

Western parts of Myanmar gets first direct rail service to Yangon

By Aye Min Soe

Myanma Railways has opened a 90-mile long rail link on Saturday, connecting the western parts of the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers with Yangon by rail for the first time, with Myanmar Railways offering free services on the route for the first three days, officials said.

The new track leads from Yangon to Hinthada, and in Yangon also connects to the Monywa and Pakokku route, passing through the western parts of the Ayeyawady and Chindwin River.

"There are many advantages with this link. People in the western part of Myanmar or western part of Ayeyawady and Chindwin River now have the opportunity to come to Yangon by direct rail service," said U Than Htay, Union Minister for Rail Transportation in his opening speech.

There is also a new railroad under construction, which will link Sittway in Rakhine State and Yangon Region, officials said.

The 35-year old French-



Hundreds of passengers boarding the French-made train which is about to embark on its maiden journey of the newly-launched Yangon-Hinthada link.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

made locomotive will pull three ordinary and two upper class carriages with about 280-seat capacity in total, shuttling between Hlinethaya station on the western outskirts of Yangon and Hinthada in Ayeyawady Region.

The train will leave Hlinethaya Station at 2 pm and will arrive at Hinthada

Station at 8.30 pm. After a stop over at night in Hinthada, it will leave Hinthada at 5 am and arrive at Yangon at 11.30 am.

Officials said there are about 11 stops on the new route which takes around six hours to its final stop as the maximum speed is 20 mph.

"If we can replace the locomotive with a modern

one, we can reduce the travel time between Yangon and Hinthada," Union Minister for U Than Htay said in his opening speech.

A ticket for ordinary-class seats costs K900, with upper class seats from Yangon to Hinthada selling for K1900. A bus ticket for the same route would cost between K2000 and K3000,

according to the Union Minister.

Work on this project started November 2009, taking until now to complete as constructions in the delta region, where several rivers flow, was complicated.

The British government launched the first rail service in the country 137 years ago.

Htantabin, Kawhmu and Kungyangon in Yangon selected as priority townships for MNCDD project

By Ye Myint

Work to approve one of three priority townships for getting benefit from a World Bank-supported project is underway and will last from two weeks to one month, Daw Lei Yin Win, communications consultant of MMR NCDD project told the New Light of Myanmar on Saturday.

Three townships — Htantabin, Kawhmu and Kungyangon — in Yangon have been selected as first, second and third priorities following consultations among groups of stakeholders at a meeting on Wednesday, she added.

The meeting to select a township to participate in the Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project was held

at Yangon Region Government Office with the participation of more than 300 officials from Yangon Region government, local and international non-governmental organizations, development partners and media.

The communications officer from the Department of Rural Development said the proposed townships were chosen in accordance with selection criteria that focused on health, education and socioeconomic data and suggestions by officials present at the meeting.

Regarding the final stage of the selection process, she told the NLM that a report with the Chief Minister's recommendations on the three priority townships will be submitted to the Foreign Aid Management Working Committee.



Photo shows a school under reconstruction at a rural village in Chin State in which MNCDD project operates.—PHOTO SUPPLIED/WORLD BANK MYANMAR

The project will then be conducted at the selected township following an ap-

proval from the committee charged with aid coordination and the World Bank's

no-objection upon the selection process.

Through the Myanmar

National Community Driven Development Project, all (See page 3)

INSIDE



Monks who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination honoured

Page-3

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker calls for interest in politics

Page-3

Myawady-Mae Sot border crossing briefly closed

Page-3

Long lasting old capital Inwa, Part II

Page-8

The Winning Edge

Page-9

Qualified students to learn accountancy course grade II at Cooperative University

SAGAING, 24 May—Those qualified in the advanced accountancy course grade I at the cooperative training schools across the nation will have the opportunity to learn the grade II course at the University of Cooperative and Cooperative Colleges, said Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun in meeting with trainees of the advanced cooperative course No 2/2014 at the University of Cooperative (Sagaing) in



Sagaing on Friday morning.

The basic cooperative courses for staff and for of-

ficers are being conducted at the university and colleges. Similar courses have

turned out 109 staff and 259 officers, he said.

The deputy minister explained that the training course will give knowledge about change of the mindset, cooperative policies and procedures of the global countries, types of micro-finance and media sector to the trainees.

A total of 104 trainees attended the advanced cooperative course No 2/2014.—*Htwe Myint Nang (Sagaing)*

Duty of projects assigned to township authorities

MUSE, 24 May—A ceremony to assign duty for projects to departmental officials for 2014-15 fiscal

year was held at the city hall in Muse of Shan State (North) on Thursday.

The Head of Kutkai

Township Planning Department explained facts about projects.

Muse District Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun presented certificates of assignments to departmental officials and

township authorities.

It was attended by Hluttaw representatives, company representatives, local authorities and representatives of banking services.

L Soe (IPRD)

Express buses under checking for safety of passengers in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 24 May—The combined authorities team checks express buses at Dagundaing roundabout at the exit of Mandalay and highway bus terminal as of 12 May whether the bus

workers abide by the prescribed disciplines, and it is aimed at ensuring security of the passengers, said the leader of the combined team.

“In general, the traf-

fic accidents depend on bus drivers. The bus line owners, bus owners, and drivers and conductors are to take care of driving for safety of passengers, and the responsible persons are to supervise skills of drivers who must have driver licences,” he added.

Some of drivers did not drink alcohol from the start of driving but they drink it at the recreation centres on the expressway. So, they must avoid such acts, a passenger expressed his opinion.

Officials daily check the express buses equipped with fire extinguisher, bus maintenance, work licence,

driver licence, conductor and other necessary points.

“The authorities check not only the express buses but also taxis and commuter buses in downtown Mandalay. Action is being taken against those who broke the traffic rules,” said a member of the team.

From 1 to 19 May, action was taken against 74 vehicles. From 12 to 19 May, a total of 131 express buses were checked. Beyond the period when the educative talks are being given to the bus workers, action will be taken against offenders as of June.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Homeless, landless list collected in Sagaing

SAGAING, 24 May—According to the instruction of Sagaing Region government, the ward administrators collect the list of homeless and landless in Sagaing as of 21 May.

The homeless and landless may enlist at the

ward administrative offices with endorsements of the local authorities.

Such tasks is concerned with the green village project being implemented by the Union government, said a source.—*Nanda Min Lwin*

Five villages in two townships urgently need landslide prevention in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 24 May—Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has submitted a report to the Mandalay Region Minister for Transport to prevent the landslides caused by Ayeyawady River in Madaya and Singu townships of Mandalay Region.

The report carries the list of villages that are not included in the capital fund of the region government for 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal years. According to the observation on 6 April, landslides occur at four villages in Madaya Township

and one in Singu township.

Bogyikyun village in Madaya Township is the worst in landslides. It needs temporary prevention measures for the landslides. The report said that it is necessary to keep the steel basket diversions for five villages.

It was estimated that prevention against landslides for these villages will cost K 200 million, and the report urged the authorities to allot the separate fund of the Union for 2014-15 fiscal year.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein felicitates Argentine counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Madam Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25th May 2014.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker calls for interest in politics

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Myanmar is taking steps to turn itself into an industrialized country by “improving the agricultural sector with added momentum”, Speaker of both Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann said at Yezin Agricultural University in Zeyathiri Township here on Saturday morning, according to sources.

He said that the majority of people rely on agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry for survival, all of which together account for 30% of GDP and

40% of exports.

Speaking of parliamentary functions, he admitted that most people do not have much sense when it comes to parliament, citing the stop-go parliamentary system in the past as the main reason.

He said that nobody should shy away from politics, adding that alack of interest in politics will not lead to national progress.

Regarding differences in ideology among ethnic and religious groups, he also pointed out that mutual respect can conquer all these differences.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets local people and personnel in Zeyathiri Township.—MNA

Htantabin, Kawhmu and Kungyangon ...

(from page 1)

village-tracts in a selected township will be empowered to roll out their own small infrastructure projects to improve their lives following community level consultations.

According to the Department of Rural Development, the project will be covering 15 townships, one in each of the country's 14 region/state and Union territory over the next two years. For the first year of its operation, the \$86.3 million-project has begun with

work done in Kanpetlet in Chin State, Namhsam (Pa-laung Self-Administered Zone) in Shan State and Kyunsu in Taninthayi Region in 2013. During the second year of its operation, the project will benefit people in four selected townships—Pinlebu in Sagaing Region, Sedoktara in Magway Region, Laymyethna in Ayeyawady Region and An in Rakhine State. Arrangements are being made to also select a township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Monks who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination honoured



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offers certificate of title to Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida monk.

MNA

YANGON, 24 May—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attended a ceremony to honour 78 Buddhist monks who passed

the 66th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination conducted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, at the Maha Pasana Cave in Mayangon Township on Saturday.

The Vice President offered a certificate of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title and insignia to monk Ashin Vasetthalankara of Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery of Mingaladon Township and a certificate of Mula Abhidhammak-

ovida title to monk Ashin Pannavamsa of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Niyaka Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township of Yangon.

Union ministers U Aung Kyi, U Soe Maung, U Hsan Hsint, U Kyaw Hsan, U Tint Hsan and U Aye Myint Kyu and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, deputy ministers and region ministers presented certificates of religious titles to the monks.

The vice president and his delegation offered alms to members of the Sangha. Among the Buddhist monks who passed the examination, the monk who won the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title has thoroughly studied Pali Texts of 8,026 pages of Tipitaka canons and the written portion of over 200 books of Pali Texts, Athakatha and Tika of Tipitaka Canons respectively.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Argentine counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of My-

anmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Hector Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of

Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25th May 2014.—MNA

Myawady-Mae Sot border crossing briefly closed

By Aung Khin

MYAWADY, 24 May—The border-crossing checkpoint of Myawady-Mae Sot between Myanmar and Thailand was temporarily closed on Saturday morning.

Local Ma Aye Aye Myo from the Myanmar border town said, that “The border checkpoint was closed this morning when we left for our job in Mae Sot. But it was again

opened before noon. We were worried about the closure of factories there.”

Thai media speculated that all border checkpoints might have been closed after the Kingdom's military announced a coup d'etat on Thursday evening.

The border checkpoint ordinarily opens from 6 a.m to 6 p.m. The cost of a ‘day-pass’ at the border is K2,500 to Myanmar authorities and K3,000 for transportation by bus.

According to Ma Aye Aye Myo, “Most of the Myanmar workers informally pass the border by boat through Moei River for their day jobs in Mae Sot because it costs only about Baht 100 (K3,000).”

According to official figures from the Ministry of Commerce, trade volume at Myawady increased 70 per cent in 2012-2013 fiscal year compared to the previous year.

Low pressure still persists

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—According to the observations at 6 hrs MST

on Saturday, the low pressure area over Central Bay of Bengal still persists, an-

nounced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Moderate earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar, (about 45 miles southeast of Myitkyina), about 240 miles northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 3 hrs 19 min 50 sec M.S.T on Saturday, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

Summer paddy harvested in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 24 May—Sagaing Township has put 4793 acres of farmlands under summer paddy this year including over 700 acres of summer paddy in Legyi-in area.

Local farmers focus on cultivation of Manaw-thukha paddy strain in Legyi-in area.

In the pre-monsoon paddy, the local farmers faced shortage of farming workers to harvest their ripening paddy in time. To solve such problems, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Soe Myat and Head of Township Agricultural Mech-

anization Department U Htein Min supervise harvesting of summer paddy with the use of 10 combine harvesters of Htet Aung Khant Company daily.

A combine harvester can harvest 10 acres of farmlands a day. Thanks to the modern farming machinery, the paddy can be harvested in time and can be produced in high yield.

Local farmers can fetch K 1000 per basket of paddy more than that of the last year's. This year, it is estimated that farmers can earn K 450,000



per acre of paddy.

Htwe Myint Naing
(Sagaing)

Betel price hikes in pre-monsoon period in Mandalay market

MANDALAY, 24 May—Betel production declines in the farms due to drought in the pre-rainy season so the betel market faces high demand in Mandalay.

In February and March this year, betel trading reaches K 3500-K4000 per viss (1.6 kilos) of betel in the market. As of April, betel is sold at K 6000 per viss, said the betel growers.

In April and May, the farmers remove the matured betel leaves from the plants as nurturing works. If there is drought, betel



production will decline due to weak plants, said betel grower U Moe Kyaw of North Nanda Village in Patheingyi Township.

Decline of betel production is one of the root causes of high price.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Implementation for green village project explained

KYAUKPADAUNG, 24 May—A talk on cooperation in implementation of green village project for development of the region was held at Magyisu Village of Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, on Friday afternoon.

It is aimed at enabling the local people to understand the green village project for uplift of social economic life of the rural people.

Chairman of the project work committee Head of Township Rural De-

velopment Department U Soe Naing and staff gave talks on progress of the project to the rural people in Thitsetpin village on 21 May and Khethsutaw village on 22 May.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)



Kyaukpadaung Township sees uplift of capacity of basic education teachers

KYAUKPADAUNG, 24 May—A meeting on uplift of capacity of basic education teachers was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region on Friday.

The meeting focused

on social security, uplift of teachers' capacity and correct attitude. A total of 15 teachers who attended the training course at Education College gave multiplier course to 630 basic education teachers and 25 teachers from private

schools.

Similar meetings will be held in Myoma, Pwaykyit, Letpapy and Poma of the township, said Headmaster U Hla Kyaing of Poma Basic Education High School.—Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Telenor Mobile Co., to sell K 1500 per SIM card

KYONDOE, 24 May—Norway-based Telenor Co made a clarification on its service of telecommunications to the local people at the hall of Basic Education High School in Kyondoe of Kawkareik Township in Kayin State on Friday morning.

Kayin State liaison in-charge U Myitta of Telenor

Co., said that the company will open a branch in Hpa-an. It is the telecommunications company to produce SIM cards and communication services in Thailand.

The company will give its services to the local people across the nation by erecting towers within eight months. After

that, the company will sell K 1500 per SIM card and call charge will be reduced from K 50 per minutes, he said.

It was learnt that the company creates job opportunities for the local people in education, economic, health and social sectors.—Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)



Implementation of hydropower project discussed

MYITKYINA, 24 May—Resource and Environment Myanmar Co., held a discussion on implementation of Ngawchankha hydropower project at the hall of Chipwe Township General Administration Department on Friday.

Environmental Dr Win Maw and Social-environmentalist Daw Khin Ohnma Htwe explained advantages and disadvantages in implementation of the hydropower project and replied to queries.

At the ceremony, the company donated one set each of computer for Chipwe Basic Education High School and Nozunbaung BEPS, amounting to K 600,000.

Myitkyina District (IPRD)

REGIONAL

Opposition to Thai coup simmers, ex-PM in 'safe place'

BANGKOK, 24 May — Former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was in a “safe place” on Saturday, an aide said, after being held by Thailand’s army following its seizure of power this week, as opposition to the coup grew among her supporters and pro-democracy activists.

The army moved on Thursday after failing to forge a compromise in a power struggle between Yingluck’s populist government and the royalist establishment, which brought months of sometimes violent unrest to Bangkok’s streets.

The military detained Yingluck on Friday when she and 154 other people, mostly political associates, were summoned to an army facility in Bangkok.

A senior officer had told *Reuters* she could be held for up to a week and Thai media reported she had been taken to an army base in Saraburi Province north of Bangkok, but an aide denied that.

“Now she’s in a safe



A woman walks past soldiers providing security to the Army Club where senior army officials meet foreign diplomats in Bangkok on 23 May, 2014.—REUTERS

place ... She has not been detained in any military camp. That’s all I can say at this moment,” the aide said, declining to be iden-

tified. A source from her Puea Thai Party added: “We can’t say she is absolutely free because there are soldiers in the area,

monitoring her.”

This source said several former ministers from her cabinet were being held in army facilities in

Saraburi, neighbouring Lopburi Province or Bangkok. Army deputy spokesman Winthai Suvaree told a news conference on Sat-

urday that anyone being held would not be detained for more than seven days. He did not mention Yingluck.

Thailand’s political woes are the latest chapter in a nearly decade-long clash between the Bangkok-based establishment and Thaksin Shinawatra, a former telecommunications tycoon who broke the mould of Thai politics with pro-poor policies that won him huge support and repeated electoral victories.

Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 coup and left the country after a 2008 graft conviction but he remains Thailand’s most influential politician and was the guiding hand behind the government of Yingluck, his sister.

Despite international calls for the restoration of democratic government, Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha has not promised a swift return to civilian rule, insisting there must be broad reforms and stability first.

Reuters

Pakistan prime minister to attend inauguration of Indian prime minister

ISLAMABAD, 24 May — Pakistan has accepted an invitation to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to attend the inauguration of Indian Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi, an official said on Saturday.

The Pakistani premier’s attendance will be a first in the history of the nuclear-armed rivals, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947. Mohyuddin Wani, the joint secretary of the Prime Minister’s office, told *Reuters* that Pakistan had accepted India’s invitation to Sharif to attend Modi’s swearing-in with other South Asian leaders.

Ties have been particularly tense between India and Pakistan since 2008 Mumbai attacks blamed on Pakistan-based militants but Sharif has said he wants to improve relations with India.

Reuters

Rumblings of dissent against India’s Gandhi after election drubbing

NEW DELHI, 24 May — Dissenting voices in India’s Congress party have for the first time lashed out at the campaign team of Rahul Gandhi, who led the 128-year-old party to the worst electoral defeat in its history last week.

A decade in power for Congress ends on Monday when Narendra Modi takes over as prime minister. Modi won a historic majority on 16 May and the defeated party now faces the prospect of a long spell in opposition. Rahul is the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has been at the heart of the Congress party since independence from Britain in 1947.

The family has given the country three prime ministers, along with Sonia Gandhi, the power behind the throne in the outgoing government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. On Monday, Congress’s top leadership instinctively closed ranks around Rahul and his mother, party president Sonia, and rejected their offer to resign. But anger at the dismal performance has since begun to bubble over, amid concerns the party, and the dynasty, may never recover.



Congress party vice-president Rahul Gandhi speaks to the media as his mother and chief of Congress Sonia Gandhi (L) stands next to him during a news conference in New Delhi on 16 May, 2014.

REUTERS

Milind Deora, a former federal minister, said Gandhi’s secretive coterie of advisers, who had no electoral experience, “did not listen” to party cadres and legislators.

“We felt our voices don’t matter. This has to change,” Deora told the *Indian Express*. “It is not the advisers alone.

The people who take the advice also have to bear responsibility.” Although Deora did not offer names, the remark appeared to be aimed at Rahul Gandhi himself, who rarely, if ever, endures any criticism from party colleagues.

Several other high profile lawmakers have spoken out against the campaign this week, saying there was a rift between grassroots workers and party leaders.

One outgoing minister, KV Thomas, called on Rahul’s charismatic sister Priyanka Gandhi to play a bigger party role. During the campaign, Gandhi surrounded himself with a small group of mostly foreign-educated trusted aides who operated out of his central Delhi home, which was often felt to be out of bounds for others in the party.

Reuters

Japan, China should “freeze” Senkaku row, focus on economy

TOKYO, 24 May — Japan and China should “freeze” the issue of the Senkaku Islands and focus on economic matters in an effort to improve strained relations, former Japanese Ambassador to China Uichiro Niwa said on Friday.

“Neither of us can compromise on those uninhabited islands even by 1 millimeter,” Niwa said in a speech in Tokyo, referring to the East China Sea islets administered for decades by Japan but claimed by China and Taiwan.

“Do we have to resolve the issue in five years? No,” Niwa said. “Maybe 100 years later. So let us freeze the issue and do whatever we can on the economic front.”

Since the Japanese government purchased three of the five main islands in the Senkaku group from a private Japanese owner in September 2012, China has sent patrol ships into Japanese waters around the islands in an attempt to undermine Japan’s administration over the islets, called Diaoyu in China and Tiaoyutai in Taiwan.

Niwa said that separating politics from the economy and putting greater emphasis, for example, on promoting joint development of natural resources and increasing exchanges between young people and local authorities of the two countries will be the only way for Japan and China to improve ties.

Niwa, a former Itochu Corp chairman who was Japan’s ambassador to Beijing from June 2010 to December 2012, urged Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping to hold talks when Xi hosts a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in November in Beijing.

“The leaders of the neighbouring countries have never met in a year and half. It is an abnormal situation,” he said. “The world is laughing, saying what are they thinking about. Some in the United States are even saying that a war may soon break out (between Japan and China).”

Abe and Xi have yet to hold official talks since Xi became general secretary of the Communist Party of China in November 2012 and Abe returned to power in December that year.—Kyodo News

Putin signals he will work with Ukraine leader, but blasts US Armed clashes in east as Ukraine counts down to election



Russia's President Vladimir Putin speaks during a session of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2014 (SPIEF 2014) in St Petersburg on 23 May, 2014.—REUTERS

ST PETERSBURG, 24 May — President Vladimir Putin appeared to hold out an olive branch on Friday by suggesting he will work with whomever is elected Ukraine's next president and calling for better ties with the West.

But at the same time he fiercely criticised US foreign and economic policy. In a speech to foreign and Russian businessmen at Russia's answer to the Davos World Economic Forum on the shores of its elegant former imperial capital, Putin acknowledged that US and European Union sanctions were

hurting the country's economy.

"We are not planning any self-isolation," Putin said, proposing dialogue and cooperation to show that Russia is open for business and, perhaps, to head off more sanctions.

"We hope that common sense ... will prompt our European and US partners to work with Russia."

Asked whether Russia will recognize the legitimacy of Sunday's presidential election in Ukraine, he also sounded conciliatory, saying: "We will treat the choice of the Ukrainian people with respect."

That was a sign of goodwill after weeks of criticizing the election, which had raised the prospect of Russia not recognizing the new leader's legitimacy. Putin added that "after the election we will work with the newly elected structure."

But, describing Ukraine as in civil war, he peppered his speech with criticism of the United States, accusing it of instigating a coup d'état in the ex-Soviet republic, aggravating global economic problems and suggesting it wanted to draw Kiev into former Cold War foe NATO.

"The world has changed," Putin said. "The unipolar vision of the world ... has failed."

Reverting repeatedly to the anti-US rhetoric that has been a hallmark of his third term as president since May 2012, he appeared to try to drive a wedge between the United States and Europe by praising European companies for being more pragmatic in their softer response to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Reuters

KIEV/KARLOVKA, 24 May — Armed pro-Russian separatists and a Ukrainian militia group clashed in the east of Ukraine on Friday, leaving at least two dead and heightening tension before a presidential election called to draw a line under six months of bloody upheaval. Kiev's pro-Western leaders hope Sunday's poll will stabilize the former Soviet republic after street protests toppled Moscow-backed president Viktor Yanukovich and pro-Russian separatists responded by seizing Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine.

European leaders will consider steps against Russia on Tuesday if they

decide Moscow has hampered the election, ranging from restrictions on luxury goods imports to an oil and gas ban, although some are wary due to close trade ties.

The Ukrainian authorities have promised a suspension of anti-separatist operations on the day of the election, billed as the most important in 23 years of independence from Moscow, but Friday's clash suggested violence may mar the event. A Reuters correspondent saw two dead bodies after the three-hour fire-fight in the morning between Ukrainian self-defence fighters and separatists manning a checkpoint in a rural location west of

the big industrial city of Donetsk.

The pro-Kiev fighters issued a Facebook statement late in the day saying four of their men were killed and nine wounded. Allied to Ukrainian billionaire Igor Kolomoisky, they are at the forefront of Kiev's efforts to prevent the country splitting. "We are determined that honest and transparent elections will take place," interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk declared in talks with two European Union foreign ministers as the bloc's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton voiced support for Kiev and its election.

Reuters



People walk next to an armoured vehicle left as a monument at the Independence Square, or the "Maidan", in Kiev on 23 May, 2014. REUTERS

Iran cuts nuclear stockpile, engages with bomb probe

VIENNA, 24 May — Iran has cut its most sensitive nuclear stockpile by around 80 percent under an interim pact with world powers and has begun engaging with a long-stalled IAEA investigation into suspected weapons research, the UN atomic watchdog said on Friday.

The findings, in a quarterly report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, are likely to be welcomed by the six powers trying to negotiate a long-term deal with Iran on ending a decade-old dispute over its nuclear programme and dispelling fears of a new war in the Middle East.

Diplomats and analysts caution, however, that the positions of Iran and the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China remain far apart and that a successful outcome of their diplomatic efforts is far from certain.

Iran rejects Western allegations that it has been trying to develop the capability to build nuclear

weapons. But it has offered to work with the IAEA to resolve its concerns after pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani won office last year on a platform to end the Islamic Republic's isolation.

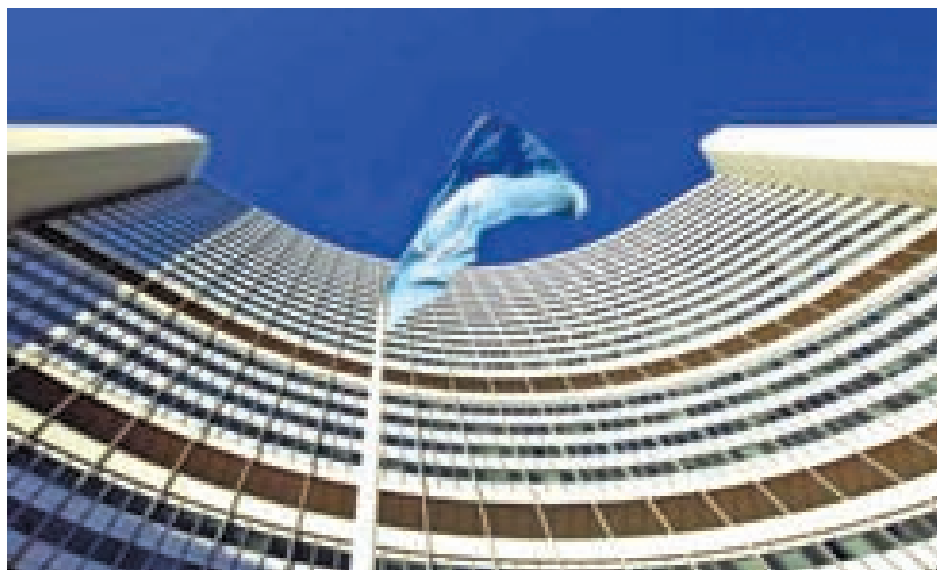
The IAEA, which has a pivotal role in verifying that Iran is living up to its part of the six-month accord reached in November,

made clear that Iran so far is undertaking the agreed steps to curb its nuclear programme. Under the breakthrough agreement that took effect on 20 January, Iran halted some aspects of its nuclear programme in exchange for a limited easing of international sanctions that have laid low the major oil producer's economy. It was

designed to buy time for talks on a final deal that began in February.

The IAEA report showed that Iran since January had acted to reduce its stockpile of higher-grade enriched uranium gas — a relatively short technical step away from weapons-grade material — by just under 82 percent.

Reuters



The flag of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) flies in front of its headquarters during a board of governors meeting in Vienna on 28 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

UK sceptics surge, Dutch right-wing stumbles as EU votes

LONDON/AMSTERDAM, 24 May — Britain's Eurosceptic UK Independence Party made strong gains but their Dutch counterparts stumbled in elections to the European Parliament that are expected to produce a widespread anti-EU vote thanks in part to a low turnout.

Nigel Farage's UKIP, which wants to pull Britain out of the European Union and severely restrict immigration, grabbed seats from both the governing Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party in local elections held at the same time as the EU vote on Thursday, partial results showed.

If those scores are confirmed or amplified in the European ballot, from which results will only be released late on Sunday, it could increase pressure on Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron to take a harder line on reducing the EU's powers.

"Looking at the average vote shares across the country, and without

wishing to count any chickens before they're hatched, it looks pretty good," an ebullient Farage said as evidence of his anti-establishment party's surge trickled in.

By contrast, far right Dutch populist Geert Wilders, whose anti-EU, anti-Islam Freedom Party had been forecast to top the poll in the Netherlands, was beaten into fourth place by pro-European parties in a surprise reverse, according to exit polls.

His PVV was projected to get just 12.2 percent, behind the centrist Democrats 66, the centre-right Christian Democrats and Prime Minister Mark Rutte's right-wing liberals.

Wilders blamed the disappointing score on a low turnout of around 35 percent, saying that "by staying home (voters) showed their loathing for and disinterest in the European Union. The Netherlands has not become more pro-European."

Reuters

WORLD

US, European allies express concern over Libya violence

WASHINGTON, 14 May —The United States and European allies on Friday expressed deep concern over mounting violence in Libya and warned that the country stood “at a cross-roads” between pursuing a peaceful political transition or facing chaos, fragmentation and terrorism.

“The European Union, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, deeply concerned by the repeated acts of violence, call on all sides to refrain from the use of force and to address differences by political means,” they said in a joint statement.

The statement comes amid growing chaos in Libya where the government has been unable to control dozens of militias who helped oust veteran ruler Muammar Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011.

On Sunday, gunmen shelled Libya’s General



Police provide security in Tripoli on 23 May, 2014. — REUTERS

National Congress in an attack claimed by forces loyal to a renegade general Khalifa Haftar. Western powers fear the general’s campaign will split the Libyan army and further destabilize the oil-producing North

African country.

In their joint statement, the countries offered to facilitate talks to help stabilize the situation, saying they were prepared to support an inclusive reconciliation process. They warned,

however, that “persistent divisions amongst Libyans will gravely challenge the ability of the international community to assist.”

“The process leading to a peaceful transition of power should be based upon

broad consensus, avoiding any acts which seek to undermine that process,” the statement said, calling on Libya to move forward as soon as possible with parliamentary elections.

Reuters

4 soldiers killed in NW Pakistan’s blast

ISLAMABAD, 24 May — At least four soldiers were killed and three others injured at a bomb explosion at their vehicle in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of Mohmand Agency on Saturday morning, officials said.

Inter Services Public Relations, the mouthpiece of Pakistan army, said in a statement that the incident happened when a vehicle carrying security personnel was hit by a landmine in Atmanzai area of Mohmand Agency, a tribal region at Pakistan-Afghan border.

Media reports said that the troops were on their way to conduct a search operation in the area on an intelligence tip-off when they came under attack on the way.

Xinhua

Casualties feared as roadside bomb strikes mini-bus in Afghan S town

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan) 24 May — A roadside bomb struck mini-bus in Marja District of the southern Helmand Province 555 km south of Kabul on Saturday leaving one civilian dead and injuring four others, police spokesman in the province Abdul Ahad Chopan said.

“A mine planted by Taliban militants on a road in the Kandahar province of Marja District struck a mini-bus at around 07:00 on Saturday, killing one civilian and wounding four others,” Chopan told Xinhua.

Taliban militants

fighting the government and largely relying on suicide and roadside bombings are yet to make comment. Notorious for poppy cultivation and militancy, Helmand has been regarded as hotbed of Taliban militants in the conflict-ridden Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Venezuela’s Maduro hits Twitter milestone, still lags mentor Chavez



Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro speaks to media after a meeting with his Palestinian counterpart President Mahmoud Abbas at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 16 May, 2014. —REUTERS

CARACAS, 24 May — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has hit a Twitter feed milestone of 2 million followers, though his cyber popularity still lags far behind that of his charismatic predecessor, the late Hugo Chavez. “Today I reached 2 million followers on my Twitter feed that’s been active for barely a year!” he exclaimed during a speech to university students, lauding the follower who propelled him above the mark. “Greetings to Mr Enver Segundo Medina Dias, of Maracaibo, I’ll see him tomorrow. He’s 53 years old, a compatriot, Evangelical ... What was he doing up so

late? It was like at 1 am and this man - bam - he logged on.”

Maduro, like Chavez, regularly blasts mainstream media as agents of a greedy US-led capitalist system that misrepresents the self-styled Socialist state.

Both leaders proved avid users of Twitter, a US-based social networking company known for its service that lets people send and post text messages of 140 characters.

Maduro’s main Spanish-language @NicolasMaduro Twitter account has been complemented with sister handles in English, French, Portuguese and

Arabic. But on Twitter as in reality, Maduro has failed to trigger the same fervent adoration as Chavez, who amassed 4 million followers. Still, Maduro said the platform is helping him reveal the “true” Venezuela to people in the country’s ideological foe the United States.

“Of those 2 million, 30 percent are followers in the United States ... Every day my messages are reaching them. I thank all followers of this communications tool through which we’re telling the truth about Venezuela, where we show the true Venezuela,” he said.

Reuters

US drone arrives at Misawa base for 1st deployment in Japan

AOMORI, (Japan), 24 May — A US *Global Hawk* surveillance drone arrived Saturday morning at the Misawa Air Base in north-eastern Japan in the first deployment of such an aircraft in the country.

It is one of a pair of Guam-based *Global Hawks* to be deployed at Misawa in Aomori Prefecture from around May to October. The other is expected to arrive at the base on Wednesday. The two reconnaissance aircraft will

likely start operating in the Asia-Pacific region in early June.

The temporary deployment in Japan of the unmanned aircraft is believed to be aimed at avoiding typhoons that frequently hit Guam during summer.

It is also believed to be aimed at monitoring North Korea and China at a time when Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile development programmes as well as Beijing’s maritime assertiveness have raised security

concerns in Japan.

The *Global Hawk*, which is 14.5 metres in length with a wingspan of about 40 metres, is capable of conducting surveillance missions for long periods at an altitude of over 15,000 metres.

Japan’s Defence Ministry tried to ease local safety concerns, saying that since the *Global Hawk* flies at such a high altitude, it will have little impact on local air traffic.

Kyodo News

Mexican renewable energy a trigger for economy

MEXICO CITY, 24 May — Renewable energy was a trigger for any economy, so Mexico should learn more about energy management from countries like China to tap its resources, a Mexican congressman said on Friday.

In an interview with Xinhua, congressman

Gerardo Villanueva from the Citizen’s Movement party, said a bill on energy secondary legislation was currently before Congress, adding Mexico had to take full advantage of its strategic geopolitical location to avoid a set-back on the energy front in the short term.

“We must consider the issue of renewable energies that might substitute for oil,” he said.

Villanueva, also member of the Congress’s Committee on Water Resources, said Mexico had only 10 years worth of total proven oil reserves.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 May, 2014

Myanmar needs incentives for agricultural sector

By Aung Khin

Energy and extractive industries such as mining are at the top list of foreign investors in Myanmar. However, they do not regard the country's agricultural and manufacturing sectors as lucrative businesses.

With its shortcomings, Myanmar still lacks infrastructures, technologies and sound policies to boost the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Some internal and external factors are hurdles for the development of these sectors.

The protectionist practices of trading partners

are also one of the external impediments.

Some neighbouring countries do not buy Myanmar rice, claiming it has lower quality and is not competitive on international markets. Observers pointed out some of Myanmar's trading partners discourage any attempts to produce value-added products. Instead, they prefer buying raw crops.

Thailand and India are major rice exporters. Myanmar hopes to receive modern technologies for planting and milling from these countries, but the country has done little to reform the agricultural sector in order to attract such investments.

Myanmar has an estimated rice production of 19 million tons in 2014-2015 fiscal year, an increase from 18.3 million tons in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The government is now making efforts to provide farmers with support in infrastructure development, mechanization and technology assistance, in addition to financial support of K100,000 (US\$ 103) credit line per acre to farmers through its Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank. However,

trade sources remarked that Myanmar rice farmers still cannot compete with farmers from other ASEAN countries such as Thailand and Vietnam in terms of receiving government compensations for lower paddy prices.

The Myanmar agricultural sector has favourable conditions with very diverse agro-climatic conditions, abundant fertile lands, long coastal lines, plentiful water resources and access to large markets such as China, India and ASEAN. Therefore, better strategy and policy should be adopted to develop this sector which accounts for over 48 per cent of the GDP and employs over 62 per cent of the population. Only then, can Myanmar regain the position of the world's largest rice exporter, which it held from 1961 to 1963.

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.

Long lasting old capital Inwa, Part II

“တို့တိုင်းငြာနီ၊ ရွှေနန်းတော်တည်၊
ပြာသာဒ်တုံမြင့်ဆီ၊ တိမ်တောင်
ရောင်ခြည်၊ တောက်ထွန်းပေသည်
ပြော၍မကုန်တော့ပြီ၊
မင်္ဂလာကျက်သရေ၊ ဖြိုးဝေတင့်စွာ၊
မြို့ရွှေအင်းဝ သာယာဝပြောသည်။”

In our country Golden Inwa Palace was built with many spired structures Bright clouds create amazing landscapes Auspiciousness of Mingala halo around Golden Inwa, peaceful, prosperous and progressive.

The above chorus in Shwe Inwa song epitomizes the first Inwa that lasted 191 years ruled by 19 kings. Of course, as typical of the history of any country in the Medieval Age, Inwa did not enjoy good time throughout, neither were all 19 kings good. Peace and war alternated, just as noble and despotic kings appeared on the throne. But on the whole the first Inwa deserves a good name in Myanmar history due to the following reasons.

Firstly, its rulers, good or bad never failed to take advantage of the economic facilities already established by the Bagan kings. The eleven economic zones [Ledwin] in Kyaukse area were brought under proper control and well-maintained Zidaw weir in Kyaukse and the embankment of the great lake Meikhtila were repaired by King Min Swa Saw Ke [1368-1401 A.D.]. He cultivated friendship with his contemporary Mon King Binnya U of Hanthawaddy [Pegu] by exchanging royal gifts and together with him delimiting the frontier between the two kingdoms. In that way peace was restored and free flow of trade prospered both kingdoms, thus chronicles recorded “gold and silver routes run between Inwa (Ratanapura) and Pegu [Hanthawaddy].”

Wun Zin Min Yaza

It was at the time when King Swa Saw Ke was camping at Meikhtila to personally supervise the repair and maintenance of the embankments of the great lake which supplied sufficient water for several acres of cultivated land in that locality, that he met a learned young villager of a village “Wun Zin”. As his ministers could not tell the history of what appeared to be a nat-spirit shrine with a female idol in it, on the lake embankment, the King ordered his men to look for anyone who could tell its history and bring him. A young villager locally nicknamed Sato-Nga Nyo was a self-made researcher who began collecting archaeological objects and historical data since his childhood. Now at the age of 20 he was married and farming some acres of land his parents-in-law gave him. He presented himself to be taken to the King. The young villager told the king that it was not a nat-spirit shrine. It was a memorial of a beautiful Shan princess whom King Anawrahta raised his queen. Anawrahta of Bagan at the time was repairing the embankments. When the princess died, at the

advice of the Ministers a gold idol in her likeness was made and kept near the king and the dead body of the princess was entombed on the embankment. When the King was about to return to Bagan, the gold idol was enshrined in a strong chamber built on the tomb and a wooden shrine with a wooden idol was built on its as a memorial. On excavation the gold idol was recovered. The king was very much impressed with the research knowledge of the young villager. As he was too young to be appointed minister, the King created a new post called Sitapyit Amat (Knight-cum-junior minister) and took him to Inwa. Because he was a native of Wunzin village, he became well-known as Wun Zin Min Yaza at the court of Inwa. With his vast research knowledge, wide learning, prudence and wisdom, he served under three successive kings of Inwa. Because of his good advice and loyal services three Inwa kings were successful in their statesmanship, diplomacy, administration and the conduct of war and peace.

Thanks to the tactics of dynastic marriage which Wun Zin Min Yaza persuaded King Min Khaung I to apply in his relation with King Rajadarit of Hanthawaddy Pegu, the long drawn-out war between the two kingdoms came to an end and Inwa and Pegu co-existed in peace, prosperity and progress. In fact the long wars between Min Khaung I and Rajadarit were more of kingly games of contest in power, prestige and glory rather than wars between the two kingdoms. They were intermittent and not always fought on battlefields. They were engaged in a single combat on horse or elephant, sometimes at chess boards, or at public debate between prominent learned men from both sides. Relations between peoples of both kingdoms remained normal.

Wun Zin Min Yaza proposed the two tactics of ending the long wars by dynastic marriage between the two kings. ရွှေဝတ်ဆက်နည်း: alliance by gold soldering (welding), be joined by marriage of royal bloods and ရွှေလမ်း၊ ငွေလမ်း: prosperity and progress by opening gold and silver routes which means opening trade and commerce. King Min Khaung I thus accepted when King Rajadarit proposed Pegu-Inwa alliance by means of two dynastic marriages to cement it—that Min Khaung's younger sister Min Myat Hla be married to him and he in return would offer his daughter Tala May Kyaw in marriage to Min Khaung. Wun Zin Min Yaza supported this proposal for Mon-Myanmar alliance by means of royal blood relationship. Wun Zin Min Yaza arranged a grand royal wedding ceremony at a Mon town Kaleya where Rajadarit and Min Myat Hla were married. Rajadarit raised her his queen with the regnal title “Supava Devi”. Similarly Min Khaung married Tala May Kyaw and raised her his queen. Thus ended the wars, followed by decades of peace, prosperity and progress in both Kingdoms.

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Inwa, a well-known commercial urban centre in South-East Asia of the time

Successive kings in Inwa and Pegu enjoyed the benefits of restored peace, and the two kingdoms prospered because of the flourish of local and foreign trades. With China, frontier trade was carried on through. The frontier town Bhamo, where Myanmar paddy, cotton and jade were exchanged for Chinese luxuries, silk velvet, porcelain and manufactured wares. With India both sea and land routes provided easy flow of products of Inwa and Pegu. Besides, Inwa as a thriving commercial city in South-East Asia of that time became well-known to the west through overseas traders far and wide.

Thus Nicolo di Conti, a merchant of Vince, Italy, who came to Inwa about 1435 A.D. noted down in his travel account of Inwa he eye witnessed.

“... Having sailed up this river for a month ... arrived at a city more noble than the rest, called Ava. This province abounds in elephants; the king keeps ten thousand and uses them in his wars. They fix castles on their backs from which eight to ten men fight with javelins and bows. This animal is so intelligent that when he is in battle he frequently receives the javelins of the enemy on the sole of his foot in order that those whom he carries on his back may not be injured. The king of this province rides on a white elephant, round the neck of which is fastened a chain of gold ornamented with precious stones which reaches to its feet.”

“The men are satisfied with one wife. All the inhabitants, men as well as women, puncture their flesh with iron pins and rub in indelible dyes, and so they remained painted for ever. All worship idols, yet when they arise in the morning from their bed they turn towards the east and, with hands joined together, say “God in His Trinity and His Law defend us.” There is also a tree called tal [talipot palm] the leaves of which are extremely large, and upon these they write, for throughout India they do not use proper. There is also an animal which has a head like a pig, a tail like an ox, and on his forehead a horn like that of a unicorn but shorter, being about a cubit in length. In size and colour it resembles the elephant with which it is constantly at war. They say its horn is an antidote against poisons, and it is on this account much esteemed. In the upper part of the country, towards Cathay, there are found black and white bulls the hair of whose tail, fine and light as a feather, is valued at its weight in silver and made into fans for the services of their idols and kings. The cavalry also carry the hair at the head of their lances as a mark of nobility.”

Beyond this province is a land superior to all others in the world, and it is named Cathay (China).”

(See Page 9)

ARTICLE

The Winning Edge

By Kyi Mun

- * Success is all about Strategy;
- * Strategy is all about Moves;
- * Moves are all about Cutting Edge;
- * Leading Edge is all about:
- * **The Four Factors of Success**
 - A Burning Desire
 - An Indomitable Mind/Spirit
 - An Unyielding Effort
 - Insight Wisdom
- * **The Four Strands of War/Competition**
 - The Quality and Capability of the Leader
 - The Quality and Capability of the Followers
 - Morale
 - Resources
- * **The Four Personal Qualities**
 - Physical Strength & Health
 - Mental Strength & Intelligence
 - Emotional Strength & Passion
 - Spiritual Strength & Altruism
- * **The Four Organizational Resources**
 - Human Resources
 - Financial Resources
 - Technological Resources
 - Organizational Resources

- * **The Four Spheres of Change**
 - Changes in the Political Sphere
 - Changes in the Economic Sphere
 - Changes in the Socio-Cultural Sphere
 - Changes in the Technological Sphere
- * **The Four Kinds of Impact**
 - The Impact of Educational Advancement
 - The Impact of Economic Development
 - The Impact of Environmental Pollution
 - The Impact of Ecological Degeneration
- * **The Seven Factors of Competitive Advantage**
 - Quality
 - Uniqueness
 - Innovation
 - Value
 - Excellence
 - Relationship
 - Service
- * **The Eight Principles of War/Competition**
 - The Principle of Objective
 - The Principle of Concentration
 - The Principle of Offensive
 - The Principle of Cooperation
 - The Principle of Economy of Force

- The Principle of Security
- The Principle of Surprise
- The Principle of Mobility
- * **The Sixteen Characteristics of Guerrilla Warfare/Competition**
 - The Enemy Advance, We Retreat
 - The Enemy Camp, We Harass
 - The Enemy Tire, We Attack
 - The Enemy Retreat, We Pursue
- * **The Four Kinds of Outcome**
 - Win-Win Outcome
 - Win-Lose Outcome
 - Lose-Win Outcome
 - Lose-Lose Outcome
- * **The Four Imperatives of Success**
 - Strategy
 - Cutting Edge
 - Distinctive Capabilities
 - Resources
- * **The Four Core Values**
 - ManMatters Most
 - Brain Builds Best
 - Heart Holds Highest
 - Spirit Serves Supreme

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

Long lasting old

(from page 8)

First Inwa, the seat of Buddhist Learning and Culture

Although first Inwa was no match to Bagan in terms of art, architecture and other media of tangible culture, it can take pride in its contributions by its own standard. Because of peace, prosperity and progress kings and people were able to spare their time and wealth for religion. Theravada Buddhism that was already well established in Bagan period, continued to be a flourishing faith, patronized by kings and supported by the people. The entire vast areas around the city became embellished with several religious monuments—pagodas, temples, monasteries and nunneries. Inwa's urbanization extended beyond the River Ayeyawady on the west bank of which lie ranges of Sagaing hills which had become abodes of holy recluses since ancient times.

It was there that Inwa extended its growth in religion. We can still see many monuments of first Inwa—Tupayon Zedi built by King Narapati in 1443 A.D. where and when the king held dedication festival, invited Sawbwas, and royal delegates from Pegu, Taninthayee, as well as Ayuthia [Thailand] and Linzin [Laos] came to participate, as recorded in the stone inscriptions of Tupayon Zedi. We cultivated friendship with the rajas of the Rakhine State by sending royal gifts and letters to them. Other monuments of this period were Shwegu Gyi, Ponnya shin, Tilokaguru, Hsinmya shin, etc.

King Thiha Thura [1469-81] kept relation with Ceylon [Sri Lanka] by exchanging religious missions and sending Myanmar monks there for religious education and donation of royal gifts to the sacred Tooth Temple at Kandy, promoting trade between the two countries—teak, elephants, rubies and forest products from Inwa were bartered with textiles, luxuries and religious objects from Colombo.

Golden Age of Myanmar literature

The first Inwa goes down into Myanmar history as the

Golden Age of Myanmar literature which even Bagan did not gain that credit. Through Bagan was the golden age of monumental buildings and literature of stone inscriptions, its literary range was constrained by the writing materials of stone and scribe and rigid monkish discipline (Vinaya) of the orthodox Bagan monks. Besides, Pali was emphasized as the sacred language to understand the canonical texts of Tipitaka, though Pyu, Mon and Myanmar languages had already appeared.

But in first Inwa, time, place and circumstance had changed for the emergence of vernacular language that is Myanmar sar. Though the orthodox school still held sway in first Inwa, there started a new literary movement by prominent monk poets of the time, of whom four most notable were (1) Shin Uttama Kyaw (2) Shin Maha Thilawuntha (3) Shin Ohn Nyo and (4) Shin Khey Mar. They were famous not only because of their literary output of high quality, but also because of their association with the “Divine Message” which was very prevalent in Inwa of that time. In the year 1438, at three villages near the town Taungdwin Gyi, there sprouted four shoots of Pei Tree. Pei is a species of palm, on whose leaves Myanmar people scribe letters. Pei leaf is the symbol of literature or learnedness. The people thought that the four Pei shoots were good

- * မြန်မာမင်းတို့ဘုန်းတန်းပွင့်လို့ အဆင့်ဆင့်လာခဲ့ပြီ၊
တန်ခိုးလည်းဖြာဖြာ၊ မညှိုးတဲ့သာသနာ၊ တိုးတက်ပြောင်လင်းကြည်။
ထိုစဉ်အခါအတည်၊ အလွန်ပင်စည်ကားသည်
အော်၊ နောင်လာနောက်သားတို့မှတ်ရစ်တို့တစ်။
ရွှေဂူ၊ ထူပါရုံ၊ ထူးမြတ်တဲ့စေတီ ဦးစိုက်အဓိ၊
ဖူးလိုက်ကြ၊ ရွှေအင်းဝဆီ
- * အတွေ့သီချင်းပြဆိုမည်၊
ရွှေအင်းဝမြို့ဆီ၊ ရောက်တဲ့အခါ အနောက်ဖက်သာ၊ ရှုမျှော်ကြည့်၊ ထူးလိမ့်မည်။
မြစ်စရာ၊ တစ်ဖက်ကမ်းမှာ မှန်းလို့မြင်ရသည်၊
ပျိုလွမ်းသည်။
စစ်ကိုင်းချောင်တောင်ထိပ်ဆီ၊ မြင့်မြင့်မောက်မောက်၊ အုံ့လောက်စရာအတည်၊
ပုညရှင်နဲ့၊ စေတီ၊ စေတီ၊ ကြည်နူးဘွယ်တစ်လီ
သူတော်စင်များ ကိန်းအောင်းကြတဲ့၊
ဂူကျောင်းဘုရားတွေပေါ်လို့ ရှိခိုးမည်။

omens bringing the “Divine Message” that four learned monks be born there. Whether it was a sheer coincidence or a truly divine message realized is an academic question, but the above mentioned four monk poets just happened to be the natives of those three villages where the four Pei shoots sprouted.

It would take volumes to write about their literary output and contributions. Suffice it to say that not only there four monk poets but also many other monk and lay writers emerged in first Inwa. Monks, nuns, men and women from all walks of life, from royalty down to the grassroots were engaged in literary pursuits and left their contributions for future generations. Their literary outputs were as varied in forms as they were diverse in subject matter. Through the epic poems “Pyo” were dominant form, other verse forms, prose and drama were also produced, touching not only religious themes but also encompassing all secular fields—medicines, astrology, astronomy, alchemy, Vedas, administration, law, social and political sciences, history and current affairs. The history of Inwa and daily life of kings and people are vividly reflected in their writings. If Bagan was acclaimed Golden Age of architecture and stone inscriptions, the first Inwa may rightfully claim the golden age of Myanmar literature and Pei inscriptions.

- * Successive Myanmar kings held sway, is the story,
Buddha Sasana flourished in glory
That's time of city's veneration,
The song's composed for next generations.
Temples Shwegu and Tupayon so, sacred
Let's bow to Shwe Inwa in respect.
- * This song relates history true
When arrive in Inwa, turn west to view.
Across Ayeyawady, are Sagaing hills,
Nostalgia & reminences shake me in thrills.
On the lofty Sagaing ranges yonder,
Ponnyashin Pagoda and many others,
The abodes of holy recluses in resort,
Pay homage to several holy spots.

To be continued

Primary teachership course concludes in Yedashe



YEDASHE, 24 May—A conclusion ceremony of the primary teachership course was held on Friday at the hall of the Basic Education High School in Yedashe Township, Bago Region, with an address by U Kyaw Linn, Assistant Professor of the Department of Philosophy of the Toungoo Education College.

During the ceremony, Township Education Officer U Ohn Myint said he hopes the trainee teachers got knowledge to effectively provide their respective subjects to the students.

More than 150 teachers attended the one-month course.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

Painting, cartoon and poster contest held in Phakant

PHAKANT, 24 May—To mark the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking which falls on 26 June, the 17th painting, cartoon and poster contest took place recently at the Phakant Basic Education High School in Mohnyin District

in Kachin State. Altogether 29 students from every level participated in the contest.

The Township Administrator, police officers and teachers enjoyed participation of students in the contest.

Myat Min Thu (Phakant)

Syria video shows chlorine gas floating in streets

BEIRUT, 24 May — Opposition activists have posted a video of what they say is chlorine gas floating through the streets of a Syrian village and they accuse President Bashar al-Assad of mounting a chemical weapons campaign.

Activists and medical sources said the village of Kfar Zeita, in the central province of Hama 125 miles (200 km) north of Damascus, has been the focus of a two-month-old assault in which chlorine gas canisters have been dropped out of helicopters.

The government denies its forces have used chlorine or deadlier poisonous gases and blames all chemical attacks on rebels waging a three-year-old uprising against Assad.

The Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has opened an investigation into the alleged chlorine attacks, more than a dozen of which have been reported since 11 April in several areas. "Inspectors for the fact-finding mission ar-



A girl, affected by what activists say was a gas attack, receives treatment inside a makeshift hospital in Kfar Zeita village in the central province of Hama on 22 May, 2014.—XINHUA

rived in Syria last week and are trying to get to some of the sites," the OPCW told Reuters. Text accompanying the opposition video, posted by a user called Mustapha Jamaa, said it was filmed on Thursday in Kfar Zeita by the Revolution General Commission opposition group.

It showed green-yel-

low gas in a street. A man runs away from the gas cloud with a woman who is holding a cloth to her mouth. Another man in camouflage trousers and wearing a gas mask calls out for a car to assist the woman. A voice off screen says: "Chlorine gas bombing. Yellow smoke."

Reuters could not

independently verify the authenticity of the footage. The video did not show an impact site or indicate where it was filmed.

A freelance photographer told Reuters he arrived at the scene of the attack an hour after a helicopter dropped the bomb.

"The smell of chlorine was very obvious. It smelt

like vinegar, or bleach. I started to cough and hyperventilate. My eyes were burning," he said.

One of his photos showed the woman who was running away from the gas in the video. She was being treated with oxygen at a field hospital.

"There were 70 wounded people," he said. "Those who were at the impact site fainted."

Activists said Kfar Zeita was attacked twice on Thursday, as well as the village of Al-Tamana'a in northwest Idlib Province.

The alleged attack took place on the same day that Russia and China vetoed a resolution to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for possible prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Assad agreed with the United States and Russia to dispose of his chemical weapons after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin gas attack on the outskirts of the capital last August.—Reuters

Landslides, disease pose threats in wake of devastating flooding in Balkans

UNITED NATIONS, 24 May — UN humanitarian agencies on Friday raised concerns about landslides and possible water-borne diseases from the worst flooding in Serbia and Bosnia in more than a century, and sounded alarmed over the possible exposure of deadly minefields left from the Bosnian war.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday the devastating floodwaters have affected around 1 million people, or a quarter of the population in Bosnia, driven some 300,000 away from their homes, and forced closure of schools and social health centers. In Serbia, 150 schools in the most-affected areas remained closed.

Authorities of Bosnia have reportedly issued strong warnings of the unearthing of mines and other unexploded devices from the 1992-1995 conflict as a result of the landslides.

In Bosnia, UNICEF was taking the lead in water sanitation, hygiene protection and education sectors in cooperation with other partners.

The agency had procured 300 hygiene kits and distributed more than 1 ton of chlorine to decontaminate water supplies in the affected areas, where a significant number of dead animals floating in waters have posed a grave risk to public health.

Reuters

Xinhua

India recalls troops sent for joint exercise from Thailand

NEW DELHI, 24 May—India has recalled its troops sent to Thailand for a joint combat exercise after the military coup there, said government officials on Friday.

"Our troops, currently in Thailand for Maitree exercise, have been advised to return to India," said an external affairs ministry (MEA) spokesperson.

An Indian contingent of 45 soldiers had landed in Bangkok in the early hours of Wednesday for the joint exercise.

"India is concerned with the recent developments in Thailand. We are monitoring the evolving situation closely. As a friendly neighbour, with civilizational affinities, we hope for an urgent political resolution and restoration of normalcy based on the principles of democracy, the will of the people and the rule of law in Thailand," said the spokesperson.—Xinhua

Egypt's Brotherhood struggles to regroup in exile

DOHA / DUBAI, 24 May — Exiled leaders of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood are struggling to regroup, targeted by hostile Arab powers, cut off from senior colleagues imprisoned back home and challenged by angry young followers tempted to seek change by violence.

Gathered over the past 10 months in Qatar, Turkey, Britain and elsewhere, hundreds of activists have set about trying to isolate Egypt's army-backed government diplomatically for last year's removal of an elected Brotherhood-backed administration.

The senior figures keep busy, shuttling between London, Doha and Istanbul



A student supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood and ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi waves the yellow flag bearing the four-fingered Rabaa sign during a demonstration outside Cairo University on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

to strategise in countries that still tolerate the move-

ment, the standard-bearer of mainstream Sunni political

Islam since it was founded in Egypt in 1928.

But a political rebirth will be tough, even for a movement long adept at surviving repression and exile. Former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who deposed the Brotherhood's elected president Mohamed Mursi last year and has since led a violent crackdown against its followers, is all but certain to win Egypt's presidency in an election next week.

He says that when he takes charge, the Brotherhood, which seemed an unstoppable electoral force after autocrat Hosni Mubarak was toppled in 2011, will cease to exist.

Kerry to testify in June before US House panel on Benghazi

WASHINGTON, 24 May — Secretary of State John Kerry has agreed to testify on June 12 before a House committee investigating the 2012 attack on the US diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, resolving a contentious dispute with Republicans in Congress.

Kerry had been subpoenaed to testify on 29 May, but the State Department said prior commitments would prevent his appearance. Kerry offered

two other dates and the House of Representatives Oversight Committee accepted his offer to appear on 12 June. In a letter to the committee, the State Department said if Kerry testifies before the Oversight panel, it should remove any need for him to appear before a House Select Committee that was formed recently to look into the Benghazi incident.

Four Americans, including US Ambassador

Christopher Stevens, were killed in the attack.

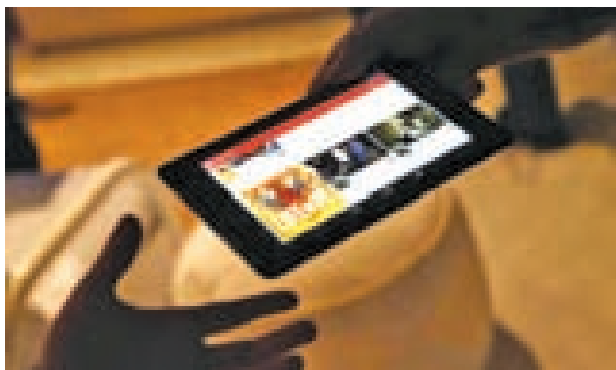
House Republicans have launched multiple investigations into the Obama administration's handling of diplomatic security in the run-up to the 11 September, 2012, attack and the steps it took in the aftermath. Republicans have accused the Obama administration of playing down the role of al-Qaeda-linked militants in the assault.

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks to US embassy employees during a reception in Mexico City on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The new Nexus 7 tablet is demonstrated during a Google event at Dogpatch Studio in San Francisco, California, on 24 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Google developing tablet with advanced vision capabilities

SAN FRANCISCO, (California), 24 May —Google Inc (GOOGL.O) is developing a new 7-inch tablet that can capture 3-D images, and plans to produce about 4,000 of these prototypes beginning next month, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing people briefed on the company's plans.

The device, which is part of Google's Advanced Technology and Projects group 'Project Tango,' will have two back cameras, infrared depth sensors and advanced software that can capture precise three-dimensional images of objects, according to the *Journal*.

Google's Project Tango is a platform for Android phones and tablets designed to track the full

3-dimensional motion of the device as you hold it, while simultaneously creating a map of the environment around it.

The Project's flagship product, a prototype smartphone, released in February has similar sensors and is designed to create a three-dimensional map of its user's surroundings, the *Journal* said. Google and other traditionally non-hardware companies such as Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) and Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) have made inroads into mobile devices as consumers increasingly access the Web on the go.

Google was not immediately available for comment outside regular business hours.—Reuters

Apple, Google, Intel, Adobe to pay \$325 million to settle hiring lawsuit

NEW YORK, 24 May—Four major Silicon Valley companies have formally agreed to pay \$324.5 million to settle claims brought by employees who accused them of limiting competition by colluding not to poach each other's talent. The settlement, between Apple Inc, Google Inc, Intel Corp, Adobe Systems Inc and roughly 64,000 workers, was disclosed in papers filed late on Thursday with a federal court in San Jose, California.

US District Judge Lucy Koh has been asked to preliminarily approve the accord at a 19 June hearing, over an objection by one of the four named plaintiffs, Michael Devine, who says the settlement let the companies off too easily. The payout was originally reported by *Reuters* but not officially confirmed. Lawyers for the plaintiffs may seek up to 25 percent of the settlement amount in legal fees.

Filed in 2011, the lawsuit accused Silicon Valley companies of conspiring to limit competition and keep



wages down for engineers, programmers and other technical staff.

The case has been closely watched because of the potential \$9 billion of damages sought, and its occasional embarrassing revelations into how Silicon Valley operates. Among the communications that became public were pointed emails from Apple co-founder Steve Jobs that at times admonished then-Google Chief Executive Eric Schmidt to stop raiding his company. Thursday's settlement gives

workers only a few thousand dollars each on average. The companies' combined profit in their latest fiscal years was about \$60 billion, with three-fifths coming from Apple.

In court papers, two law firms representing the plaintiffs said Devine's objection should not doom what they consider a fair and reasonable settlement for an antitrust case, and which serves the best interests of the class.

They pointed to a July 2012 jury verdict in the same court that found Toshiba

that blazed over Chelyabinsk in southwestern Siberia on 15 Feb, 2013, was incinerated in a bright fireball, the result of frictional heating as it dropped through the atmosphere at 42,000 mph (67,600 kph). But many small fragments survived.

The asteroid was traveling almost 60 times the speed of sound and exploded about 18 miles (30 km) above ground with a force nearly 30 times as powerful as the atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945 in World War Two.

The blast over Chelyabinsk caused shock waves that destroyed buildings and shattered windows. More than 1,000 people were injured by flying debris.

Analysis of recovered Chelyabinsk meteorites revealed an unusual form of jadeite entombed inside glassy materials known as shock veins, which form after rock crashes, melts and re-solidifies.

Jadeite, which is one of the minerals in the gemstone jade, forms only under extreme pressure and high temperature. The form of

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 24 May —An asteroid that exploded last year over Chelyabinsk, Russia, leaving more than 1,000 people injured by flying glass and debris, collided with another asteroid before hitting Earth, new research by scientists shows.

Analysis of a mineral called jadeite that was embedded in fragments recovered after the explosion show that the asteroid's parent body struck a larger asteroid at a relative speed of some 3,000 mph (4,800 kph).

"This impact might have separated the Chelyabinsk asteroid from its parent body and delivered it to the Earth," lead researcher Shin Ozawa, with the University of Tohoku in Japan, wrote in a paper published this week in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The discovery is expected to give scientists more insight into how an asteroid may end up on a collision course with Earth. Scientists suspect the collision happened about 290 million years ago.

Most of the 65-foot (20-metre) wide asteroid

jadeite found in the Chelyabinsk meteorites indicates that the asteroid's parent body hit another asteroid that was at least 492 feet (150 meters) in diameter.

Scientists are still analyzing fragments of the asteroid and calculating its precise path toward Earth.

In an email to *Reuters*, Ozawa described the Chelyabinsk meteorite as "a unique sample."

"It is a near-Earth object that actually hit the Earth, and its trajectory was well-recorded," Ozawa wrote.

The Chelyabinsk asteroid caused the second most powerful explosion in recorded history. In 1908, a suspected asteroid exploded with a force about 1,000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima atomic bomb, leveling some 80 million trees over 772 square miles (2,000 square km) near Russia's Podkamennaya Tunguska River in Siberia.

The first possible meteorites from the so-called Tunguska event were recovered just last year. Results have not yet been published.—Reuters



The trail of a falling object is seen above a residential apartment block in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk, in this still image taken from video shot on 15 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

Samsung may unveil 'watch-phone' as early as June

NEW YORK, 24 May—Samsung Electronics Co Ltd is developing a smartwatch that can make or receive calls without having to be tethered to a mobile phone, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Friday. Samsung, the world's largest maker of smartphones, is in discussions with unidentified US, Korean and European telecommunications carriers about a so-called "watch-phone" that it hopes to unveil between June and July, the *Journal* reported, citing people familiar with the company's plans.

The current crop of smartwatches, such as Samsung's own Galaxy Gear, have to be linked to a phone to receive and send messages and perform other basic

functions.

But the proposed watch-phone, which will run on Samsung's Tizen operating software, can take photos and handle email independently and will come equipped with a heart monitor, the newspaper reported. Samsung declined to comment. Major technology companies such as Apple Inc, Google Inc and Samsung are expected to be in a race to market wearable computing devices, like watches, to consumers this year. It is unclear how much demand there is for gadgets such as smart glasses or watches, but industry insiders consider them to be the next phase in an increasingly saturated mobile device market.—Reuters



Customers attend a workshop about the Samsung Galaxy S5 in Jakarta, on 11 April, 2014.—REUTERS

US defence chief to visit Singapore for Asia security forum

WASHINGTON, 24 May — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel will visit Singapore to attend a three-day international conference on Asia security from 30 May, a Defence Department spokesman said on Friday.

Hagel will deliver a speech on President Barack Obama's focus on the Asia-Pacific region at the event widely called Shangri-La Dialogue, Adm John Kirby, Pentagon Press Secretary, told reporters.

"It is an important opportunity to build on the momentum we've achieved

in strengthening our engagement and our alliances and partnerships in the Pacific region," Kirby said.

Hagel will also take part in a trilateral meeting with Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera and South Korean National Defence Minister Kim Kwan Jin on the sidelines of the conference.

Onodera said earlier that Hagel plans to participate in another trilateral round with him and Australian Defence Minister David Johnston, as well as meet bilaterally with him.—Kyodo News

US Coast Guard ends search for missing British yacht sailors



A crew member of the US Coast Guard Cutter Vigorous searches for crew members of the sailing vessel Cheeki Rafiki, about 1000 miles (1600 km) off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in this US Coast Guard handout photo taken on 22 May, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 May — A renewed search for four British sailors who vanished with their yacht a week ago in the Atlantic was called off late on Friday, hours after the overturned vessel was spotted at sea with no sign of its crew, the US Coast Guard said.

The missing men, all experienced sailors, ran into trouble last Friday, 16 May, as they were returning to Britain from a sailing event in Antigua in the Caribbean. They had reported that their vessel, the 39-foot (12 metre) *Cheeki Rafiki*, was taking on water, forcing them to change course for the Azores.

On Friday, a US Navy search team discovered the capsized vessel about 1000 miles off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, but detected no sign of the crew, the US Coast Guard said in a statement. A Navy swimmer found its cabin flooded and windows shattered. The swimmer knocked on the hull but heard no

response, the statement said. The Coast Guard later said that the vessel's life raft was found still stowed in its storage space aboard the yacht, confirming that the crew did not use it to escape.

US authorities originally abandoned a search for the crew after two days due to treacherous conditions, but resumed the effort on Tuesday after a request from the British government and a petition signed by more than 200,000 people.

The Coast Guard said it had suspended the second search at 10 pm Eastern after covering an additional 21,000 square miles (54,000 sq km) of ocean.

The fate of the four sailors — Andrew Bridge, 21, Steve Warren, 52, Paul Goslin, 56, and James Male, 23 — has dominated television and newspaper headlines in Britain, with their relatives appealing for more time to be devoted to the search.—Reuters



Photo taken on 23 May, 2014 shows the displayed organic vegetables at the 8th International Organic Trade Fair and Conference (BioFach China) in Shanghai, east China. The organic trade fair, which kicked off on Thursday, attracted more than 300 exhibitors from 16 countries and regions.—XINHUA

S Korea, EU reaffirms DPRK's nuke development unacceptable

SEOUL, 24 May — South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se and visiting European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton on Friday reaffirmed that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s nuclear weapons programme is unacceptable, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

During their meeting, the two diplomats reaffirmed their determined opposition to what they called the DPRK's further provocation, including another nuclear test, agreeing to strengthen cooperation in deterring DPRK

provocation and achieving the denuclearized DPRK.

Tensions are running high on the Korean Peninsula as the DPRK threatened a new form of nuclear test after firing some 90 short-range missiles in late February and March. The latest nuclear test of the DPRK was conducted in February 2012.

Pyongyang on Thursday fired two artillery shells in waters near a South Korean naval ship sailing around the disputed maritime border.

Yun and Ashton shared the view that move was very regrettable and intolerable. Ashton pledged

to strengthen cooperation with South Korea in tackling the DPRK issues.

After the meeting, the two diplomats signed a basic participatory agreement on crisis management, which covers natural disasters, piracy control and peacekeeping activities.

Ahead of the meeting, Ashton paid a courtesy call to President Park Geun-hye and visited the joint memorial altar in Seoul for the victims of the ferry *Sewol* disaster, which left more than 300 people, mostly high school students, dead or missing.

Xinhua

Four dead, one missing in south China flood

QINGYUAN, (Guangdong), 24 May — Four people have died and one another is still missing in a rain-triggered flood in Qingyuan City of south China's Guangdong Province, local authorities said on Saturday. Qingxin District in Qingyuan has been worst hit by persistent heavy rain, which has caused four small- and medium-sized reservoirs to overflow.

Rain has flooded nearly 483 villages and 12,300 homes, toppled 45 houses and trapped 454 residents, officials with Qingxin District said. In the district's Shitan Town, although floodwater has dispersed, more than 20,000 residents lack drinking water as a reservoir has been polluted, said Liu Minyi, an official with the township government. Heavy rain has battered the province over the past few days. Rescue efforts are under way.—Xinhua



A resident clears sludge brought by a flood in Shitan Town of Qingyuan, south China's Guangdong Province, on 24 May, 2014. Four people have died and one is still missing in a rain-triggered flood in Qingyuan, local authorities said on Saturday.

XINHUA

Over 36,700 affected by floods in northern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May — Over 36,700 people were affected by the flood in the Amazon River basin in Brazil's northern Para state, local authorities said on Friday.

In the Para state through which the lower Amazon River flows to the sea, seven towns declared state of emergency due to the flooding that affected entire neighbourhoods, while eight others were currently in state of alert, the authorities said.

The towns in state of emergency will distribute humanitarian kits with food, cleaning and personal hygiene products, with a priority given to families left homeless by the floods, the authorities said.

The Civil Defence authorities said they expected the flood to increase over the next few days.

Seasonal floods are common in northern Brazil due to the high volume of water in the rivers of the Amazon River basin.

Earlier this year, Rondonia state, also in Brazil's northern region, faced the worst flood in decades. Entire communities were underwater and a federal highway that was the only connection by land to neighbouring Acre state was blocked for a month.

Xinhua

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MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1402)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1402) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVPANJA BHUM VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2014 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.

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Chinese enterprise helps resolve Mozambique's food crisis

MAPUTO, 24 May — Although Mozambique has emerged from the nightmare of civil war, the "Pearl of Southeastern Africa" remains troubled by serious problems, including a food crisis.

Though far apart from China, its connection with the world's most populous country is becoming tighter. It has not only found, near its coastline, porcelain relics from the Ming-era maritime voyages of Chinese trading fleets between 1405 and 1433, but also

benefited from agricultural projects from the world's second largest economy.

In recent years, an increasing number of Chinese agricultural enterprises are seeking broader development overseas, with some of them figuring their way into Mozambique, where their hard work and the experience of feeding Chinese people are assisting locals in achieving self-sufficiency in food.

Lianhe Africa Agriculture Development Co is one of them.

Although the company set its foot on the Mozambican soil only less than two years ago, it has already put high-quality rice to the market in Beira, the second largest city and a major seaport and airport in Mozambique.

According to Zhou Mingzhao, Lianhe's president, the firm started to explore overseas opportunities three years ago in response to the Chinese government's call on private enterprises to go global.—Xinhua

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



Policemen examine the blast site in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 24 May, 2014. At least one person was killed and another injured as a suicide blast hit Pakistan's capital Islamabad in the wee hours of Saturday morning, reported local Urdu TV channel Geo. —XINHUA

Plastic banknotes to be released in Scotland in 2015

EDINBURGH, 24 May — Clydesdale Bank in Scotland will release Britain's first plastic banknotes next year to mark the 125th anniversary of the Forth Bridge, it was confirmed on Friday.

The bank will release two million five-pound

(about 8.43 U.S. dollars) notes from March 2015 to coincide with the anniversary of the opening of the rail bridge, according to an official statement.

The Clydesdale Bank note, which is smaller than the existing notes, celebrates the nomination of the Forth Bridge for inclusion in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s World Heritage List in 2014. It features

the image of Sir William Arrol, one of Scotland's most celebrated engineers, whose company constructed the Forth Bridge. Built over seven years, the Forth Bridge was opened on 4 March, 1890 as the first major structure in Britain to be constructed of steel. In December, the Bank of England announced that it planned to issue plastic banknotes for the first time from 2016, when a new five-pound note featuring

Sir Winston Churchill will be introduced. A 10-pound note featuring Jane Austen will follow around a year later, to be made from polymer rather than cotton paper which is currently used.

Polymer notes are proven to be more durable than existing notes, with research finding that they stay cleaner for longer, are more difficult to counterfeit and are at least 2.5 times longer-lasting, according to banks.—Xinhua

Picture taken on 23 May, 2014 shows that machines are displaying during the Novi Sad agriculture fair, in Novi Sad, Serbia. About 1,500 companies participated in the 2014 agriculture fair in Novi Sad, Serbia. The 81st International Agricultural Fair that opened on May 20 displays the latest machines and other products from agricultural industry, as well as livestock. —XINHUA



Kim Kardashian, Kanye West dazzle guests in Versailles

PARIS, 24 May — US television personality Kim Kardashian and rapper Kanye West toured the Chateau de Versailles in France on Friday with hundreds of guests ahead of their wedding in Florence this weekend, the visit's organizer said.

The couple were due to host an informal dinner and concert in Paris after visiting the palace, Omar Cherif told Reuters TV.

The two had hoped to marry at Versailles, which King Louis XIV transformed from a hunting lodge into the dazzling heart of an absolutist state but were told in January that would not be possible.

Kardashian and West will celebrate their wedding in the 16th century Belvedere Fort in Florence on Saturday.

An official at Florence mayor's office said last week that the couple were renting the Belvedere Fort for 300,000 euros (244,311 pounds) for the occasion, which will be presided over by a Protestant pastor.

However, as the castle is not an authorised site for weddings, there was some question about whether the event will be an officially recognised marriage ceremony or a celebration with some looser status.—Reuters



TV personality Kim Kardashian and rapper Kanye West arrive at a fashion designer workshop in Paris on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

I screamed at Daniel Radcliffe: Jennifer Lawrence

LOS ANGELES, 24 May — 'Hunger Games' actress Jennifer Lawrence has revealed she screamed at 'Harry Potter' star Daniel Radcliffe when she first met him.

The 23-year-old actress, who is a self-confessed Harry Potter fan, recalled the awkward moment during an appearance on Late Night with Seth Meyers, reported Ave Showbiz.

Speaking of what her interests were growing up, Lawrence said, "Harry Potter. I read that three times. NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, but it all changes as you get older.—PTI



Jennifer Lawrence



Nothing is confirmed: Channing Tatum on 'X-Men'

LOS ANGELES, 24 May — Actor Channing Tatum has not yet confirmed the rumours suggesting he is joining the 'X-Men' film franchise.

Producer Lauren Shuler Donner recently suggested that an agreement had been reached for Tatum to play the card-throwing mutant Gambit in 2016's 'X-Men: Apocalypse', according to the Hollywood Reporter.

PTI

Channing Tatum

Hungarian dog film takes prize for innovative film at Cannes

CANNES (France), 24 May — The Hungarian film "Feher Isten" (White God), starring a pack of stray dogs that terrorises the capital Budapest and directed by Kornel Mundruczo, won the top prize in the "Un Certain Regard" forum of the Cannes International Film Festival

on Friday. The runner-up, winning the jury prize, was "Turist" by Swedish director Ruben Ostlund. It is about the disintegration of a marriage after a husband abandons his wife and children on a terrace and flees when he falsely believes they are all about to be killed by an avalanche.

Jury President for the "Un Certain Regard" festival was Argentine director Pablo Trapero.

The forum, "A Particular Outlook" in English, is for young, innovative filmmakers or directors that runs alongside the main Cannes competition, whose winners will be announced

on Saturday. Other films competing for the prize were the directorial debut of Hollywood A-list actor Ryan Gosling, "Lost River", the only Indian film in the competition, "Titli", by Kanu Behl, and "Jauja" starring Viggo Mortensen from Argentina's Lisandro Alonso.—Reuters



Director Kornel Mundruczo (5thR), winner of the Prize Un Certain Regard for his film "Feher isten" (White God), poses on stage surrounded by jury members and laureates during the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 23 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Sushmita Sen: I will certainly get married

MUMBAI, 24 May— Former beauty queen and actress Sushmita Sen, who has adopted two daughters, says she will certainly get married and that too in a beautiful ceremony. The 38-year-old, who has been linked to the likes of Randeep Hooda and Vikram Bhatt among others, doesn't conform to the social norms.

When asked about this, she said: "I think you save the best for last."

"I don't think I should walk with the system. Our society has made this system that get graduate at 18, by 22 start panicking to get married and by 27 have your first child. I don't believe in that." "Every person's DNA is different. I will certainly get married and for sure it's going to be a beautiful wedding. Masha allah bahut khoobsurat hogi meri shaadi."—PTI



GENERAL

Mali Tuareg separatists accept ceasefire agreement

BAMAKO, 24 May — Tuareg separatist groups in Mali on Friday accepted a ceasefire agreement with the government following clashes this week that threatened to plunged the country back into war.

The agreement was reached following a meeting between the chairman of the African Union and separatist groups in northern Mali to discuss a permanent truce and the resumption of talks between the rebels and the government in Bamako.

Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz and United Nations special representative in Mali Albert Koenders held talks for more than four hours with the three main rebel groups and local Tuareg traditional leaders

in an effort to also revive peace negotiations between the two sides.

"I can confirm that we have agreed to a ceasefire," senior Tuareg official Ambeiry Ag Rhissa told *Reuters* by telephone from Kidal, the separatist stronghold. "We have also agreed an exchange of prisoners and that an independent commission of inquiry should investigate what happened in Kidal."

The Malian army launched an assault on Kidal on Wednesday after clashes broke out last weekend during a visit to the northern town by new Prime Minister Moussa Mara. The action threatened to sink struggling the peace negotiations between the government and the rebels. Mahamadou



A fighter with the Tuareg separatist group MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad) stands guard outside the local regional assembly in Kidal on 23 June, 2013. —REUTERS

Camara, Mali's communication minister, said on Friday that President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita did not give the order for the army's failed attempt to retake Kidal. The government has launched an inquiry into the matter. "We

had accepted a ceasefire," Camara told *Reuters*. "Our forces decided on their own to go. They did not wait for the political order that should come down from the president to the prime minister and then the minister." —*Reuters*

French Open draw offers Nadal chance of quick revenge



Rafael Nadal of Spain

PARIS, 24 May — Two fellow Spaniards who have already beaten him on his

favourite clay surface could lie in wait for favourite and defending champion Rafael

Nadal at the French Open.

Friday's draw, conducted by Nadal at Roland Garros, also handed women's champion Serena Williams a tricky route.

Eight-times champion Nadal plays American Robbie Ginepri in round one but Nicolas Almagro and David Ferrer are seeded to face him in the fourth round and the quarter-final respectively.

Almagro surprisingly beat Nadal in the quarter-finals of the Barcelona Open while Ferrer, who the Mal-

lorcan beat in last year's French Open final, knocked him out at the same stage at the Monte Carlo Masters.

"Last week in Rome was tough physically but sometimes you need these things. I played a bit better during the tournament," Nadal told a news conference.

Defeat by Novak Djokovic in the Italian Open final meant Nadal has lost three matches on the European claycourt swing for the first time in a decade, raising doubts over his form.

Reuters

Italy struggles to turn page on corruption

MILAN, 24 May — They usually met in Milan although on Wednesdays they lunched in Rome. But for the seven men arrested on suspicion of corruption, the menu was always the same, prosecutors said: alleged bribes to obtain building contracts for Italy's Expo 2015 world fair.

Milan prosecutors are investigating whether the group of former politicians and entrepreneurs rigged contracts for Expo and other public tenders, including a 67 million euro contract to build facilities for next year's Universal Exhibition, according to a copy of the arrest warrant seen by *Reuters*.

Details of the case, re-

vealed in the prosecutors' warrant, have reminded Italians of the 1990s, when a wave of high-profile bribery cases landed top businessmen and politicians in jail and broke-up Italy's post-war party system.

Two decades later, despite promises from the new prime minister, Matteo Renzi, that he will invigorate the economy, business is still often murky, with some of Italy's most prominent companies under investigation.

Corruption still exists in Italy, lawyers and prosecutors say, because many of the old offenders are still around — in some cases well past the normal retirement age — and Ital-

ian society typically takes a forgiving attitude to their crimes.

Despite repeated attempts to clean up politics and business, Italy still ranks 69 out of 177 countries in Transparency International's corruption index, below most European nations.

Two of the people under investigation in the Expo case — 74-year-old Gianstefano Frigerio, a former local leader of Italy's Christian Democrats, and Primo Greganti, 70, former member of the defunct Communist Party — served jail time in the early 1990s after being convicted for corruption and illicit political party financing.

They both denied wrongdoing in the Expo case when questioned by prosecutors, according to people close to the investigation. Frigerio had no comment, his lawyer said, while Greganti's lawyer said his client denied any wrongdoing.

"In Italy corruption is above all a cultural problem," says Raffaele Cantone, a magistrate who heads Italy's anti-bribery authority and who was put in charge of the Expo 2015 organization after the recent arrests. "Those who have been involved in corruption cases, once they have served their sentence, are welcomed back with open arms by the business world,

MYANMAR TV

(25-5-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2. Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am
- 3. News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 4. MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 am
- 5. News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- 6. Amazing World
- 9:00 am
- 7. News/ International News
- 9:50 am
- 8. Beautiful ASEAN
- 10:50 am
- 9. Documentary
- 11:10 am
- 10. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 12:00 pm
- 11. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 12. Round up of The Week's International News
- 3:00 pm
- 13. News
- 3:15 pm
- 14. Myanmar Movies
- 4:30 pm
- 15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Law)
- 5:00 pm
- 16. News
- 5:15 pm
- 17. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- 18. News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 19. Cartoon Series
- 7:20 pm
- 20. Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm
- 21. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- 22. Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- 23. News
- Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-5-14 07:00am~ 26-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * The Hills Of Phowintaung And Shwebat-aung
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * A Trip to Mon State
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Khin Su Shin"
- * Local News
- * Shwe Kyin: A Picture of Peace and Progress
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - The Religious Insignias Of Pagodas In Myanmar
- * World News
- * In The Studio: L CO
- * Local News
- * Sagaing: Po Kwel Kone Net Festival
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Pada Ceti, The Buddha's Foot-Prints
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review - Mar Gyi Shay ... "Best of health"
- * Local News
- * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- * World News
- * Myanmar Master-class: Art Teacher



Italian Prime Minister and leader of the Democratic Party Matteo Renzi gestures as he talks during an election campaign for European Elections in Rome on 22 May, 2014. —REUTERS

politicians, by the entire society." Cantone says the Expo case shows how corruption in Italy has evolved over the past 25 years. In the case of the so-called

"Clean Hands" trials of the early 1990s, political parties were the center of kickback schemes linked to public works contracts.

Reuters

Myanmar youth thumb up in tune-up match playing with Nigerian club

Myanmar U-19 team that is making preparations for taking part in the international football tournaments trounced Arafat FC 7-0 in the tune-up match at Sports Ground-1 in Thuwunna of Yangon on Saturday.

Myanmar deployed its first line-up players in the match. The Nigerian amateur Arafat FC could not effectively defend the storming attacks of Myanmar youths.

Winning goals for Myanmar came from two goals each from Aung Thu and Hein Nay Hsan and one each from Yan Min Aung, Hlaing Myo Aung and Maung Maung Lwin. Myanmar youth team won good results in tune-up matches without loss in playing against Japanese U-19 and Indonesian U-19 teams as of April.—By Nyi Myat Thawda



Youth players of Myanmar and Arafat FC trying to controlling the ball in tune-up match.—SOE NYUNT

FIFA to release last-minute World Cup tickets



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RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May — Football's governing body FIFA will offer fans their last chance to attend the World Cup by releasing a final batch of tickets on 1 June.

In a briefing with Brazilian media on Friday, FIFA's marketing director Thierry Weil said an undetermined number of seats would go on sale at venue ticketing centres.

"We had to hold on to 7% of seats that were installed after (the last sales phase)," Weil was quoted saying by *O Globo*. "We are currently looking to see how many tickets we can sell."

Weil reiterated FIFA's warning to fans about scalpers.

The body earlier said those who purchased tickets from unauthorized sellers would be denied entry.

"Are we going to stop all the ticket touts?" Weil said in comments published on FIFA's official website. "Probably not. But we've been very successful in terms of selling World Cup tickets on the internet."

"My advice is not to take risks. Don't buy tickets on the black market. If we find out, you'll be stopped and will be prevented from entering the stadium."—Xinhua

Rio 2016 chief determined Games will be ready on time

ATHENS, 24 May — Brazil will prove the doubters wrong and deliver the 2016 Olympics on time and within budget, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, president of the 2016 Rio Games organizing committee, has said.

In a rare interview given to international media, Nuzman conceded that delays had slowed the work down, with the final venue master plan having not been completed until last September, but he insisted everything would be ready.

"We know don't have time to lose and we are not standing still," Nuzman, who is also the head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee, told Friday's edition of Greek newspaper *Kathimerini*. "Bringing the Games to Brazil was an ambition I held for a very long time and we are determined that we will deliver a Games to be proud of, within the agreed schedules and budgets."

Last month International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice president John Coates labelled Brazil's preparations the worst he had ever seen and critically behind schedule.

Attending an Olympic forum in Sydney, Coates told delegates construction had not started on some

venues, infrastructure was significantly delayed and water quality was also a major concern two years out from the Games, although he later said he was certain the city would be able to host a "great" event.

Nuzman responded by saying that "working as a team is the best and only way to make this progress, but we need constructive criticism which can help us improve". The first Games on the South American continent have been plagued by delays, rising costs and bad communication between different levels of the Brazilian government and organizers, prompting criticism from international sports federations.

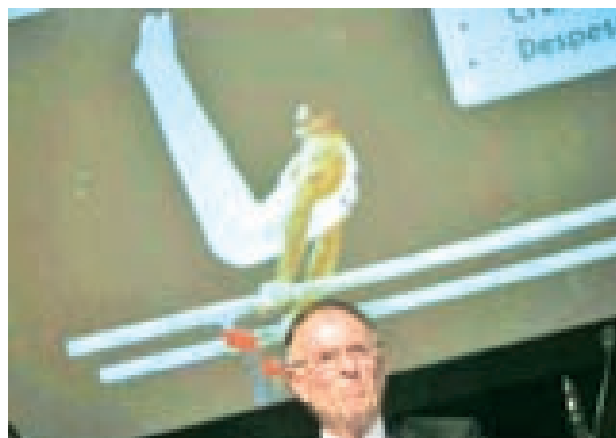
The IOC announced a series of unprecedented

measures in April to kick-start lagging preparations, including setting up a special task force, employing extra monitors and sending project managers and teams of experts.

Amid problems with stadium construction, labour unrest and security in other parts of the country, thousands of troops were deployed to Rio's slums in February to wrest them back from the control of drug gangs and criminals.

Turning to the finances behind the Games, Nuzman said the role of his organising committee should be distinguished from that of the three levels of government — the central administration and regional and municipal authorities.

Reuters



President of Brazil's Olympic Committee Carlos Arthur Nuzman

Chelsea defender Luiz set for Paris St Germain move

LONDON, 24 May — French champions Paris St Germain have agreed terms with Chelsea to sign Brazil defender David Luiz, the clubs said on Friday.

"The move is now subject to David Luiz agreeing personal terms with PSG and passing a medical examination," Premier League club Chelsea said on their website (www.chelseafc.com).

British media reported that the versatile 27-year-old would command a world record fee for a de-

fender of between 40 million (\$67.37 million) and 50 million pounds (\$84.21 million).

That would surpass the 36 million pounds Qatari-backed PSG paid for Luiz's Brazil team mate Thiago Silva in 2012 although neither club disclosed the financial terms of their agreement.

The easily recognisable Luiz, with his long and shaggy hair, joined Chelsea in January, 2011 from Benfica for about 21 million pounds and helped the west London side win the Champions League for the first time the following year.

Strong, energetic and armed with a powerful shot, Luiz likes to venture forward but can be somewhat erratic and prone to the odd defensive



Chelsea's David Luiz

David Luiz wished to reach an agreement as soon as possible between, on the one hand, Paris St Germain and Chelsea, and on the other, the Parisian club and the player in order to formalise the transfer as soon as the transfer window opens (on 10 June)," the club said.

PSG, who strolled to the Ligue 1 title but lost to Chelsea in the Champions League quarter-finals, were last week fined up to 60 million euros (\$82.23 million) and had their squad capped for next season's European campaign after breaching UEFA's Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules.

Wealthy Premier League champions Manchester City were hit with the same punishment and as part of their settlement with European soccer's governing body, both clubs also agreed to curbs on transfer spending over the next two seasons.

Reuters