingtaung areas from local miners in early March, according to a local sculptor.

NLM

High Level Advocacy Workshop on International Disaster Law organized

High Level Advocacy Workshop on International Disaster Law in progress.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—The natural disaster management law was enacted on 31 July 2013 for effectively carry out natural disaster management in the nation, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the High Level Advocacy Workshop on International Disaster Law at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning.

The Union minister continued that the government is making arrangements for issuance of the natural disaster management rule. At present, she added that authorities are undertaking reduction from impacts of natural disasters, readiness and response for the state of emergency and recovery of the victims from the disasters. It was jointly organized by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.—*MNA*

Myanmar, Canada see environmental conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin received Member of the Privy Council of Canada and Former Member of the Canadian Parliament The Hon. Jim Abbott and Member of the Canadian Parliament and Chairman of the Standing Parliament Committee on Natural Resources The Hon. Leon Benoit, Embassy Connections Canada President and Vice-President Mr. Gerald Sherman and Mrs. Carol Sherman at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 morning.

They discussed conservation of environment and natural resources between the two countries, investment in forestry sector, technical assistance and promotion of relations between the peoples of two countries.—*MNA*

Deputy Minister Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin meets Canadian guests.—MNA

Nobody injured as Singapore Airlines plane skids off runway in Yangon

YANGON, 21 May—An Airbus A-330 model 9V STS aircraft of Singapore Airlines that carried more than250 passengers skidded off the runway No. 21 at the Yangon International Airport on Wednesday morning, with officials saying that nobody was injured in the incident.

The right wheel and left wing of the plane were damaged.

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation U Win Swe Tun said, that "Action is being taken by the Singapore Investigation Team that arrived here Wednesday afternoon." About 200 passengers who bought tickets to Singapore were transferred onto another aircraft of Singapore Airlines, he added.

With rainy season in Myanmar now started, officials said the rain may have played a role.—*MNA*

Damaged parts of Airbus A-330 model 9V STS aircraft of Singapore Airlines that skidded off runway at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Post-enumeration activities underway

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May— With the assistance of UNFPA, the Department of Population under the Ministry of Immigration and Population is taking post-enumeration activities after taking the census countrywide.

According to officials, there are three major processes involved — receiving, preparation and scanning of questionnaires as part of post enumeration activities.

Director of the department of population Dr Nyi Nyi, who is leading the receiving process of the project, said that 25% of the whole project has been finished. Questionnaires from Mandalay Region, Rakhine, Kachin and Kayin States have been received. At present, those of Shan State (North) are still being checked. He added that any facts about questionnaires collected are yet to be released by the department. Director of the department of population Daw Khaing Soe is currently leading the data processing (scanning process) of the project. She said that except India, all world countries use pencils in taking census under the instructions of DRS Company, which provides technical service for collecting data. A preliminary report of the census is expected to be released by the end of August 2014.—*NLM*

Social organizations to perform fundraising concertson 1 June for IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan states

YANGON, 21 May—Lut Latt Nyein Chan Pann Ye Lan Social Network, Shwethanzin Music Foundation and the Action Times Foundation will make a trip to Kachin and Northern Shan States in order to donate cash for internally displaced persons at relief camps there for the third time.

Fundraising concertswill be performed by Kachin vocalists in Yangon, Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Naunghkio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw, Lashio, Kutkai and Muse townships. The trip will start in the evening of 1 June in Yangon, with the performers expected to arrive in the north on 8 June.

"We do not expectto get more support asfamous vocalists are not interested in this activity because of the long trip. We have a fewactive singers including my son to perform at the shows," said U Win Maw, Chairman of Shwethanlwin Foundation at a media conference on Wednesday in Yangon.

He added the foundation has a plan to perform at the fundraising shows and provide aids to the victims around Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State.

Kachin Singer M Seng La said about his mission that he wants to help those with both physical and mental issues and hopes that his song for peace will bring a little joy.

According to the foundation, there are thousands of IDPs at the relief camps in Mongbaw, Wanhsaing, Monggu, Loijawbwn, Yeinhlataung, Banlwanbwn, Mentweinglay, Mantweingyi and Nantkham and nearby villages in Northern Shan State. Mostly, Kachin, Pa-O, Palaung and other ethnics are taking shelter there. The foundation has so far received K 6.4 million from Yangon donors.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

Kachin vocalist M Seng La is presenting her own song for peace to the attendees at a media conference on Wednesday at Orchid Hotel City Hall near Sule Pagoda in Yangon.—KHAING THANDA LWIN

Vice-President urges ministries to cooperate in human resource development

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May —Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham highlighted the need to nurture human resources in his speech at a meeting of the central planning and implementation committee for human resource development held in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

To build a modern and developed nation, it is important to draw human resource development programmes to nurture qualified workers and assign them to required sectors, the Vice-President told the meeting.

He said human resource development means training workers or staff of an organization so that they possess skills, knowledge and a good attitude.

He said that one of the weaknesses of Myanmar most foreign governments and organizations point out is the slow human resource development and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the human resource development programmes of respective ministries, regional governments, and private sectors. After the Vice-President's speech, Union Minister for Education Dr. Daw Khin San Yi, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Minister for Health Dr. Than Aung and officials explained the measures planned to fulfill the task.—*MNA*

***Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham addresses meeting of the central planning and implementation committee for human resource development.*—MNA**

Ministers of ADMM participate in golf friendly

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin played the golf friendly together with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mr Tea Banh, Secretary of National Defence of the Philippines Mr Voltaire Tuvera Gazmin, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt, Deputy Minister of Defence of Cambodia General Neang Phat, Maj-Gen Somsak Roongsita of Thai Ministry of Defence and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hian Kong Robert Chua who attended the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) at Royal Myanmar Golf Country Club in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday morning.

After the golf friendly, the Union minister hosted a luncheon to them at the golf club.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun to attend 23rd World Economic Forum on East Asia

YANGON, 21 May—Vice-President U Nyan Tun left Yangon on Wednesday morning to attend the 23rd World Economic Forum on East Asia in Manila.

The Vice-President was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Chief Minister U Myint Swe and region ministers, the Philippine Ambassador and other officials.

He was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials.

Union Ministers U Win Shein, U Win Myint and U Htay Aung, who will also attend the forum, left on Tuesday for the Philippines.—*MNA*

***Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe sees of Vice-President U Nyan Tun, who leaves Yangon on Wednesday morning to attend the 23rd World Economic Forum on East Asia in Manila.*—MNA**

Human resources development plays a vital role to emerge skilled workers

***Union Minister U Aye Myint poses for documentary photo with delegates to 4th ASEAN Human Resources Conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Cooperation in conducting technical trainings to the workers in ASEAN countries to emerge skilled workers was the main topic at the 4th ASEAN Human Resources Conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint said: "Human resources development plays a vital role to emerge skilled workers in ASEAN and professiocny training system is the best way to fullfill the technological needs of job finders and employeers."

The Union Minister also discussed capacity improvement of migrant workers and promotion of production and economy among the ASEAN countries. The conference was attended by the senior officials, and delegates form ASEAN countries, China, Japan, ROK, ILO, ADB and ASEAN Secretariat.

MNA

MOAI, JICA sign on grant agreement for food security for underprivileged farmers

YANGON, 21 May—On 14th May, the Agricultural Mechanization Department-ADM under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation-MOAI and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA successfully signed a grant agreement of the food security project for underprivileged farmers (1KP)-FY2013 after signing of exchange of note between the two governments on 24th March.

The project is to provide agricultural machinery of two hundred and thirty million Japanese Yen (230,000,000 JPY) worth to AMD grant aid scheme of the government of Japan.

The project is following the similar project package of previous year, 2KR-FY 2012 grant aid. Under this year's project, agricultural machinery will be provided to AMD tractor stations that covers approximately 9833 acres of farmland in five target townships; Pyinmana, Nattalin, Ottwin, Madaya and Shwebo.

The project specifically focus on improving small farmers' access to AMD's machinery service by granting four-wheel tractors, combine harvesters and accessories to AMD tractor stations that provide machinery services to local farmers. It is also expected that AMD machinery operators will gain technique of operation and maintenance of modern agriculture machinery.—*NLM*

MOAI, JICA officials sign on grant agreement of food security project.

Chin State plans to build dam in Haka

HAKA, 21 May—A feasibility study is being conducted for damming Thees River to supply water to Haka in Chin State and to generate electricity, official said.

"Most of the towns in Chin State are located in hilly regions. Haka, Tiddim and Falam townships are facing a shortage of water. To solve these problems, officials said, a dam will be built downstream of Thees River, with Japanese experts conducting a feasibility study there. A water supply project will be implemented on Ramfalo Creek, 25 miles from Haka. The project has been submitted to the Hluttaw, said Upper House MP U Steven Tha Beik of Chin State No 4 constituency.

Creeks and natural springs are drying up in Chin State due to deforestation and outbreaks of forest fire.

Linlet Kyel Sin

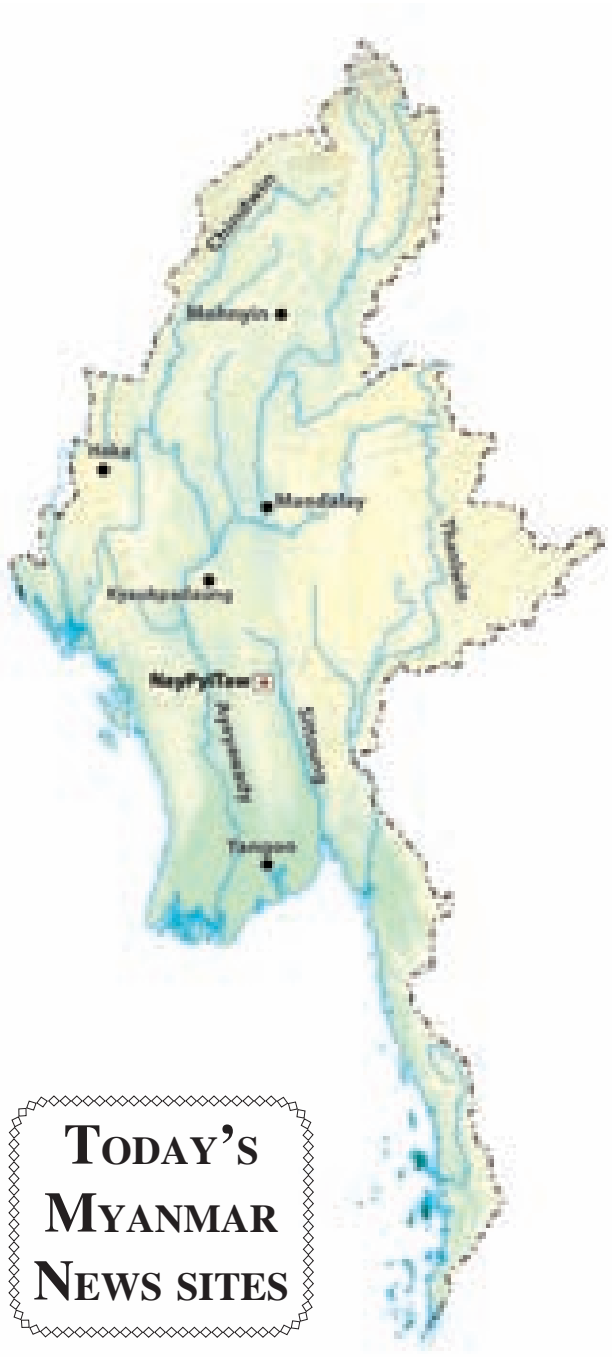
Mobile medical team provides health care to locals in NyaungU District

KYAUKPADAUNG, 21 May—In order to give health care services to rural people with now access to transport, a mobile military medical squad provided medical help to residents of the villages of NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung townships, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday.

Under the guidance of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, a mobile team led by Captain Han Moe Zaw (Public Health Specialist) performed medical checkups and transferred patients in need of emergency operations to medical team based at the monastery in Taungzin Village of NyaungU Township by car.

The medical team provided healthcare to 243 locals from villages in Nyaung U Township on 19 May and in Kyaukpadaung Township on Tuesday.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Trade fair at Mandalay City Hall a success with locals

MANDALAY, 21 May — A trade fair took place at Mandalay city hall from 18 to 21 May, with a body-building contest for men and beauty contest for women among the highlights.

Local and foreign companies displayed their products including cosmetics, electronic equipment, and textiles, attracting a large number of visitors.

On Tuesday evening, the Mr. and Miss Mandalay 2014 contest was held at the same venue.

A total of 16 men and 18 women participated in the contest, with officials handing out cash prizes.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

New transformer supplies electricity in Chanayethazan Tsp after incident

MANDALAY, 21 May—Following the damage of a large transformer at Yadanabon Market in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay due to an animal on 18 May, the old transformer was replaced by authorities of the local Hemazala sub-power station.

Officials said that electricity supply has now been restored.

On Tuesday afternoon, the electrification was back to normal when the new transformer was installed.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Scout trainers course concludes in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 21 May—A township level scout trainer course concluded at No 1 Basic Education High School in Mohnyin of Kachin State on Tuesday afternoon.

120 basic education teachers attended the training course and participated in practical and theoretical exercises.

The trainers will in future organize scout groups and give so-called multiplier course to them at respective schools.

NLM-001

Indian motorcycles enter Mandalay market

MANDALAY, 21 May—Motorcycle companies from China, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have opened showrooms of motorcycles in Mandalay, with the Indian-manufactured TVS motorcycle new on the market. The showroom for the TVS brand opened on 34th Street at the corner of 77th and 78th streets in Chanayethazan Township.

During the Maha Thingyan festival, sales promotions were held at the showroom, triggering huge response from the public. 150cc motorcycles are in high demand by youths from other townships and those from hilly regions of the nation, officials said.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Thai army chief summons political rivals to seek end to crisis

*A Thai soldier mans a machine gun as his unit takes position in central Bangkok on 20 May, 2014.—*Reuters

Bangkok, 21 May — Thailand's army chief summoned leaders of rival political groups and parties, Election Commission members and senators to a meeting on Wednesday, a day after he declared martial law, to discuss a way out of the country's political turmoil.Although the military denied Tuesday's surprise intervention amounted to a coup, General Prayuth Chan-ocha appears to be setting the agenda by forcing groups and organizations with a central role in the crisis to meet. "General Prayuth has called a meeting at the Army Club with all sides to talk about ways out of the country's crisis," deputy army spokesman Winthai Suvaree told *Reuters*, adding it would start at 1:30 pm (2.30 am EDT).

The Election Commission was meeting separately during the morning to consider the caretaker government's proposal of a 3 August election.

Anti-government protesters disrupted an election in February that was later annulled. They have said they will do the same for any re-run held before electoral changes designed to reduce the influence of ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Twenty-eight people have been killed and 700 injured since this latest chapter in a near-decade-long power struggle between Thaksin and the royalist establishment flared up late last year. The turmoil has brought the country to the brink of recession and raised fears of civil war.

General Prayuth said he had imposed martial law to restore order, and the caretaker government says it is still running the country. "Certainly, it's not an outright military coup by definition because the caretaker government is still in office, but on the ground it looks like the military is in charge," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political analyst at Chulalongkorn University.

He said Prayuth needed to convince everyone with a stake in the outcome of the need for "reforms before and after elections".

"He's taking a lot of risk, Prayuth, because the imposition of martial law puts him in a very tight spot ... The longer we do not see a resolution, the riskier it will become for the army," Thitinan said.

CALM OVERNIGHT

Both pro- and anti-government protesters remain out in force, but the army has confined them to their separate protest sites in and around Bangkok and there were no reports of trouble overnight.

The anti-government protesters want a "neutral" prime minister installed to oversee electoral reforms. The government, on the other hand, wants a general election that it would probably win, given Thaksin's enduring support among the rural and urban poor.

Acting Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongphaisan, who took over when Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was forced to step down as premier by a court two weeks ago, proposed on Tuesday that an election should be held on 3 August.

Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, a member of the Election Commission, said all sides had to consider the proposal. "The situation has changed now. We have martial law, therefore the Election Commission, the army and the government should talk first," Somchai told *Reuters*. "I can't say yet whether a 3 August election will happen."

Reuters

UN chief urges all sides in Thailand to refrain from violence

United Nations, 21 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki- moon on Tuesday urged all sides in Thailand to refrain from violence and fully respect human rights after the Thai army invoked martial law across the country.

Ban "has consistently called on all sides to work together to seek a solution to the prolonged political stalemate through constructive dialogue," said a statement issued by his spokesperson.

The UN chief urged all sides to exercise utmost restraint, refrain from any violence and fully respect human rights, the statement said, noting that the way to secure Thailand's peace and prosperity is "through full respect for democratic principles and engagement in democratic processes."

In the face of a looming street chaos in the Thai capital, the Thai army declared Martial Law before dawn Tuesday, saying it was aimed to keep the country stable after six months of protests.—*Xinhua*

France calls for political solution to Thai political deadlock

Paris, 21 May — France reiterated the necessity to reach a political solution to stop crisis in Thailand after the country's army declared martial law nationwide until order had been restored, French Foreign Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday.

In a statement posted on the Quai d'Orsay website, the ministry said it took note of Thailand army's decision to put Southeast Asian second largest economy under martial law to avoid chaos in the capital's streets.

"We follow closely the situation's developments ... France renews its call for a peaceful solution to the political crisis through dialogue and respect of constitutional and democratic principles," the ministry said.

"In the current circumstances, we call for the respect of the caretaker government's prerogative (the country's) only legitimate interlocutor," it added.

Under martial law, military forces have broad powers over civilian authorities to force a return to calm after anti-government protests which began in November 2013 left dozens killed and 700 others injured.

Xinhua

Philippines to host international conference on disaster risk reduction

Manila, 21 May — The Philippines will host the Asia- Europe Meeting (ASEM) conference on disaster risk reduction and management from 4 to 6 June, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Wednesday.

The DFA said around 150 senior government officials, academics, and business leaders from Asia and Europe will gather here to discuss how to handle future "mega-disasters" such as super typhoon Haiyan. The DFA said the conference is being held at a "crucial" time when the decade-old Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) adopted by the world community as the global paradigm on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) is about to end in 2015. The Philippines aims to contribute to the new global architecture on DRRM with the ASEM Manila Conference document to be called "The Tacloban Declaration," which will embody new policies and principles for disaster risk reduction and management.—*Xinhua*

India invites Pakistan PM to attend Modi's swearing in ceremony

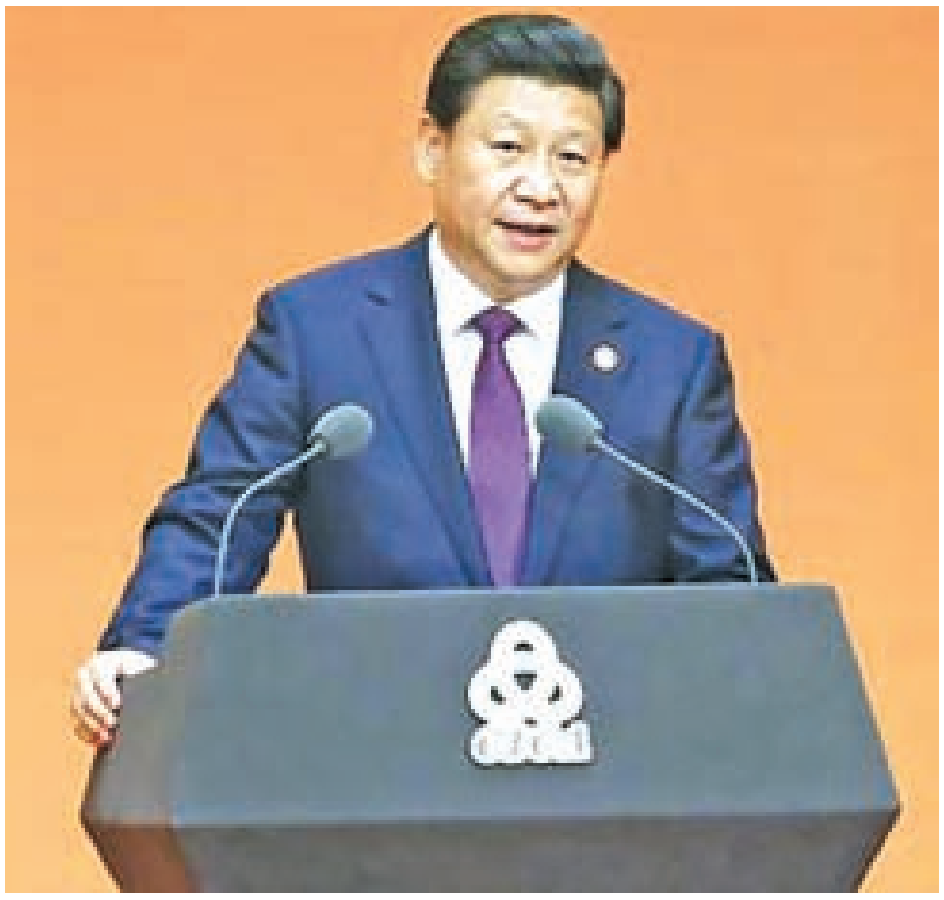
*India's prime minister designate Narendra Modi (L) displays a letter from the Indian President inviting him to form the new government outside the Presidential Palace in New Delhi, India, on 20 May, 2014. India's prime minister designate Narendra Modi on Tuesday met President Pranab Mukherjee at the latter 's official residence in the national capital, and claimed his right to form the next government.—*Xinhua

New Delhi, 21 May — India has invited Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to attend the swearing in ceremony of its new prime minister Narendra Modi, said local media on Wednesday.

New Delhi has also invited other heads of state or government of the member countries of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation to be present at the ceremony on 26 May.

Modi has called on Pakistan to stop all alleged hostile activities against India for improving relations. However, the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi has rejected any precondition for talks on improving bilateral relations.—*Xinhua*

China's Xi urges new Asia security order without Cold War views



Chinese President Xi Jinping gives a speech during a gala dinner ahead of the fourth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit, in Shanghai on 20 May, 2014.
REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 21 May — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called for a new security framework in Asia that is free of an outmoded Cold War-era mentality, as the United States is seeking to play a bigger role in contributing to regional stability.

In his speech to a regional security summit, Xi said that security in Asia should be ensured by people in Asia and, without naming any country, warned that military alliances in the region have become nothing more than destabilizing factors.

The comments were made at a time of regional concerns over China's growing assertiveness and the so-called pivot of the United States to Asia, under which Washington is strengthening its security alliance with countries such as Japan and the Philippines, both of which have been locked in bitter territorial disputes with Beijing.

"We need to keep pace with changing circumstances and evolving times," Xi told a summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. "One cannot live in the 21st Century with an outdated thinking from the age of the Cold War and a zero-sum game."

"We need to innovate our security concept and establish new regional security architecture," he told leaders from the 26 countries belonging to the conference, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Xi said China stands firm on the path of peaceful development and is committed to resolving territorial disputes through negotiations. But at the same time he underscored that "no country should attempt to dominate regional security affairs and infringe upon the legitimate rights and interests of other countries."

The president noted that Asia, which is now an engine for the world's growth, is diverse in values, social systems and economic development, so that differences of each country, along with sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, must be respected. The regional security summit, also attended by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, takes place at a time when China and Russia are facing criticism by the West over their aggressive handling of sovereignty issues.

China has been criticized by the United States, Japan and some other Asian countries for its growing maritime assertiveness.

Most recently, China's deployment of an oil rig in a disputed part of the South China Sea has triggered a tense standoff with Vietnam. On Russia, the United States and the European Union, as well as Japan, are imposing sanctions such as travel bans and asset freezes for its annexation of Crimea in March. As observers, Japan and the United States attended the fourth summit of the regional forum, which has gained more international recognition than before, mainly coupled with China's rise. It is comprised of some two dozen countries from East Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East.

Kyodo News

US Senate OKs honouring veterans over 1942 Japan air raids

WASHINGTON, 21 May — The US Senate passed a bill on Tuesday to honour veterans involved in the 1942 air raids on Japan, regarded as a key offensive during World War II. The members of the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders" team will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest honours in the United States, once President Barack Obama signs the bill as it has already cleared the House of Representatives.

The bill praises the 80 American airmen who volunteered for "an extremely hazardous mission" for "outstanding heroism" and "service to the United States." Of the 80, four are still alive, according to US reports.

The team led by Lt Col James Doolittle was engaged in the air strikes on Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Nagoya and Kobe on 18 April, 1942, roughly four months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

The move caused "only minor damage," but "it forced the Japanese to recall combat forces for home defence, raised fears among the Japanese civilians, and boosted morale among Americans and our Allies abroad," according to the National Museum of the US Air Force.—*Kyodo News*

Ukraine beefs up security ahead of presidential election

KIEV, 21 May— Ukraine has deployed tens of thousands of police and volunteers to maintain public order ahead of Sunday's presidential election, an interior ministry official said on Tuesday.

"The Interior Ministry is taking targeted steps to ensure safety of civilians and members of election commissions," said Andriy Chaly, head of the Interior Ministry's Department for Mass Public Events, at a Press conference.

Around 55,700 police forces and 20,000 volunteers would be mobilized to guarantee security during the voting across Ukraine, he said, adding extra security measures would be taken in the country's eastern Donesk and Lugansk regions, which had plunged into chaos following anti-government protests. Ukraine's presidential election is set to take place despite waves of violence and political instability in the country's eastern regions, where government forces have launched bouts of offensive against pro-Russia activists to regain control.

UN human rights representative Ivan Simonovic cast doubts on Monday over the prospects of holding the presidential election in eastern Ukraine, where he said the situation there had deteriorated so much that the region could collapse. A total of 18 candidates would compete for the country's top post, with former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and businessman Petro Poroshenko emerging as front runners.—*Xinhua*

Pakistani fighter jets bomb suspected militant hideouts

ISLAMABAD, 21 May — Pakistani fighter jets bombed suspected militant hideouts in the tribal region of North Waziristan near the Afghan border on Wednesday, killing at least 32 people, military sources said.

Disagreement over how to handle the Taliban insurgency has soured relations between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan's powerful army, which has been pushing for a major military offensive against militants.

Sharif has been trying to engage the Taleban in talks but negotiations have failed repeatedly since he came to power a year ago. It was unclear whether Sharif had authorised the latest air strikes overnight.

"Fighter jets started bombing militant positions early on Wednesday," said a senior military official in Miranshah, the capital of North Waziristan.

"Before the launch of the air strikes, we had confirmed intelligence information about hideouts of the militants and their top commanders."

Another military source said at least 32 people "including important commanders" had been killed. Despite Sharif's insistence on talks, the military has carried out a series of brief air raids in the region. It was unclear if the latest air strikes signalled the start of a broader military campaign against the Taleban.

North Waziristan residents said dozens of houses used as hideouts by the militants had been targeted. It was not immediately clear if any civilians were killed.

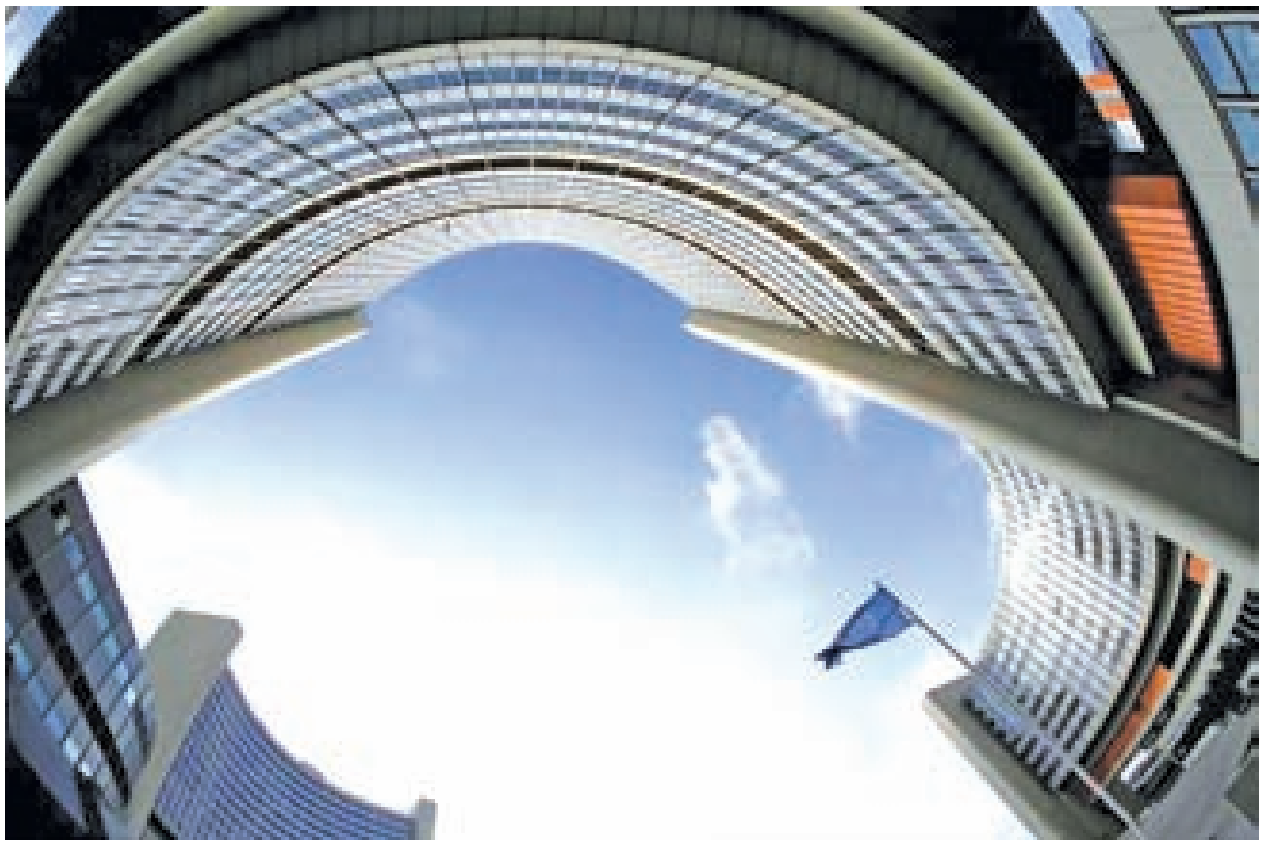
"It was around 3 am in the morning when I heard huge explosions," tribesman Naseeb Gul told *Reuters* by telephone.

"I saw four helicopters flying over the area and hitting some villages," he said.

Reuters

Pakistani Air Force fighter jets fly during the National Day military parade in Islamabad on 23 March, 2008.
REUTERS

Iran and IAEA end nuclear talks, no early sign of breakthrough



The United Nations headquarters building (Vienna International Centre) is pictured in Vienna on 14 May, 2014. REUTERS

VIENNA, 21 May — The UN nuclear watchdog sought in talks with Iran on Tuesday to advance a long-stalled investigation into Teheran's atomic activities, but it was not immediately clear whether any headway was made.

A spokeswoman for the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed the two sides met in Teheran, but said the IAEA was not planning to issue a statement about the talks on Tuesday, leaving open the possibility one might be made later.

Diplomatic sources had said the Vienna-based UN agency and Iran were expected to discuss IAEA requests for information about detonators that can, among other things, be used to set of a nuclear explosive device.

It could have provided an opportunity for progress on a key issue ahead of a quarterly IAEA report on Iran's nuclear programme, due this week, which will be debated by the UN agency's 35-nation governing board at a meeting in early June. Under a phased cooperation pact agreed between the two sides in November, Iran was to take seven transparency steps by 15 May to help allay international concern about its nuclear programme, which the West fears may be part of a military project.

On the most sensitive of those — for Iran to provide information about the development of so-called Explosive Bridge Wire detonators — diplomats have said the UN atomic agency was seeking further clarifications from Teheran.

How Iran responds to the IAEA's questions is regarded as a litmus test of its readiness to start engaging with the investigation into what the UN agency calls the possible military dimensions of the country's nuclear programme.

Iran denies Western allegations that it has been seeking to develop the capability to make nuclear weapons but has offered to work with the Vienna-based IAEA to resolve its concerns. The IAEA-Iran talks are separate from those between Teheran and six world powers — the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia — aimed at reaching a broader deal to settle the decade-old nuclear dispute by late July.

But they are complementary as both focus on fears that Iran may covertly be seeking the means and expertise to assemble nuclear weapons. Iran and the powers held a new round of negotiations last week, but made little progress.

Reuters

Berlin Air Show kicks off with leaders' applause

BERLIN, 21 May — The Berlin Air Show 2014, a biennial event, was opened here on Tuesday, with applause from German leaders and industry players.

German government showed strong support to the fair, with both Chancellor Angela Merkel and Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel paying visits to the ground. "The aerospace industry plays a key strategic role for our economic welfare," said Merkel in her opening remark, calling the five-day trade fair "an excellent platform" for showcasing innovation and cooperation.

More than 1200 exhibitors from 40 countries will attend the fair, which is expected to attract over 200,000 trade and general public visitors, according to the organizer.

Around 300 aircraft of all types and sizes are planned to be demonstrated on the ground or in the air.

On Tuesday, 50 flying performances, including by Europe's most modern military transporter Airbus *A400 M*, the newest wider body commercial aircraft Airbus *A350 XWB*, and a Lockheed Martin *F-16* fighter jet, were scheduled.

Airbus, which presented with a large pavilion, showed its confidence in marketing outlook. Airbus' sales chief John Leahy said on Tuesday that orders received by Airbus would match with or "even slightly ahead" of those to Boeing this year. The company claimed that its *A350 XWB* and *A380* are more eco-efficient and cost less than *Boeing 777* and *747*.

Meanwhile, Airbus Chief Operating Officer Guenter Butschek condemned tax breaks worth 8.7 billion US dollars that Boeing received from Washington state of the United States as "illegal subsidies".

Last November, Washington state legislation approved the tax breaks to encourage Boeing to produce its *777X* jet in its region.

A conference of "Airbus Ministers", which includes ministers in charge of civil aerospace industry from Germany, France, Britain, and Spain, was held on Tuesday in Berlin as part of the air show.

Ministers told a Press conference after the meeting that they would support the European Commission to raise complaint against the tax breaks to the World Trade Organization.

Xinhua

German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks during the opening ceremont of 2014 International Air Show (ILA) in Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport, Germany, on 20 May, 2014.—XINHUA

US to disclose legal justification for drone strikes on Americans

WASHINGTON, 21 May — The US government will disclose its legal justification for the use of drones against US citizens suspected of terrorism, a senior Obama administration official said on Tuesday.

The US solicitor general has made the decision not to appeal a federal appeals court's decision in April requiring the release of a redacted memorandum spelling out the justification for the policy, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly. The court and the Justice Department have not set a time for the document's release. While the legal analysis that justifies the use of drones will be disclosed, some facts will still be excluded from the document, the official said.

Protesters against drone strikes gather in an attempt to deliver a letter to US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Brennan as they gather outside CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, on 29 June, 2013.—REUTERS

In a case pitting executive power against the public's right to know what its government does, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals last month reversed a lower-court ruling preserving the secrecy of the legal rationale for the killings, such as the killing of US citizen Anwar al-Awlaki in a 2011 drone strike in Yemen.

Ruling for the New York Times in the case, a unanimous three-judge panel said the government waived its right to secrecy by making repeated public statements justifying targeted killings. Civil liberties groups have complained that the drone programme, which deploys pilotless aircraft, lets the government kill Americans without constitutionally required due process.

The US use of drones against militants in countries such as Pakistan and Yemen has drawn international criticism and fanned anti-American sentiments in some Islamic countries.

In a March 2012 speech at Northwestern University in Illinois, Attorney General Eric Holder had said it was "entirely lawful" to target people with senior operational roles in al-Qaeda and associated forces.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 22 May, 2014

Preservation of colonial buildings in Yangon

By Myint Win Thein

Yangon boasts the largest number of colonial buildings in Southeast Asia and this is one of the reasons why tourists enjoy walking through downtown Yangon. However, most of them have been neglected for years and need renovation to continue to attract tourists to Yangon.

Some experts say that time is running out to save these buildings while attempts to renovate a few of them ended up in disputes, and maintenance tasks could not be carried out. One of these houses is the former Secretariat building where General Aung San was assassinated in 1947 – a place that is deteriorating more each day.

Without these historic buildings Yangon will look like other Southeast Asian cities, which were demolished to give way to skyscrapers and shopping malls.

Now efforts are being made to preserve these buildings with the help of the Yangon Heritage Trust, a non-profit organization. These heritage sites should be renovated as soon as possible, as a lack of maintenance is also a form of demolition.

In addition, new development in Yangon should also be in harmony with these landmarks most of which are located along Strand Road and Pansodan Road. Now, a footbridge is being constructed at the corner of the roads, and Yangon Heritage Trust is protesting against the construction of the foot bridge as it blocks the beauty of the heritage buildings. A responsible official for the construction said they were building the footbridge for the safety of the people who have to cross the road.

As the preservation of these heritage buildings is as important as public safety, they should be taken into account when new development projects are planned.

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.

Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Defence Cooperation Towards Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community

WE, the Defence Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand,and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, gathered in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 20 May 2014 for the Eighth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "ADMM");

ADHERING with full commitments to the principles and purposes enshrined in the ASEAN Charter;

RECALLING the establishment of the ADMM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2006, as a monumental milestone for the evolution of ASEAN security and defence cooperation in contributing towards building the ASEAN Political Security Community;

RECALLING the Bali Declaration of ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) in 2011, which calls for further reinforcement in strengthening the ASEAN Community in line with the ASEAN Charter, in which the fundamental principles, values, and norms are stipulated;

BEARING IN MIND the need for ASEAN Member States to respond effectively to regional security challenges in accordance with the principles of comprehensive security as stated in the ASEAN Charter;

GUIDED by the fundamental principles enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) and the ASEAN Charter, including the renunciation of the threat of use of force and exercise of self-restraint, mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as upholding international law;

INSPIRED by and united with close cooperation and collaboration to implement as guided in the ASEAN Community Blueprints to the way of ASEAN Community by 2015 with the view of promoting a people-oriented ASEAN in which all ASEAN Member States are to share and benefit from each other;

EXPRESSING satisfaction with the positive results of the Eighth ADMM, which was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 20 May 2014 under the theme "Defence Cooperation Towards Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community" in keeping with the goals of a cohesive, peaceful and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security;

DETERMINED to strengthen a dynamic, cohesive, resilient and integrated ASEAN Community and reaffirming the ADMM's role as the highest ministerial defence and security consultative and cooperative mechanism within ASEAN that promotes ASEAN norms of dialogue and consensus-based decision making and adhering to the established ASEAN protocols and practices;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the significant progress which has been made in the area of defence and security cooperation since the ADMM was established in 2006;

RECOGNISING the existing civil-military cooperation that plays a very important role and encouraging them to enhance interoperability in addressing non-traditional security challenges;

EMPHASISING the important role of the ADMM to contribute to ASEAN's efforts in maintaining its unity and solidarity in order to continue to play its central role in the regional architecture;

REAFFIRMING the ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional security architecture and ASEAN's role as the primary driving force in cooperating and collaborating with the Plus countries to deal with security issues and non-traditional threats;

WELCOMING the outcomes of the Second ADMM-Plus held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 29 August 2013,which encourages the establishment of practical measures to reduce vulnerability to miscalculations and to avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea;

REAFFIRMING the strategic importance of the ADMM-Plus as a premier forum for strategic dialogue in defence and security issues among ASEAN and the Plus countries;

COMMENDING the remarkable achievements of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups in the five priority areas of cooperation, namely, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security, Peacekeeping Operations, Military Medicine, and Counter Terrorism;

COMMENDING the notable achievements of the ASEAN militaries in building trust and confidence through a number of meetings and activities, while noting with satisfaction the results of the 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM), which was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar,on 5 March 2014;

OBSERVING the complex and fast changing regional security environment and the devastating effects of natural disasters;

SUPPORTING the outcomes of the 24th ASEAN Summit and the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015, which calls for the strengthening of cooperation for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), especially calling on all parties to exercise self-restraint and non-use of force, as well as refrain from taking actions that would further escalate tension and to work towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in South China Sea (COC) as reflected in the ASEAN's Six Point Principles on the South China Sea and welcoming confidence-building measures of communication lines and hotlines and non-use of force commitments among ASEAN Member States that will promote further peace and stability;

ACKNOWLEDGING the solidarity of all ASEAN Member States as reflected by the concerted efforts in the search and rescue mission of the missing airplane flight MH370 and recognising the unwavering support from all Member States in this new phase of this unprecedented search.

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

1. **Adopt** the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme 2014-2016, which will serve as a guide in prioritising activities of the ADMM, while noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Three-Year Work Programme 2011-2013;
2. **Adopt** the Concept Paper on Establishing a Direct Communications Link in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Process, which will provide a permanent, rapid, reliable and confidential means by which any two ASEAN Defence Ministers may communicate with each other to arrive at mutual decisions in handling crisis or emergency situations, in particular related to maritime security;
3. **Adopt** the Additional Protocol to the Concept Papers for the Establishment of an ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, which will refine and clarify the working mechanisms and procedures of the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus;
4. **Acknowledge** the adoption of the Terms of Reference for Consultative Group of ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration, which could start the implementation of collaboration of activities;
5. **Enhance** practical cooperation in non-traditional and transnational security concerns and develop coordination mechanisms for military participation in the conduct of combined trainings and exercises in HADR, emergency response operations, search and rescue missions,post-crisis management and rehabilitation, as emphasised by the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme;
6. **Deepen** friendly ties between ASEAN and the Plus countries on strategic as well as defence and security issues affecting the region, which contribute to the promotion of regional peace and security;
7. **Welcome** the adoption of the new workplans of the six ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups that will strengthen practical cooperation under the ADMM-Plus and look forward to the successful implementation of the work plans;
8. **Increase** mutual understanding among ASEAN defence establishments;
9. **Deepen** regular consultations on defence matters and work together to counter threats and challenges to regional peace;
10. **Facilitate** interactions between the defence and military officials of ASEAN Member States and develop practical cooperation in the field of defence and security by enhancing confidence-building measures through increased opportunities for exchanges and interactions;
11. **Explore** possibility for practical cooperation on traditional security concerns;
12. **Welcome** the significant achievements of the inaugural ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex) in Brunei Darussalam in June 2013, the ADMM-Plus Counter Terrorism Exercise (CTX) in Indonesia in September 2013, the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX) in Australia in October 2013 and ADMM-Plus Table-Top Exercise(TTX) on Peacekeeping Operations in the Philippinesin February 2014,as landmark cooperation amongst defence forces of ASEAN Member States and the Plus countries;
13. **Welcome** Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN and its hosting of the 9th ADMM and the 3rd ADMM-Plus in 2015.

Done at Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, this Twentieth Day of May in the Year Two Thousand and Fourteen, in a single original copy in the English Language.

Lightning hits ancient pagoda in Yekyi Tsp

YEKYI, 21 May—The 108 feet high Peningyi Pagoda, located in the precinct of Mingalayama Monastery near Pathein-Monywa road in Yekyi Township of Ayeyawady Region, was stricken by a lightning at 4.30 pm on 18 May while there was raining heavily.

The lightning destroyed the four feet long and six feet high area of the middle terrace of the pagoda.

In addition, a crack caused at an encircled zedi of the pagoda, but there was no casualty.

Min Zaw Oo (Yekyi)

Youth trainees to visit Yangon, to participate in contests

MYEIK, 21 May—The government opens the maritime course and aviation course for the youths in the summer to be able to emerge outstanding new generation youths.

A total of 60 trainees from the youth maritime course led by instructors from Myeik and Kyunsu townships and a 25-member team from youth aviation course (Myeik) will pay a visit to Yangon by war vessel from Taninthayi Naval Region Command Headquarters. They will join excursions in Yangon and take part in the naval subject, basic military training, rowing and naval signals contests as of 23 May.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik District)*

Basic education schools accept school enrolment in Myeik

MYEIK, 21 May—Basic Education Schools in Myeik Township accept school enrollment of students for 2014-15 academic year as of Tuesday morning.

With the aim of enabling all school going-age students to attend the school, the Ministry of Education sets a plan on free enrolment fee for primary and middle school students this year. In addition, the ministry will provide school textbooks to them free of charge.

Ninth standard students are to pay K 1900 each as enrolment fee and the matriculation students, K 2000 each. Ninth standard students have to pay K 3200 for volume-I of school textbook and K 3500 for volume -VII, and those of matriculation K 3500 for one set of school textbook.—*Zaw Myo Naing (Myeik District IPRD)*

Outstanding trainees awarded in Myanmar-Japan centre's trainings

MANDALAY, 21 May—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA jointly have established the Myanmar-Japan Human Resource Development Centre. Keidanren of Japan awarded the outstanding trainees from the courses conducted in 2013.

The Japanese organization held a ceremony to clarify the plan to select scholarship award winners to be sent to Japan as a observation trip in 2014, at Yadanabon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township on 18 May.

Officials of Mandalay Region CCI and Keidanren presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Dr Than Than Aung, training manager of Myanmar-Japan business course explained presentation of scholarship awards and visits to Japan.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Motorcycles without licences legalized in Mawlamyinegyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 21 May—Personnel of Maubin District Directorate of Road Administration, Customs Department, General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Insurance issued registration to the motorcycles without licences in Mawlamyinegyun of Ayeyawady Region on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The staff members issued licence to over 300 motorcycles on Tuesday through one-stop service.

"The Directorate of Road Administration does not open its office in our town. If we get the licence for motorcycle, we must go to the town where the office is kept open. Now, the staff arrived here to issue the licences for motorbikes, so we can save our time and money," said a local motorbike owner.

Motorcycle licences were issued to 2,833,309 motorbikes for eight times from 1999 to 2012, and the licences have been issued to 3.7 million motorcycles and trawlergy across the nation, according to the statistics of the directorate.

Zaw Lin Phyo (Mawgyun)

Coordination made between onion growers, brokers

NATOGYI, 21 May—The Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic and officials, and members of Myingyan Township Brokerage held a talk with onion growers of villages in Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

They discussed surplus provision of onion in trading, brokerage charge and transport fare from the brokerage to warehouse. Locals in Myingyan, Taungtha, Mahlaing, Pyawbwe, Kyaukse, Myittha, Meiktila and Kyaukpadaung township are engaged cultivation of onion and they send their products to Yangon, Mawlamyine, Bago and other major cities.

Than Aung Zaw (Natogyi)

Syria starts moving remaining chemical weapons, Pentagon says

WASHINGTON, 21 May — Syria is starting to relinquish the remaining stockpile of materials from its chemical weapons arsenal after months of delay it blamed on security concerns, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

"It is starting to be moved as we speak," Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby told reporters.

The news followed an announcement by the joint mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemicals that Syria had destroyed its entire declared stockpile of isopropanol, a precursor for producing sarin nerve gas.

"Now 7.2 percent of Syria's chemical weapons material remains in country and awaits swift removal for onward destruction. The Joint Mission urges the Syrian authorities to undertake this task as soon as possible," the UN-OPCW mission said in a statement.

Syria has promised to hand over or destroy its entire chemical weapons arsenal although it still possesses a significant amount of its declared chemical stocks and has not yet destroyed a dozen production and storage facilities.

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

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces had taken steps to prepare some of its remaining chemicals for transport.

Syria has been removing chemical weapons under a deal reached last year that averted Western military strikes threatened after a sarin gas attack on rebel-held suburbs around the Syrian capital in August.

Assad's Western foes suspect him of deliberately dragging out the process and say his forces are using chlorine bombs, including in an attack on a rebel-held village this week.

Damascus denies that forces loyal to Assad have used chlorine or other more poisonous gases and blames all chemical attacks on rebel forces fighting in the three-year-old civil war. It has also blamed the security situation for its failure to meet deadlines to ship out the chemical stocks.

Syria did not declare chlorine as part of its stockpile.

Chlorine is thousands of times less lethal than sarin but is illegal under a chemical weapons convention that Syria signed and its use would breach the terms of the deal with Washington and Moscow.

Britain, France and the United States say they have intelligence suggesting Syria failed to declare some of its chemical weapons materials.

Reuters

Bombings kill at least 118 in central Nigerian city of Jos

JOS, 21 May — Back-to-back bomb blasts killed at least 118 people and wounded 45 in the crowded business district of the central Nigerian city of Jos on Tuesday, emergency services said, in an attack that appeared to bear the hallmarks of the Boko Haram insurgents.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the militant group Boko Haram, which has set off bombs across the north and centre of Nigeria in an increasingly bloody campaign for an Islamic state, was likely to be the prime suspect in what would rank among their deadliest single attacks in five years of insurrection.

Boko Haram grabbed world headlines by abducting more than 200 schoolgirls on 14 April from the northeastern village of Chibok. Britain, the United States and France have pledged to help rescue them.

If the Jos attack was the handiwork of Boko Haram, it would show their growing reach in Africa's top oil producing and most populous country, striking out beyond their heartland in Nigeria's semi-arid and weakly governed northeast. Several bombs have exploded outside that region over the past month. It was also likely calculated to stoke civil strife in Nigeria's most combustible ethnic and sectarian tinder box. Jos and the surrounding Plateau state have seen thousands killed in tit-for-tat violence between largely Christian Berom farmers and Muslim Fulani cattle herders over the past decade.

A *Reuters* reporter saw 10 bodies burned beyond recognition at the bomb site opposite a hospital at Terminus, the downtown area of Jos which houses shops, some offices and a market. "We've now recovered 118 bodies from the rubble," said Mohammed Abdulsalam, coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency in Jos. "This could rise by morning, as there is still some rubble we haven't yet shifted." Plateau state Police Commissioner Chris Olakpe earlier confirmed a death toll of 46, adding that other wounded had been taken to hospital.—*Reuters*

Egyptian teenage scientist plans to seek asylum in United States

LOS ANGELES, 21 May — An Egyptian teenager who travelled to the United States to take part in a prestigious science fair has decided to seek asylum, saying he fears returning home after being accused of taking part in anti-government protests in Cairo, his US lawyer said on Tuesday.

Abdullah Assem, who has invented eyeglasses for quadriplegics to operate computers and communicate with others, flew to Los Angeles on 12 May to present his creation at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, lawyer Farida Chehata said.

Three days later, the gifted 17-year-old contacted officials with the Los Angeles office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and expressed concern about returning to Egypt, according to Chehata, who is a staff attorney with the council.

With the support of his parents in Egypt, Assem decided to stay in the United States and seek asylum, said Chehata, who will represent the boy in his application. He has not yet filed the application with US immigration authorities.

"It's unfortunate and it's very sad to see children with a lot of potential to do a lot of great things, to have that stifled by the government over there for whatever reason and without due process," she said.

US chipmaker Intel Corp sponsors the annual fair, which is the world's largest science competition for precollege students, with more than $5 million in awards available for competitors from more than 70 countries.

Assem was arrested on 25 April in Cairo on charges of participating in protests and burning two police vehicles, after he traveled to the Egyptian capital from his Middle Egypt hometown of Assiut to obtain electronic equipment for an academic project, Chehata said.

Chehata, who called the charges against the teen fabricated, said he had not been participating in protests. She added he fears he will not get a fair trial in Egypt and that he will be sent to prison for years for crimes he did not commit.

She said Egyptian authorities initially did not want to let Assem fly to the United States for the science fair following his arrest, but ultimately permitted him to leave for Los Angeles a day after Egyptian media reported on his situation.

Assem is staying with a family friend in the Los Angeles area, Chehata said.

A representative from the science fair could not be reached for comment.

Officials at Egypt's public prosecutor's office and Ministry of Education were not immediately available to comment after hours, and an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to comment.

A spokeswoman for US Citizenship and Immigration Services also declined to comment.

Reuters

Four people injured in north France blast

PARIS, 21 May — Four people have been injured likely due to an explosion of a nitrogen bottle in Renault auto maker's plant in Maubeuge, north of France, a local TV channel reported on Tuesday.

Citing firefighters, the news channel BFMTV said the explosion happened at 10:20 am local time (0820GMT) while officials of Renault's manufacturing site said "today, an accident occurred (in the plant)," without giving further details.

Two workers were in serious situation, the report added.—*Xinhua*

Microsoft launches larger Surface tablet targeting lightweight laptops

Photo of Microsoft Corp's new Surface Pro 3 tablet computer. Microsoft unveiled Surface Pro 3 in New York on 20 May, 2014, which has a bigger screen than previous models to take aim at the laptop market and demonstrate the company's ability to make its own devices.—KYODO NEWS

NEW YORK, 21 May—Microsoft Corp unveiled its new Surface Pro 3 tablet computer on Tuesday in New York with a bigger screen than previous models to take aim at the laptop market and demonstrate the company's ability to make its own devices.

"We are not building hardware for hardware's sake. We want to build experiences that bring together all the capabilities of our company," Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said at the Manhattan event. "It's our goal to create new categories and spark new demand for our entire ecosystem."

According to the Redmond, Washington-based company, 96 percent of tablet owners also have a laptop and the Surface Pro 3 was designed to "take that conflict away" so customers could buy just one device.

"This is the tablet that can replace your laptop," Surface Corporate Vice President Panos Panay said, adding that although it has a larger 12-inch screen, the Surface Pro 3 is lighter and thinner than its predecessor.

Ranging in prices from $799 to $1,949, the new device will have three processor options from Intel Corp and up to 512 GB of storage. A pressure-sensitive stylus pen is included with the tablet while an optional keyboard that can also be used as a cover is sold separately for $130.

One processor option of the Surface Pro 3 will be available in the US and Canada on 20 June.

The tablet will go on sale in Japan, China and 24 other markets by the end of August. All processor options will be available then.

Kyodo News

Climate change threatens 30 US landmarks

The Statue of Liberty is pictured on Liberty Island in New York, on 13 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 21 May—Climate change is threatening US landmarks from the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor to the César Chávez National Monument in Keene, California with floods, rising sea levels and fires, scientists said on Tuesday.

National Landmarks at Risk, a report published by the Union of Concerned Scientists, highlighted more than two dozen sites that potentially face serious natural disasters. They include Boston's historic districts, the Harriet Tubman National Monument in Maryland and an array of NASA sites including the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

"The imminent risks to these sites and the artifacts they contain threaten to pull apart the quilt that tells the story of the nation's heritage and history," Adam Markham, director of climate impacts at the union, a non-profit organization for science advocacy in Washington DC and the study's co-author, said in a statement.

The report is not slated for publication in a scientific journal, said Brenda Ekwurzel, senior climate scientist who co-authored the report. It said that reducing carbon emissions could minimize the predicted risks posed by climate change.

The issue of climate change or global warming and its causes are being debated in the United States with splits along party political lines and disagreement about the extent to which human development is to blame. Jamestown, Virginia — the first permanent English colony - could be completely inundated due to rising sea levels, and the nearby Fort Monroe, "will become an island unto itself within 70 years," Markham said.

In the western United States, rising temperatures have led to an increase in wildfires by melting winter snowpacks earlier, leaving forests drier for longer, the report said. Among California's 20 largest fires since 1932, a dozen have happened since 2002, the report said.

An unrelated report published on Monday showed that the California drought has cost thousands of jobs and $1.7 billion to farmers in the state's Central Valley. Governor Jerry Brown has partly blamed climate change for the drought.

Reuters

US utility's control system was hacked, says Homeland Security

BOSTON, 21 May—A sophisticated hacking group recently attacked a US public utility and compromised its control system network, but there was no evidence that the utility's operations were affected, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

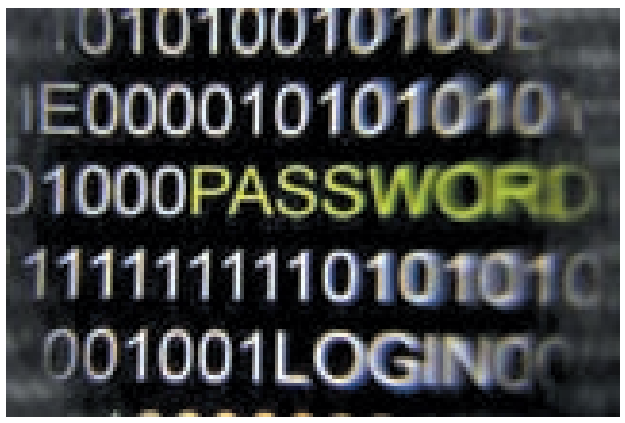
DHS did not identify the utility in a report that was issued this week by the agency's Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team, or ICS-CERT.

"While unauthorized access was identified, ICS-CERT was able to work with the affected entity to put in place mitigation strategies and ensure the security of their control systems before there was any impact to operations," a DHS official told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

Such cyber attacks are rarely disclosed by ICS-CERT, which typically keeps details about its investigations secret to encourage businesses to share information with the government. Companies are often reluctant to go public about attacks to avoid potentially negative publicity.

ICS-CERT said in the report posted on its website that investigators had determined the utility had likely been the victim of previous intrusions. It did not elaborate.

The agency said the hackers may have launched the latest attack through an Internet portal that enabled workers to access the utility's control systems. It said the system used a simple password mechanism that could be compromised using a technique known as "brute forcing," where hackers



The word 'password' on a computer screen is magnified with a magnifying glass in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

digitally force their way in by trying various password combinations.

Justin W Clarke, an industrial control security consultant with security firm Cylance Inc, said it is rare for such breaches to be identified by utilities and even more rare for the government to disclose them. "In most cases, systems that are so antiquated to be susceptible to such brute forcing technologies would not have the detailed logging required to aid in an investigation like this," Clarke said.

Reuters

Facebook to expand video ads to seven countries outside US

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 May—Facebook Inc is expanding its new video advertising service, allowing marketers to show the television-like spots to users of the social network in Britain, Brazil and five other countries, the company told *Reuters*.

The move marks a significant ramping up of one of Facebook's most closely watched new advertising products, which analysts believe could help the Internet company capture a bigger slice of lucrative brand advertising budgets.

The 15-second video ads appear in users' newsfeeds and play automatically with the sound muted until they are clicked on. Facebook began selling the ads in the United States in March to a small group of marketers including insur-ance company Progressive Corp and television broadcaster NBC, a unit of Comcast Corp.

Facebook said the performance of the initial group of video ads in the United States has been strong, but declined to elaborate. As it did in the United States, Facebook is moving cautiously to roll out the auto-play video ads in its overseas markets to avoid annoying users.

The company will initially work with a limited group of advertisers in France, Germany, Brazil, Japan, Canada, Australia and Britain starting next month.

Each ad must pass a quality-control test that Facebook administers in conjunction with video analytics firm Ace Metrix.

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

Most of the commercials in international markets will not appear on Facebook's website until September, as the Internet company spends several months working closely with marketers to ensure that the spots meet its quality standards, a Facebook spokesman told *Reuters*.

But he said that companies whose commercials are deemed acceptable could begin airing them on Facebook in June, in time for the World Cup international soccer tournament, a popular event for brand advertisers.

Reuters

Israel, China agree to expand bilateral cooperation

Tel Aviv, 21 May — Israeli President Shimon Peres on Tuesday met with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong in Tel Aviv, Israel, pledging to step up cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

During the meeting, Peres recalled his successful visit to China last month. "China has created a miracle of sustainable high speed development due to the extraordinary leadership of the Chinese leaders and hard struggle of the Chinese people," said Peres, who believed strengthening the cooperation in technology and innovation fields between the two countries is reciprocal.

Liu, who arrived in Israel Sunday for a five-day official visit, said that during the Second World War, the Chinese and Jewish peoples fought shoulder to shoulder against the world's fascism, stood together through the dark time and forged profound friendship.

China and Israel have developed amicable relations and fruitful cooperation since two countries established diplomatic ties more than two decades ago, said Liu.

The Chinese vice premier also said China hopes to boost the bilateral cooperation in areas such as technology, innovation, education, culture, health care and humanities.

An inter-government economic and technological cooperation mechanism has been established. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Liu on Monday signed a memorandum on the establishment of a joint bilateral committee to expand innovation cooperation between the two countries.

"China would like to take this opportunity to further integrate resources, continuously boost and deepen bilateral exchange and cooperation on the fields mentioned above. So that it would better benefit the people from the two countries," Liu said.

Xinhua

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong (L) meets with Israeli President Shimon Peres in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 20 May, 2014.—Xinhua

UK to offer Scotland talks on more powers a month after independence vote

John Swinney, Scottish cabinet Secretary for Finance & Sustainable Growth and Alistair Carmichael (L) Secretary of State for Scotland outside Grangemouth Refinery where they met for talks with Unite representatives and with Ineos management in Grangemouth, Scotland, on 24 October 2013.
Reuters

London, 21 May — The British government will start talks on granting Scotland more powers within a month of an independence referendum later this year if Scots choose to stay part of the United Kingdom, a government minister will pledge on Thursday.

In a speech designed to persuade Scots that they can and will enjoy even greater autonomy if they decide to stay inside the UK, Alistair Carmichael, the minister responsible for Scotland, will issue the government's most detailed promise on greater powers to Scotland so far.

"In the event of a no vote, I will invite the representatives of Scotland's main parties to meet in October to begin that process," Carmichael will say, according to advance extracts of a speech in Glasgow released by his office.

"There will be a Conference on the New Scotland. It will work in the interests of the people of this country. And more powers will come."

Scotland will vote on 18 September. on whether to break away from the UK. Opinion polls show most Scots will reject independence even though the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) has made some headway in cutting the "no" side's lead.

Scotland already enjoys a large measure of devolution. It has had its own parliament since 1999 with the power to legislate in policy areas such as education, health and the environment. But polls show many Scots want more powers and favour such a power transfer over outright independence.

Any talks on more powers would be likely to focus on giving Scotland the right to control tax policy and on extending its purview to most or all policy areas apart from defence and foreign affairs. It remains unclear how comprehensive a transfer of powers Britain would be willing to offer, however.

Politicians from across the spectrum, including Prime Minister David Cameron, have already promised Scotland more, unspecified, powers if it remains in the 307-year-old union.

But the "no" campaign, which includes all three of Britain's main political parties, is anxious to ensure Scots take the promise seriously and feels that setting out a timetable will give such a pledge more weight.—*Reuters*

Five convicted of killing Russian journalist Politkovskaya

Moscow, 21 May — Five men were convicted on Tuesday of murdering 2006 of investigative journalist and Kremlin critic Anna Politkovskaya, including three defendants who had been acquitted in a previous trial.

Politkovskaya's killing drew attention to the risks faced by Russians who challenge the authorities and deepened Western concerns for the rule of law under President Vladimir Putin, who was then serving his second term.

Another jury's 2009 acquittal of three of the men who were found guilty of murder on Tuesday embarrassed Russian prosecutors and was later thrown out by the Supreme Court, which ordered a new trial.

The defendants were three Chechen brothers, one of whom was accused of shooting Politkovskaya in the lobby of her Moscow apartment building on 7 October, 2006, as well as their uncle and a former police officer.

The convictions are a victory for Russian prosecutors and the state, but rights activists and relatives of Politkovskaya say that justice will not be done until those who ordered her contract-style killing are identified and convicted.

"The murder will only be solved when the name of the person who ordered it is known," a lawyer for Politkovskaya's family, Anna Stavitskaya, was quoted as saying by *RIA* news agency. She welcomed the jury's verdict but said the men found guilty "are only a few of the people who should be brought to justice", *RIA* reported.

A spokesman for the federal Investigative Committee, Vladimir Markin, said the authorities were doing all they can to identify and track down the person behind the killing, Russian news agencies reported. Kremlin critics say they doubt that will ever happen because of suspicions the trail could lead too close to the goverment.

A participant holds a portrait of assassinated human rights activist Anna Politkovskaya during a ''March against hatred'' in St Petersburg, on 27 October, 2012.—Reuters

Politkovskaya, a reporter for *Novaya Gazeta* who was 48 when she was shot dead while returning home after shopping for groceries, was best known for her dogged reporting on human rights violations in the North Caucasus province of Chechnya.

Lawyers for the defendants — Rustam Makhmudov, his brothers Ibragim and Dzhabrail, their uncle Lom-Ali Gaitukayev, and former Moscow police officer Sergei Khadzhikurbanov — said they would appeal.

Investigators say Gaitukayev organized the logistics of the killing while in jail for another matter, while Khadzhikurbanov was in charge of preparing for the slaying and Ibragim and Dzhabrail Makhmudov helped track her.

Ibragim and Dzhabrail Makhmudov and Khadzhikurbanov were previously acquitted.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (131)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (131) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2014 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(10/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -012(14-15)	10" ERW Steel Line Pipe (20 Miles) (API 5L, Grade X 42,3 LPE Coated)	US$
(2)	IFB -013(14-15)	14" ERW Steel Line Pipe (33 Miles) (API 5L, Grade X 42,3 LPE Coated)	US$
(3)	IFB -014(14-15)	Pipe Lifting & Aligning Equipments	US$
(4)	IFB -015(14-15)	Spares for Jumbo Tube & Storade Cascade For CNG Stations	US$
(5)	IFB -016(14-15)	Spares for ZJ 70L Drilling Rig Control Pannel	US$
(6)	IFB -017(14-15)	Engine Spares for 30 Ton Mack Truck	US$
(7)	IFB -018(14-15)	Spares for Mack Truck	US$
(8)	DMP/L-006(14-15)	Tyre Assorted Size (8) Items	Kyats
(9)	DMP/L-007(14-15)	12V 21 Plate, 12V 17 Plate & 12V 13 Plate Battery	Kyats

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 18-6-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 21st May, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

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

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

Allcor Inc., a company organized under the laws of the State of Michigan, United States of America and having its principal office at 7575 Fulton Street East, Ada, Michigan 49355, U.S.A is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade mark:-

PURSUE

Reg No. 4/12679/2013
Used in respect of-
Germicides, fungicides, viricides and bactericides. (Int'l Class 5)
Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Ong Minn U, Advocate
May Phyo Kin, H.G.P
For Allcor Inc.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph.09732230023
Dated: 22 May 2014

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.

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For inquries to place an advertisement in the NLM, Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com

Finland holds largest military exercises

HELSINKI, 21 May—Large-scale military exercises were held on Tuesday in Rovajarvi, the Finnish Lapland area and Lohtaja, the western coastal city of Finland.

The military drills will last for about two weeks until on 5 June, said the Finnish Defence Forces.

Nearly 5,000 conscripts and Defence Force staff from the Army, the Frontier Guard Troops, as well as the Air and Navy Forces, participated in the exercises in Rovajarvi.

The troops started to be deployed there on Tuesday before the formal exercises begin on Thursday. Meanwhile, the Finnish Defence Forces also started an air defense military exercise in Lohtaja on Tuesday. The drill will last 10 days until on 29 May.

Around 2,000 troops took part in the exercise.

Xinhua

Japan's Fukushima operator begins groundwater release to Ocean

TOKYO, 21 May — The operator of Japan's destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant began releasing groundwater that it said is within legal radiation safety limits into the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, in a bid to manage huge amounts of radioactive water built up at the site.

Water well unit haul from subsurface water is seen near No 3 (L) and No 4 reactor buildings at Tokyo Electric Power Co's (TEPCO)'s tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture, in this photo released by Kyodo on 15 April, 2014. — REUTERS

Tokyo Electric Power, or Tepco, has been fighting a daily battle against contaminated water since the Fukushima nuclear station was wrecked by a massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

The controversial release, which was agreed by local fishermen after extended talks, coincides with a breakdown of a water treatment system for the highly contaminated water held in makeshift tanks.

It also comes amid revelations this week in the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper that the majority of workers at the plant fled during the height of the meltdowns after the quake and tsunami knocked out cooling and backup power.

Groundwater flows down from nearby hills and 400 tonnes enters basements of the wrecked reactor buildings on a daily basis, according to Tepco's estimates, mixing with highly radioactive water used to cool reactors.

Workers then pump out the contaminated water, treat it and store it in more than 1,000 makeshift tanks that cover the facility grounds. The tanks that hold the most contaminated liquids are nearly full and workers are rushing to build more capacity.

Tepco said 560 tonnes of groundwater captured and stored before it entered the basements is to be released on Wednesday, using a bypass system that funnels it towards the sea after checking for radiation levels.

Using the bypass, Tepco hopes to divert on average 100 tonnes of untainted groundwater a day into the ocean.

A water treatment facility known as the Advanced Liquid Processing System, designed to remove the most dangerous nuclides, was completely shut down again this week. The system has not been fully operational since it was installed nearly two years ago.

Reuters

Yemen clashes kill at least 16 people—local officials

SANAA, 21 May—At least 16 people were killed north of the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Tuesday in fighting between Shi'ite Muslim tribesmen and government forces and allied Sunni Muslim rivals, local government sources said.

Bouts of intense sectarian conflict since last year have undermined attempts at national reconciliation in Yemen, a neighbour of major oil exporter Saudi Arabia and home to one of al Qaeda's most active wings. The sources said the fighting erupted when fighters loyal to the Shi'ite Houthi tribe attacked military and security outposts near the city of Omran, in the province that carries the same name, killing six soldiers and one officer.

The army responded to the attack, killing nine of the fighters.

But a Houthi source said the army opened fire on civilian supporters of the group holding a sit-in and that civilians were killed in the attack.

Violence last erupted there on Saturday when a group of armed Houthi fighters marched to the provincial capital and demanded to stage a demonstration, but were refused entry by the army. Three people were killed.—*Reuters*

Want to marry Prince Harry? Fox spins a twist with new dating show

LOS ANGELES, 21 May — An English country manor, a gaggle of giggling bachelorettes, a slew of butlers and one very mysterious ginger-haired Prince Charming are at the centre of Fox's new dating show, where the bachelor is not quite what he seems.

Meet Matt Hicks, the 24-year-old British environmental consultant who bears more than a passing resemblance to Britain's Prince Harry, and was given the task of persuading 12 American girls that they were vying to date the fun-loving royal.

"As far as I was aware, impersonating a member of the royal family was treason and I'm pretty sure the punishment for that was being locked in the Tower of London," Hicks told *Reuters*.

Premiering on Tuesday, Fox's "I Wanna Marry Harry" spins a twist on the televised dating format used most notably by ABC for "The Bachelor," where one man is charged with finding love from a group of 25 women, honing it down to the lucky one over a series of glamorous and drama-filled dates.

Hicks, brought up in Hertfordshire, a neighbouring county to London, went to Southampton University, graduating with a degree in geology and oceanography, a different path from his royal look-alike's military career.

In "I Wanna Marry Harry," Hicks was sought by the show's producers after being spotted on a celebrity look-alike website, and was given the ultimate makeover. They dyed his blond hair red, gave him intensive training on royal family history and put him in a manor house with guards and a facade of wealth.

His quest, over five weeks and a series of dates, is to persuade the girls that he really is the 29-year-old prince, and at the end, to reveal his true identity to the one girl left, and hope that she accepts him for his real self. "There was a lot of weight on my shoulders, they had put a massive budget on this, but I was never really too worried about not pulling it off," Hicks said. "It was just down to being genuine and charming and getting the girls to like me."—*Reuters*

***Television personality Matt Hicks poses for a portrait while promoting the upcoming reality television series 'I Wanna Marry Harry', in Beverly Hills, California on 2 May, 2014.*—REUTERS**

Paul McCartney cancels all concerts due to ill health

TOKYO, 21 May — Former Beatle Paul McCartney has cancelled his remaining two concerts in Japan on Wednesday and Saturday due to illness after pulling out of two earlier ones, organizers of the show said on Tuesday.

McCartney's health condition worsened after he came down with a virus after arriving in Japan last Thursday. Doctors have recommended bed rest, a spokesperson said.

"I was really looking forward to playing in Japan again after we had such an amazing time here in November," McCartney said in a statement. "So to cancel these shows as well as the National Stadium shows is hugely disappointing for me as well."

The two concerts were scheduled to take place in Tokyo's Nippon Budokan Hall, 48 years after the Beatles performed there in 1966, and Osaka's Yanmar Stadium Nagai, on Wednesday and Saturday respectively.

Kyodo News

***Fans take souvenir photos in front of a picture of ex-Beatle Paul McCartney at Tokyo's National Stadium on 18 May, 2014, after McCartney cancelled a concert there. The 71-year-old musician cancelled two of his concerts in Tokyo scheduled for that day and the following day as his health has not improved, organizers of the shows said.*—KYODO NEWS**

'Godfather,' 'Manhattan' cinematographer Gordon Willis dead at 82

NEW YORK, 21 May — Gordon Willis, the cinematographer responsible for stirring camera work in such film classics as the "Godfather" trilogy and several of Woody Allen's best-known films, has died aged 82.

Willis died on Sunday in Falmouth, Massachusetts, funeral home Chapman Cole & Gleason confirmed. The cause of death was not immediately available.

"This is a momentous loss," American Society of Cinematographers President Richard Crudo told Hollywood trade website Deadline. "He was one of the giants who absolutely changed the way movies looked."

Willis received an honourary lifetime achievement Oscar in 2010 and was nominated for best cinematography Academy Awards for Allen's "Zelig" and "The Godfather: Part III."

"He was a brilliant, irascible man, a one of a kind," "Godfather" director Francis Ford Coppola said in a statement. "A cinematic genius with a precise aesthetic. My favourite description was that 'He ice-skated on the film emulsion.' I learned a lot from him." Willis' work was credited with lending unique, often stunning imagery to a roster of films ranging from the romance "Manhattan" and lavish musical "Pennies From Heaven" to the Watergate thriller "All the President's Men." In thrillers such as Alan Pakula's "The Parallax View" and "Klute," for which Jane Fonda won her first Oscar, Willis's camera work evoked a dream-like, fugue state that critics credited with elevating the films to the status of classics.The Queens, New York-born Willis worked often with Coppola, Pakula and especially Allen, with whom he made eight films.

"Gordy was a huge talent and one of the few people who truly lived up to all the hype about him," Allen said in a statement.

Willis's films with Allen included the black-and-white "Manhattan," "Annie Hall," "The Purple Rose of Cairo," "Interiors," "Stardust Memories" and "Broadway Danny Rose."

Reuters

Earth story by Japanese woman director presented in Cannes

CANNES, (France), 21 May — A movie on the Earth by Japanese female director Naomi Kawase was screened here on Tuesday, competing for the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm), the top prize of the Cannes Film Festival.

In the movie Futatsume no mado (Still The Water), her eighth feature film, Kawase explores the mystique of nature, like her always style.

The film is about a young couple, played by Jun Yoshinaga and Nijiro Murakami, who find a body out at sea and decide to investigate.

"Our soul is complex, vague and unpredictable. In this story I hope to see Man mature upon coming into contact with the god we call Nature," said the director.

The Japanese director likes to explore nature's "divine" influence on the human "cycle of life and death", according to the festival's official daily digest.

"Kawase's ever delicate and poetic mise-en-scene lives and breathes the soft forms of nature and the soundtrack of the natural world," commented the daily. Highlighting the importance of the film for her, Kawase said it needs complicated skills to finish the movie. "I think that Still The Water is the most accomplished film I've made, both in terms of the actors' performance and from the technical point of view," said the director.—*Xinhua*

Japanese director Naomi Kawase

New project with Brad will be experimental: Angelina Jolie

LOS ANGELES, 21 May — 'Maleficent' actress Angelina Jolie has revealed that her much-awaited on-screen reunion with fiance Brad Pitt would be a "very experimental and raw" film.

The Oscar-winning actress, 38, is also serving the scriptwriter of the project, reported *Us* magazine.

"It's not a big movie, it's not an action movie. It's the kind of movie we love, but aren't often cast in. It's a very experimental, independent-type film where we get to be actors together and be really raw, open, try things," she said.

Jolie also said that they don't take each other for granted despite being in a relationship for such a long time. "He's my family. He's not just a lover and partner, which is wonderful, but he's my family now... We have history, we work hard to make it great, we don't kind of relax about it and take each other for granted," she said.—*PTI*

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

GENERAL

Nuns, backed by pope, warn of human trafficking at World Cup

VATICAN CITY, 21 May — Roman Catholic nuns backed by Pope Francis on Tuesday raised the alarm over increased risks of human trafficking, exploitation of workers, forced prostitution and sexual tourism at the football World Cup in Brazil next month.

The nuns, whose campaign is also backed by the US embassy to the Vatican, announced an international campaign called "Play in Favour of Life — Denounce Human Trafficking," on the risks they say will be associated with the 12 June - 13 July tournament. "We need to make people conscious of what happens on the margins of big world events such as the FIFA World Cup and the suffering of those who are trafficked," said Sister Carmen Sammut, a Maltese nun and one of the campaign organizers.

"Without this awareness, without acting together in favour of human dignity, the World Cup finals may turn out to be a terrible shame instead of a feast for humanity," she told a news conference at the Vatican.

Sammut said the initiative had the full backing of Pope Francis, an avid Argentine football fan who has called several conferences at the Vatican to study ways of combating human trafficking.

Sister Gabriella Bottani, an Italian nun who works in Brazil, said human traffickers and others took advantage of large events like the World Cup to exploit the most vulnerable. She said young people from the countryside are lured with the promise of a job and forced into prostitution.

Children in rural areas may be kidnapped and taken to cities hosting the venues and forced to beg.

Others who are already being exploited as sex workers may be forced to move to one of the 12 venue cities because they would be more profitable to their pimps.

In countries like Brazil, she said, large events could also give rising to kidnapping for adoption. "It is amazing how so many forces of evil can converge to cause so much harm against human freedom."

The nuns said statistics showed that sexual exploitation rose 30 percent in connection with the World Cup in Germany in 2006 and 40 percent at the World Cup in South Africa in 2010.

The nuns will be raising awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and other crimes connected to the World Cup through their blog gritopelavida.blogspot.com.br/, their Facebook page here and other social media.

Volunteers will be handing out leaflets in cities in Brazil and other Latin American countries, warning of human trafficking and how to spot it. Several demonstrations are planned. Catholic nuns have for years been in the front line in the fight against human trafficking.

They have formed the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons, known as Talitha Kum (Little Girl, Arise), a phrase in Aramaic taken from the Bible. It has members in more than 30 countries.

Reuters

Nuns Gabriella Bottani (L), Estrella Castalone (C) and Carmen Sammut hold the logo of an international campaign called ''Play in Favour of Life-Denounce Human Trafficking,'' on the risks they say will be associated with the June-July games, as they pose in front of Saint Peter's basilica in Rome on 20 May 2014. Roman Catholic nuns backed by Pope Francis on Tuesday raised the alarm over increased risks of human trafficking, exploitation of workers, forced prostitution and sexual tourism at the soccer World Cup in Brazil next month.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(22-5-2014,Thursday)

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

6:30 am
2. Songs of Yester Year

7:00 am
3. News

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

9:30 am
8. Shwe Yin Khone Than

10:15 am
9. TV Drama Series

11:00 am
10. Documentaty

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

12:25 pm
12. Teleplay

1:25 pm
13. Documentery

2:00 pm
14. Fine Arts—Bosom of Dramatic Performace

2:45 pm
15. Musical Programme

3:00 pm
16. News

3:30 pm
17. Teleplay

4:15 pm
18. Cute Lettle Dancers

4:30 pm
19. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First year (Zoology)

4:45pm
20. Mono Classical Songs

5:30 pm
21. India Drama Series

6:20 pm
22. Approaching Science Discovery World

7:00 pm
23. News

7:20 pm
24. Documentary

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

8:35 pm
26. Documentary

9:00 pm
27. News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-5-14 07:00am~ 23-5-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* 19 Hours
* World News
* School for the Blind
* Local News
* The Heart Love Influenced -U Hla Tun Cancer Foundation
* World News
* Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
* Local News
* Marketable Goods-(Straw painting)
* World News
* In the Studio: Nyi Voyy
* Local News
* Dawei -Tavoy , Travel To The Southern Part Of Myanmar
* World News
* Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
* Local News
* Product Of Myanmar-Strong And Stylish Pakokku Slippers
* World News
* Myanmar Puppet
* Local News
* The Richly Blessed Gem Land
* World News
* Temple Stalls
* Local News
* We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board
* World News
* Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
* Local News
* A Cordial Welcome From Pantaung
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Family Feud"

Indonesian election presents US with Modi-style visa headache

WASHINGTON, 21 May — The emergence of Prabowo Subianto as a serious contender in Indonesia's election this week means the United States faces the awkward possibility of having to welcome another Asian leader it had denied entry to because of alleged links to mass killings.

The situation has arisen days after Washington found itself having to change course and promise a visa to Indian Prime Minister-Elect Narendra Modi after his landslide election win. Modi was barred from the United States in 2005.

The possibility of another Washington U-turn became apparent after Indonesia's second-largest party on Monday suddenly switched its support to Prabowo from frontrunner Joko "Jokowi" Widodo ahead of July 9 presidential polls.

Prabowo was once one of Indonesia's most reviled men, accused of kidnapping, human rights abuses and a coup attempt after the 1998 overthrow of his former father-in-law, the late President Suharto.

A *New York Times* report in March said that in 2000 the US State Department denied the former general a visa to attend his son's university graduation in Boston, but has never said why.

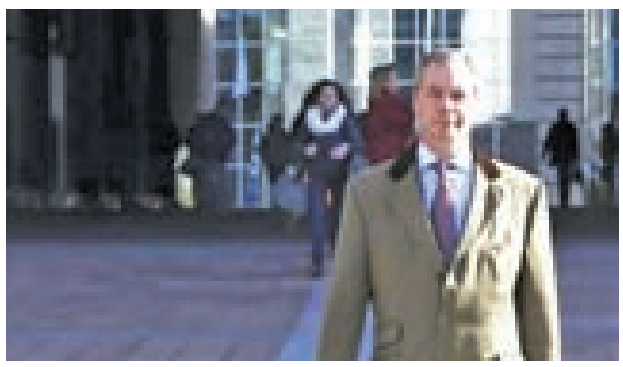
Reuters

UKIP cites safety fears as leader skips diversity event

LONDON, 21 May — The leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) on Tuesday cancelled a planned appearance at an event designed to counter charges his party was racist because of concerns about his safety, party officials said.

Most polls show UKIP, which wants Britain to leave the European Union and to end "open door" immigration, is on course to come first or second in elections to the European Parliament on Thursday.

But several left-leaning lawmakers have accused the party of racism after Nigel Farage, UKIP's leader, gave an interview last Friday in which he said that people would be worried if a group of Romanian men moved in next door. He had previously cited concerns about crimes committed by immigrants from Romania.



Britain's UK Independence Party (UKIP) leader and member of the European Parliament (MEP) Nigel Farage walks outside the EU Parliament ahead of an interview with Reuters in Brussels on 12 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Farage's comments sparked a media backlash, including from right-leaning newspapers that have traditionally been critical of what they say are the government's lax immigration controls.

UKIP, which took out a full-page national newspaper advert on Monday to say it wasn't racist, organised an event in London on Tuesday aimed at showcasing its ethnic diversity and countering the racism charge.

However, it ended in disarray after the leader of the steel band hired to play the street party said he thought UKIP was racist and protesters carrying anti-UKIP placards heckled the speakers.

Winston McKenzie, a UKIP candidate attending the event, said Farage had been right to cancel his appearance.

"When I saw the way some people were behaving, I 100 percent agreed with Mr Farage," McKenzie told the area's local newspaper, the Croydon Advertiser.—*Reuters*

Local Sports

MFF Ooredoo Futsal Cup 2014 to start on 27 May

The group fixtures for MFF Ooredoo Futsal Cup 2014 were arranged at the office of Myanmar Football Federation in Thuwunna of Yangon on Wednesday afternoon.

Altogether 42 Futsal clubs are included in eight groups and they will take part in the cup that will kick its matches at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna as of 27 May.

Deserved prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.—*By Nyi Myat Thawdar;Photo: Soe Nyunt*

Palestine beats Myanmar 2-0 in AFC Challenge Cup

Myanmar lost to Palestine 0-2 in the second match of the Group (A) in the AFC Challenge Cup held in Maldives on Wednesday evening.

Myanmar players could not show off their excellent skills in the match both in individuals and in groups. Palestinian strikers controlled the football with their talented skills. Myanmar winger David was not deployed in the match due to injury and Myanmar strikers Kyaw Ko Ko and Yan Paing could not show their regular skills. Sithu Aung's kick bounced from the bar in the 51st minute and Yan Paing's kick was saved by the Palestinian keeper in the 73rd minute.

Palestinian strikers scored two winning goals before the first half whistle and in the 53rd minute respectively.

Palestine stands first with six points in two wins and Myanmar, three points in one win and one loss.

By Po Thaw Zin

11 year old qualifies for US Women's Open

San Francisco, 21 May — Lucy Li, an 11-year-old from California, has became the youngest ever to qualify for the US Women's Open after going two under par in her sectional qualifier, the US Golf Association said. Li earned her way into next month's golf major event by shooting rounds of 74 and 68 on the par-72 Old Course at Half Moon Bay near San Francisco on Monday. The school girl beat second-place qualifier Kathleen Scavo by seven strokes to earn her way into the field for the 19-22 June championship at Pinehurst in North Carolina.

Lexi Thompson, at 12 years, four months in 2007, previously held the mark as youngest to qualify. Li will not be the youngest player ever to participate in the US Women's Open as Beverly Klass was 10 when she competed in the 1967 championship, prior to the qualification process. The young Californian has already tasted the limelight, having won her age group at Augusta National's inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt Championship last month ahead of the Masters. Last year, Li qualified for the match-play portion of the US Women's Amateur Public Links Championship but lost in the first round.—*Reuters*

I need to change 'chip' and think of Argentina, says Messi

Buenos Aires, 21 May — Lionel Messi wants to change the Barcelona "chip" in his head to an Argentina one to do well at the World Cup, the national captain said on Tuesday.

Messi told reporters on arrival in Buenos Aires that he would try to put a disappointing season in Spain behind him with Barcelona failing to win a major trophy for the first time in six years.

"Now I must think of the national team and change my chip," Messi, who signed a new contract with Barcelona on Monday, said. "Many times it was the reverse, I'd go to Barcelona and play well, let's hope it's the other way round. When I join my friends at the (Argentine FA training) complex it'll be another story."

Before Messi won over Argentina fans with his performances in the World Cup qualifiers, he was criticised in his home country for not replicating his Barcelona form in the light blue and white striped national shirt.

Barcelona's Lionel Messi

Messi headed from Ezeiza international airport on the outskirts of the capital to his home town of Rosario for a break before beginning training next week under coach Alejandro Sabella for the tournament in Brazil starting on 12 June.

"This wasn't my best season, I'd have liked to finish it differently but it was the whole (Barcelona) group, not only at an individual level, rather a slump of the whole team," said Messi, surrounded by reporters with microphones and cameras and autograph-hunting fans in the arrivals sector at Ezeiza.

Coach Gerardo Martino, also from Rosario, resigned after Barcelona lost their last chance to win La Liga when they were held 1-1 by a title-clinching Atletico Madrid at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

"I hope that when I get together with my (Argentina) team mates my head will change because it was a complicated season. We had the chance to win the (Liga) tournament and we couldn't. I went through a lot of things at a personal level, it wasn't easy with the injuries."

Messi, who suffered hamstring problems, suffered a drop in form from the high standards he set in previous seasons, but he hopes to be back to his clinical best to lead Argentina to a third world title in Brazil.

Reuters

Toure could leave Man City over birthday snub, says agent

London, 21 May — Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure is upset with Manchester City after an apparent birthday snub and could leave the Premier League champions, his agent said on Tuesday.

According to Dimitri Seluk, who represents the Ivory Coast international, Toure was dismayed that, despite the club giving him a 31st birthday cake, the owners did not personally congratulate him at a post-season party in Abu Dhabi.

Former Barcelona powerhouse Toure, whose goals were instrumental in City's second title in three seasons, could even seek a move, Seluk said.

"He got a cake but when it was Roberto Carlos's birthday, the president of (Russian side) Anzhi (Makhachkala) gave him a Bugatti," Seluk told BBC Sport.

"I don't expect City to present Yaya with a Bugatti, we only asked that they shook his hand and said 'we congratulate you'. It is the minimum they must do when it is his birthday and the squad is all together.

"Of course Yaya is upset about this. It is his birthday and nobody said anything or shook his hand, so he does not feel comfortable," added Seluk, who said City sent a Twitter message wishing Toure a happy birthday.

"The most important thing is a human relationship and maybe this is his opportunity for Yaya to find that. If City don't respect him, then easy — Yaya will leave. No problem."

Toure, who joined City in 2010 as part of the owner Sheikh Mansour's vast outlay on world-class players, moved to reassure Man City fans via his Twitter page on Tuesday.

"Thanks for all the birthday messages today. Card from City just arrived... Must have got lost in the post. Haha" he Tweeted.

"Jokes aside. Please do not take words that do not come out of MY mouth seriously. Judge my commitment to @MCFC by my performances."

However, Toure later tweeted: "Everything Dimitry said is true. He speaks for me. I will give an interview after (the) World Cup to explain."

Reuters

Manchester City's Yaya Toure (C)

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The New Light of Myanmar

Gmail thenewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com

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