

MPF, EU launch programme for better police-public relations

By
Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 25 May—European Union and Myanmar Police Force on Sunday introduced a programme to promote relations between police force and public.

The Police Open Day ceremony under this programme took place at the police station of Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon.

Police officials said the programme is aimed at having a better understanding of the functions and duties of the police force.

At the ceremony, MPF officials made clarification on their jobs to more than 500 attendees.

"I found these jobs very interesting. The members of police force patiently replied to my queries and I got some new information how to prevent human trafficking and so on," said May Myo Thu a bank clerk, who joined the ceremony.

Police Lieutenant-Colonel Kaung Myint Nang of No.8 Security Po-



Police equipment displayed at the introduction to promoting relations between police and public.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

lice Unit said: "Myanmar police force is now under reform, but it will take time to reach the expectations as this is a large institution."

According to the police department, plans are underway to conduct Community Policing Courses in every township and give more educative talks on prevention against drug abuse, anti-human traffick-

ing and traffic rule enforcements in schools.

The members of police force from Sangyoung Myoma Police Station will join the sixth one-month training course under this joint programme.

Police Corporal Thaug Tun Oo said he believed he would get better and close relations with public after attending the

training course.

The EU is now providing assistance to MPF through training courses and police equipment such as bicycles, hats and retro-reflector coats to the police stations.

A police officer from Drug Enforcement Administration said: "MPF needs to recruit more staff to serve the public interest."

Ooredoo Myanmar plans 99 pc of its workforce to be locals in next five years

By
Aung Khin

YANGON, 25 May—Ooredoo Myanmar on Sunday revealed that its workforce will be local people in next five years.

One of the two licence winners of foreign operators for Myanmar telecommunication services made a special press conference at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on the developments on its company operating in the country.

The Qatar-based telecommunication provider now has over 600 local staff and expects to introduce its telecommunication services during the third quarter of this year.

Ross Cormack, CEO of Ooredoo Myanmar said: "We have a bright, young, passionate local team making up the majority of our



Ooredoo Myanmar CEO Ross Cormack presents update on progress of his company.

PHOTO: AUNG KHIN

workforce. We are learning so much from them and at the same time helping them to learn about how to build and deliver an exceptional customer experience. We are excited about the level of service that our customer champions in particular, will deliver to

our customers."

Its services will help to deliver great quality voice and fast data services with its own 1,200 kilometre fibre, according to its statement.

The company is now constructing its data centre in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital

of Myanmar, and expects its completion in June.

In addition to telecom services, Ooredoo will launch the programme of Mobile Health Clinics for health and well-being of people by working together with FHI360, a U.S based nonprofit human development organization, to roll out two large 44 seater and six smaller mobile clinic vehicles that aim to reach 36,000 people a year in many areas including Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions.

The company expects the programme will cover 20 townships and 1,800 villages expecting to serve 60,000 people in two years, targeting maternal and child health and nutrition, as well as those in serious need of diagnosis and treatment.

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13 injured in SW China quake

KUNMING, 25 May—At least 13 people were injured after a 5.6-magnitude earthquake jolted a county in southwest China early on Saturday morning, provincial authorities said.

The quake, which happened at 4:49 a.m. in Yingjiang County of Yunnan Province, had affected 313,000 residents in 15 towns and toppled and damaged 9,688 houses as of 7:40 p.m., according to local publicity officials.

The quake has also damaged 36 schools and 9 bridges. More than 10,000 people have been relocated.

Ten injured are receiving treatment at local hospitals and three have left hospital.

The epicenter was in Kachang Town of Yingjiang, which is on a quake-prone belt. The epicenter was measured at 25.0 degrees north and 97.8 degrees east, at a depth of 12 km, the China Earthquake Networks Center said.

About 3,000 rescuers are working in the county to remove potential risks, set up tents and resume the power supply.

Cracks have been seen

in the building of Wupai Primary School in Kachang Town. The 183 students in the school are expected to have classes in tents next Monday, according to Ke Shangfa, principal of the school.

There had been 293 aftershocks by 3 p.m., according to Wei Gang, head of the county government.

Residents rushed out of their homes when the quake happened. Tiles fell from some roofs and there was a power blackout in the epicenter, said Tao Jiqing, Party secretary of the county.

The provincial seismological bureau has dispatched a work team of 50 people to the region to carry out surveying, investigation and disaster evaluation work.

The Yunnan Provincial Civil Affairs Department has sent 4,000 tents, 2,000 quilts and 2,000 folding beds to quake-hit areas.

Yingjiang borders Myanmar. It has a population of 300,000.

Yunnan lies where the Eurasian Plate and Indian Plate meet and is prone to quakes.—Xinhua

Ancient Sudhamma public rest house under reconstruction in Mandalay



Photo shows Sudhamma public rest house in Mandalay.

MANDALAY, 25 May—Mandalay City established by King Mindon in 1221 Myanmar Era is now 155 years old.

Some ancient buildings including the royal palace and buildings were destroyed in the Second

World War.

Authorities have been preserving the ancient buildings including some royal buildings and pagodas in Mandalay. Of them, the golden ordination hall where the Pathana treatise was recited, the Pitakat

chamber and many Sudhamma public rest houses are being maintained over 150 years ago.

U Kyaw Win, managing director of Mann Myay Yazar Co., Ltd., wife Thudhamma Theingi Daw Myint Myint Than and family

of Mandalay contributed to reconstruction of the building for the lost Sudhamma public rest house and the places for the Bo tree and three golden thrones as part of preserving the ancient cultural heritages.

In an interview, Sudhamma U Kyaw Win said, “Cornerstones were laid for all buildings on 24 May 2013 and con-

struction started on 24 June 2013. While making ground breaking process, we found the place of the lost Sudhamma public rest house.

So I received the advice from the venerable Buddhist monks and funded construction of the buildings. Now, the construction tasks are 90 per cent complete. I estimated

to cost over K3500 million.”

The Sitagu Sayadaw, the venerable Buddhist monk of Sagaing Hill, named donor U Kyaw Win as Sudhamma Kyaw Win on 23 May 2013. New Age University of USA conferred Ph.D degree on the donor on 19 May 2014.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



The venues for Bo tree and golden thrones under construction in Mandalay.

Villagers of NyaungU Tsp long for showers

NYAUNGU, 25 May—Local farmers are engaged in cultivation of groundnut plants after the rains scattered in NyaungU Township on 23 May evening.

The 45-minute rain caused coolness in rural areas of NyaungU Township, said a local.

“Heavy rain hit Thant-sinkyel village. So we could cultivate bean in our farmland. The rain showered our village and Chaukseikpin village west of Kyaukpadaung-NyaungU motor road, a villager said.

The rain has not fallen yet in the village



es on eastern part of the motor road,” said a lo-

cal villager.

Local farmers who

cultivate crops are ready to work with showers.

Kyaw Htay

Surprise checks performed at buses for traffic safety



SHWEDO, 25 May—Force and Myanmar Fire Personnel of Transport Planning Department, Directorate of Transport Administration, Traffic Police

Brigade made surprise checks at the bus terminal in Shwebo of Sagaing Region on 23 May.

They inspected the vehicles whether there are wheel tax, maintenance, systematic installation of seats, use of emergency exit, fire extinguisher and traffic signs. Head of District Transport Planning Department U Aung Than Phyu said, “It is aimed at ensuring safety for passengers. So, we perform checks before departure of the buses.” Bus line officials, bus owners and drivers are to take responsibility for occurrence of traffic accidents.

Myint Tun (IPRD)

YANGON, 25 May—As the school enrollment activity was launched in Yangon on 25 May, Basic Education High School No 3 of Tamway Township started to accept enrolment of students, said a teacher.

The parents or guardians are to fill the grade A, B, C and D of the students on applications for enrollment.

New students except KG are to bring along with the transfer certificates from the respective schools.

The schools provide exercise books and textbooks to the primary stu-

MR to run steam locomotive train on Bagan-Kyaukpadaung section

NATOGYI, 25 May—Myanma Railways has planned to run a steam locomotive train as special schedule for globe-trotters on Bagan-Kyaukpadaung-Bagan railroad section.

Myanma Railways has invited tender to private companies for operating the special train service with joint-venture system along Bagan-Kyaukpadaung

railroad section. It will be implemented through the three-year contract for chartered train system.

Moreover, Myanma Railways (MR) has another plan to run the steam locomotives on Bagan-Mandalay railroad sector if the first plan on Bagan-Kyaukpadaung railroad meets with success, said an official of MR.

Htay Myint Maung

Tamway BEHS No 1 accepts enrollment of students



Parents and guardians enrol their children at Tamway BEHS No 1.

dents in addition to K1,000 as cash assistance, said a

school official.

Thant Zin Win

NATIONAL

Upper House Speaker says constitutional changes expected in 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint of Myanmar, who was in Auckland at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt. Hon David Carter, visited Sky Tower on 18 May, news media reports.

On 19 May at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, officials of Auckland University of Technology (AUT) gave an account of the background history of the university, available courses, and links with international universities. U Khin Aung Myint also visited Beca International Consultants Company Ltd, where he raised queries on briefings by officials.

On 20 May, he went on a guided tour of Taupo, Auckland, where he visited Taupo District Council, GNS Science, Miraka Limited, and Lake Taupo Forest Park.

At his call on New

Zealand Speaker Rt. Hon David Carter, Myanmar Upper House Speaker described New Zealand as one of the earliest countries to use 'Myanmar' to refer to his country, noting that diplomatic relations between the two countries started in 1958.

As a three-year-old democracy, Myanmar has carried out various reforms, he stated, by allowing NGOs to set up and INGOs to operate on a wider scale.

He continued political stability, safety, education promotion and economic growth are a democracy to prevail, citing peace talks with ethnic armed groups.

Speaking of the State Constitution, he expressed his hope for possible changes in the charter by 2015, which committees concerned are scrutinizing. "Every constitution needs changing as time goes by."

Myanmar invited New



Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint views panoramic scene of Auckland of New Zealand from Sky Tower.—MNA

Zealand for investments in education, business and electricity.

The New Zealand Speaker expressed his willingness to help Myanmar

with parliamentary practices, citing the shift from FPTP (first-past-the-post) to MMP (mixed member proportional).

On 23 May, U Khin

Aung Myint met with Robert Peden, Vice Chairman of New Zealand Election Commission, who briefed on the commission's arrangements for elections

and the practice of PR (proportional representation).

The Myanmar Speaker left Wellington and arrived back in Yangon on 24 May.—MNA

Technical and vocational education enhancement discussed



Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein speaking at the coordination meeting (5/2004) of special task force for enhancement of technical and vocational education.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—The coordination meeting (5/2004) of the special task force for the enhancement of technical and vocational education of the

education enhancement implementation committee was held at the Department of Technical and Vocational Education in Yangon on Sunday.

Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Ko Ko Oo and deputy ministers, members of the seven teams composed of experts from government

departments and private sectors and representatives of international partnership organizations attended the meeting.

MNA

MFF Ooredoo Futsal Cup 2014 on 27 May

YANGON, 25 May—MFF Ooredoo Futsal Cup 2014 will be held on Tuesday at the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1 on Waizayanta Road in Thimgayun Township in Yangon, organized by the Myanmar Futsal Federation.

Altogether 42 teams will participate in

round-robin matches. MFF announced that the winner team will get a handsome prize.

Former national selected players team will play against with Actor Star FC as a friendly football match in the opening ceremony.

Po Thaw Zin

FCCM starts its annual meeting

YANGON, 25 May—The Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar held its 25th annual meeting at its office here on Saturday evening, with an address by the Chairman U Aung Hla Tun, followed by a clarification of a financial balance, which the club agreed on, sources said.

The club chose a new executive board, with U Hla

Htway of Nikkei Shimbun as patron, U Aung Hla Tun of Reuters as chairman, Mr Zhang Yunfei of Xinhua and Daw Aye Aye Win of AP as vice chairmen, and U Thitsa Hla Htwe of TBS as secretary.

Founded in 1989, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar has now 45 members.

Ko Thitsa

President Office's Union Ministers meet township administration and supportive committees

YANGON, 25 May—Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein held a meeting with the chairmen and officials of Township Administration

Committees and Township Supportive Committees on Sunday at the Yangon Region Government Office in Yangon, to discuss the progress of current development projects.—MNA

Lower House Bill Committee meets on holidays

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—In order to submit bills to be approved at the ninth session of the Hluttaw, the Lower House Bill Committee of the Hluttaw continued its meeting on holidays.

The committee led by Chairman U T Khun Myat reviewed the inland water transport bill of the Union Government on 24 May,

Saturday, in accordance with 12 provisions of the rules. The committee reviewed the electricity bill under discussion on 25 May, Sunday.

Those who reviewed the bills included U Lun Thi, U Thein Lwin, U Khin Maung Win, U Thaug Nyunt, U Aung Naing, U Min Swe, Daw Than Than Yi and officials. —MNA



Lower House Bill Committee discusses submission for laws to Lower House.—MNA

Thai military tightens grip, focuses on economic woes

BANGKOK, 25 May — Thailand's military tightened its grip on power on Sunday as it moved to douse smoldering protests fuelled by social media and rally commercial agencies and business to revitalize the country's battered economy.

The military overthrew the government on Thursday after months of debilitating and at times violent confrontation between the populist government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and the royalist establishment.

Critics say the coup will not end the conflict between the rival power networks: the Bangkok-based elite dominated by the military, old money families and the bureaucracy, and an upstart clique led by Yingluck's brother and former telecommunications mogul Thaksin Shinawatra. The Shinawatras draw much of their influence from the provinces.

The military has detained leaders of the ousted government including Yingluck and an unknown number of her ministers, party officials, and supporters. It has thrown out the constitution, censored the media and on Satur-



Thai soldiers stand guard as they block a street during a protest against military rule in central Bangkok on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

day it dismissed the upper house Senate, Thailand's last functioning legislature, in what amounts to a clean sweep of the political landscape.

Power now lies squarely in the hands of army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha and his junta known as the National Council for Peace and Order, and their priorities ap-

peared to be stamping out dissent and tending to the economy.

"We would like to ask all people to avoid gathering to stage protests because it's not a usual situation for the democratic process," deputy army spokesman Winthai Suvarree said in a televised statement.

"For those who use

social media to provoke, please stop because it's not good for anyone. For media, they should be careful about speaking, criticizing or doing anything that causes damage to any party, especially civilian, police and military officials."

A small number of protesters gathered again in Bangkok on Sunday, outside a central shopping

centre. There were more soldiers than protesters in the area and when someone started shouting, soldiers dragged two people away, a Reuters reporter said.

One man taken away was wearing a red shirt, the colour of Thaksin's loyalists.

"Thailand very bad, very bad," shouted a woman in English. "They don't

like red shirts and so they beat him and took him away."

The military began meetings on Sunday with the leaders of state and private commercial organizations, senior officials of the commerce, finance ministries and business leaders. Officials from the energy ministry, oil trade and transport companies were due to meet later.

The army has also asked 18 newspaper bosses to a meeting on Sunday, presumably to receive directions on supportive coverage. "From now on, the army will focus on solving the country's problems," a senior military official said on Saturday. "The army would like to be in power for the shortest period they can. They want to make sure the country is really getting back to normal without any resistance," said the official, who declined to be identified.

Less than 72 hours after the coup, the military has already met political, media, academic and civil service groups. Many of the politicians have been detained while others such as civil servants have been exhorted to work for the country.—Reuters

Thai army: Yingluck, protest leaders given "time to think"

BEIJING, 25 May — The Thai army has said it will detain former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Cabinet members and anti-government

protest leaders for no more than a week to give them 'time to think'.

The army spokesman said at a Press conference that they were be-

ing well-treated and that the aim of the military was to achieve a political compromise. The military seized power on Thursday.

"We have to give them sometime to think over about the previous actions, and about the previous incidents, and after that they become

more relaxed, there will be no pressure on them, and they will be able to think about what they should do for the best of the country and for

themselves. And we look after them very well," said Col Weerachon Sukondhapatipak, army spokesman.

Xinhua

Iran says UN report proves its nuclear intentions are peaceful

DUBAI, 25 May — Iran on Saturday said the latest UN report on its nuclear activities, which calculated it had slashed its nuclear stockpile by around 80 percent, proved its atomic programme was peaceful.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in its quarterly report on Friday that Iran had reduced its stockpile of higher-grade enriched uranium gas under an interim pact with world powers.

It also said it had started to engage with a long-stalled IAEA investigation into suspected weapons research.

A steep cut in uranium gas — a relatively short technical step away from weapons-grade material — is among concessions demanded by the United States and its Western countries in return for limited easing of economic sanctions against Teheran.

"The report is an affirmation of Iran's claim to peaceful activities," nuclear spokesman Behruz Kamalvandi told the official news agency IRNA.

"No deviations have been seen in these activities."

Western countries have long suspected the Islamic republic of seeking nuclear weapons capability and Teheran's cooperation with the IAEA is a test of any progress in the current talks with the six world power known as P5+1.

The latest round of negotiations failed to make much head-



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano addresses the media after a board of governors meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna on 24 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

way last week, raising doubts over the prospects for a breakthrough by the late July deadline.

Reuters

Two dead as tornado hits S Philippine village

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 25 May — Two people were killed and another was injured when a twister ripped through a village in southern Philippines over the weekend, authorities said on Sunday.

The freak wind uprooted coconut and fruit trees which toppled onto houses on Saturday evening, crushing to death a child and an elderly woman in Salunayan village, Midsayap town, in Mindanao's North Cotabato Province, police said.

Another man was able to run out as a coconut tree toppled on his house, but sustained injuries, a radio report quoted police as saying.

North Cotabato governor Emmylou Mendoza has ordered distribution of assistance to the victims.

Xinhua

WORLD

Putin accuses Britain's Prince Charles of unroyal behaviour



Russia's President Vladimir Putin meets with a group of foreign journalists on the sidelines of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2014 (SPIEF 2014) in St Petersburg on 24 May, 2014. REUTERS

ST PETERSBURG, 25 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Britain's Prince Charles on Saturday of unacceptable and unroyal behaviour by comparing him with Adolf Hitler over Russia's stance in Ukraine.

Putin said he had not heard the comment, made by the prince to a Jewish woman who fled Poland during World War Two, but asked reporters to pass on a message to the heir-to-the-British throne and the country's Prime Minister David Cameron.

"This is not royal behaviour," Putin told journalists from *Reuters* and other international news agencies at the Konstantinovskiy Palace, built in the 18th and 19th centuries on the coast of the Gulf of Finland outside St Petersburg, Russia's former imperial capital.

"If you are angry, this means you are wrong. I have not heard this remark.

If (it was said), then it is unacceptable. I think he himself realises that. He is a well-brought-up person.

"I know him and other members of the royal family personally. But I have got used to all kinds of things over the years."

According to a British newspaper, the 65-year-old prince made the comment earlier this week during a tour of Canada.

Charles told the woman, who lost relatives during the Holocaust and was recounting how she had fled Poland, that "Putin is doing just about the same as Hitler".

Putin's response came after Russia's foreign ministry had criticised Charles for his remarks, saying they did not reflect well on a future British monarch and were an "unacceptable" attempt to spread propaganda against Russia over Ukraine.

The Soviet Union lost more than 20 million peo-

ple in the war and the victory over Nazi Germany is celebrated across Russia as a national triumph.

Putin, a former KGB spy, has repeatedly spoken about the sacrifices of what Russians call the Great Patriotic War and he himself lost a brother in the Nazi siege of Leningrad.

The palace where Saturday's interview took place, where G20 leaders met last September, was itself seriously damaged between 1941 and 1944 by the German armed forces.

However, Russia's annexation of Crimea has led to some in Ukraine and a few Western politicians to liken the incursion by Putin to the actions of Hitler.

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton had to clarify remarks in March suggesting Putin's justification for his actions over Crimea to protect ethnic Russians was reminiscent of claims made by Hitler over foreign territories.

The prince's office and Cameron, who has scolded the Kremlin for annexing Crimea and supporting pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine, have declined to comment on Charles's reported remarks because they had been made during a private conversation.

However, the comments have raised some eyebrows in Britain as the royal family is not expected to voice political views publicly and the head of state is merely a constitutional figurehead.

Queen Elizabeth, Charles's 88-year-old mother, has never aired such emotive sentiments during her long reign.

"In constitutional monarchy policy and diplomacy should be conducted by parliament and government," opposition Labour lawmaker Mike Gapes wrote on Twitter. "Monarchy should be seen and not heard."

Reuters

Germany stops numerous arms exports, risks compensation fees

BERLIN, 25 May — Germany's national security council declined two-thirds of applications for arms export licenses at its most recent sitting three weeks ago, German news weekly *Spiegel* said on Saturday.

The economy ministry had prevented a license application to export to Saudi Arabia 500 million euros worth of sight devices for armored personnel carrier guns from even being discussed in the council, it said.

Spiegel said the sights were made by a unit of Airbus. A spokesman for Airbus said: "We have no information about any government decision. We hope however for a swift and positive decision."

Such a move by the economy ministry could place Berlin on a direct collision course with Airbus Group after its chief executive Tom Enders warned of increased job cuts and factory closures over arms export curbs in an interview with *Reuters* on Friday.

"I am concerned about the increasingly restrictive arms export policy of Germany. This might trigger additional layoffs in Germany, beyond our current reduction plans," Enders said.

An economy ministry spokesman declined to comment on the *Spiegel* report and said all aspects of the security council's meetings were confidential.

According to the report, the government risks demands for compensation by the affected firms. Projects in late stages were among those declined.

German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel, a Social Democrat (SPD), has promised a much more cautious approach to licensing arms exports, unnerving the sizeable defense industry and signaling a change in approach from the previous coalition government.

The ministry was run until December 2013 by the Free Democrats (FDP), Chancellor Angela Merkel's previous coalition partners, before the SPD.

German arms exports have come under scrutiny in recent years because of the increasing sums involved and because a greater number of arms are heading to non-European Union or NATO partners, and potentially unstable regions.

Earlier this month German media reported Gabriel wanted to block two deals to sell arms to Qatar and Saudi Arabia worth billions of euros.

Germany's national security council, which includes Merkel and the ministers of economy, defence, development and foreign affairs, has to approve licenses.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Germany was the world's third largest arms exporter from 2008-2012, behind the United States and Russia.

Reuters

Seven militants killed by Russian forces in North Caucasus

MOSCOW, 25 May — Seven militants in the North Caucasus province of Ingushetia were killed in a three-hour gun battle with Russian security forces after which their hide-out was consumed by fire, the Russian authorities said on Saturday.

Among the dead was the leader of a local militant group accused of being behind the killing of a regional security chief last year and the deaths of sev-

eral other Russian security and police officers.

Russia is battling insurgents in its largely Muslim North Caucasus region where Islamist groups want to carve out an Islamic state.

Last August, Ahmed Kotiyev, head of the regional Security Council, an advisory body on security and defence, and his driver were shot dead in Ingushetia. Russia's Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a

statement that one of the militants killed, Artur Gatagdzhev, was responsible for the attack.

The Committee said the militants, who had been hiding on Saturday in a house in the village of Sogopshi, had opened fire on the Russian troops who had surrounded them.

The cause of the ensuing blaze may have been an improvised explosive device, it said in a statement.

On Friday, Russia

said four militants and a member of Russia's security service were killed during clashes in Karbadino-Balkaria, also in the North Caucasus.

In recent years militants from the North Caucasus have carried out attacks in other parts of Russia, including a suicide bombing in 2011 in Moscow's Domodedovo airport in which scores of people were killed.

Reuters

Three killed, 55 injured in Thailand's deep south blasts

BANGKOK, 25 May — At least three people were killed and 55 others injured in blasts and gun attacks in Thai deep south province of Pattani on Saturday night. At least 13 blasts were reported at around 7 pm local time in several localities in Muang district in Pattani, *Bangkok Post* quoted local police as saying.

Three 7-Eleven outlets, the office of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), an electricity post and a petrol station in the district were hit in the blasts.

The entire district was left in a blackout following the attacks.

Since January 2004, separatist violence has plagued Thailand's Deep South, including three Muslim, ethnic-Malay dominated southern border provinces — Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and four districts of Songkhla. Figures from the Thai military show that insurgent violence in the Deep South has left more than 5,900 people dead and 10,600 others injured during the past decade.—*Xinhua*

Obama to lay out defence of foreign policy in West Point speech

WASHINGTON, 25 May — Stung by criticism, President Barack Obama will use a speech on Wednesday to launch a sweeping defence of his approach to foreign policy, one that he will say is reliant on multilateral diplomacy instead of military interventions.

Obama is to deliver the commencement address at the US Military Academy at West Point, New York, the first in a series of speeches that he and top advisers will use to explain US foreign policy in the aftermath of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and lay out a broad vision for the rest of his presidency.

The president has come under withering fire in recent months for what his critics say is a passive approach to foreign policy, one that has allowed Russian President Vladimir Putin to flex his muscle in Ukraine, and left the Syrian civil war to fester and China to threaten its neighbours in the South China Sea.

Shortly after a trip to Asia late in April during which he strongly defended his incremental approach, he directed aides to frame a speech to explain his foreign policy and how he



US President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, on 22 May, 2014.— REUTERS

plans to handle world hot spots during his remaining two-and-a-half years in office.

“You will hear the president discuss how the United States will use all the tools in our arsenal without over-reaching,” a White House official said on Saturday. “He will lay out why the right policy is one that is both interven-

tionist and internationalist, but not isolationist or unilateral.”

Obama, determined not to repeat what he views as the mistakes of his Republican predecessor, George W Bush — US involvement in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan - has leaned heavily on diplomatic activity instead of military force.

In the case of Ukraine, he has ordered sanctions against some of Putin’s inner circle and businesses associated with the Kremlin power structure but has made clear he will not threaten military force for Moscow’s seizure of Crimea.

The fear among some in Washington is that Obama’s handling of Russia

will prompt China to flex its muscles in the South China Sea, where tensions have already been rising over such actions as the placement of a Chinese oil rig in waters claimed by Vietnam.

On Syria, Obama backed away from a threat to use military force over the use of chemical weapons against Syrian civilians

by the Syrian government. While a deal struck with Russia is leading to the disarming of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile, the three-year-old Syrian civil war rages on and President Bashar al-Assad remains in power.

Obama will emphasize that Syria remains a counter-terrorism threat as a haven for militant groups. US officials have debated whether to supply heavier weapons and increase covert aid to Syrian rebels.

“We do see Syria as a counter-terrorism challenge. However, the right policy approach continues to be strengthening the moderate opposition, which offers an alternative to both the brutal Assad regime, and the more extremist elements within the opposition,” the White House official said.

The official said Obama will say the United States is the only nation capable of galvanizing global action and why “we need to put that to use in an international system that is sustainable and enduring, and that can address challenges from traditional ones, like maritime and trade issues, to emerging ones, like climate change.”—Reuters

Pakistan frees 59 Indian prisoners ahead of Nawaz Sharif’s Delhi visit

ISLAMABAD, 25 May — Pakistan on Sunday released 59 Indian prisoners, mostly fishermen, as a “goodwill gesture” just a day ahead of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s visit to New Delhi to attend the inauguration of Indian Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi, officials said.

The fishermen had been arrested for entering Pakistani waters and illegal fishing, they said.

Pakistan and India routinely arrest fishermen from entering each other’s waters for fishing. They mistakenly enter other’s waters as there is no demarcation of maritime boundaries.

Officials said that one prisoner had been arrested for illegally crossing the border.

The Indian prisoners were freed from a jail in the port city of Karachi.

They will be handed over to Indian authorities at Wagah border on Monday, officials said.

Freed Indian prisoners told reporters outside the Karachi’s Malir jail that they are happy at their release. They also said they were treated well and were not subjected to torture.

The prisoners were freed on the eve of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s visit to New Delhi to represent Pakistan in the swearing-in ceremony of the Indian Prime Minister-designate, Narendra Modi.

Mr Modi had invited other leaders from a South Asian forum of which India is also a member. The invitation to Sharif was attached great importance in view of tense relationship between the two nuclear neighbours.

Xinhua

Polling stations open in Ukraine’s presidential election

KIEV, 25 May — Ukrainian polling stations opened on Sunday in a presidential election overshadowed by violence in the country’s mainly Russian-speaking east and by Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea peninsula.

Voting began at 8 am (0500 GMT) across the former Soviet republic of 45 million people. It will end 12 hours later, when exit polls will indicate a result ahead of an official outcome on Monday.

Voters will find many polling stations shut in the east, where armed pro-Moscow separatists are trying to block an election they say is illegitimate. European election monitors have largely pulled out of the Donetsk region, citing a separatist campaign of “terror” against Ukrainian officials.

Opinion polls put



A Ukrainian policeman stands in front of a voting booth as he secures the polling station in the village of Kosmach in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast (province), western Ukraine on 24 May, 2014.

REUTERS

Petro Poroshenko, a billionaire confectionery magnate, well ahead of his

rivals in an election expected to draw a high turnout. If no candidate wins over 50

percent of the vote a runoff election will be held on 15 June.—Reuters

WORLD

Al-Qaeda gunmen storm Yemeni city, 27 people killed

ADEN, 25 May — At least 27 people were killed in an overnight raid by gunmen on a city in southeastern Yemen, residents and a local official said on Saturday, as al-Qaeda fought back against a government offensive.

Armed with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and explosives, attackers in Yemeni army uniforms drove in from the desert on 15 pickup trucks into Seyoun after detonating a car bomb at the entrance to the city in Hadramout Province.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has carried out many hit-and-run attacks since the Yemeni army drove it from its southern strongholds in Abyan and Shabwa provinces last month.

The West is concerned the group could use Yemen, which borders major oil producer Saudi Arabia,



People gather outside a damaged post office after it was raided by gunmen in Seyoun city, in the Yemeni southeastern province of Hadramout on 24 May, 2014.

REUTERS

as a base for international attacks.

The militants targeted at least seven locations, including the main military posts, the police headquar-

ters, government offices, bank branches and the airport.

Calling the raid a “treacherous terrorist act”, the commander of the local

military division said the army had regained control of the city.

Major General Mohammed al-Somla said a number of people had been

killed and wounded during the attack on his base and other locations.

The army had driven attackers out of the city and was using warplanes, he said in a Defence Ministry statement.

The Hadramout Security Committee said 12 government soldiers were killed in the attack and 11 others were wounded.

The Defence Ministry website also quoted a military source at the First Division headquarters as saying that 15 militants, including two Saudis, were killed.

A local official had earlier said that 20 attackers and 10 members of the security services were killed in the fighting.

“They wanted to capture the city and control it,” the official, who asked not to be identified, told *Reuters*.

Reuters

Rwandan peacekeeper killed in Sudan's Darfur region

KHARTOUM, 25 May — A Rwandan peacekeeper was killed in Sudan's western Darfur region on Saturday when tribal militia fighters attending a peace meeting started shooting, the United Nations-African Union mission (UNAMID) said. Three other peacekeepers were wounded in the incident in the village of Kabkabiya in North Darfur. One of the militias attending the meeting “became hostile” and started shooting at the peacekeepers, who returned fire, UNAMID said. Dozens of people have been killed in recent months in renewed fighting between rebels and security forces in Darfur. The conflict has killed 200,000 people and displaced two million since it began in 2003.—*Reuters*

Grenade attacks kill at least two in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI, 25 May — At least two people were killed by double grenade blasts at a busy restaurant popular with Westerners in Djibouti, police said on Saturday.

“It's a criminal act. We have two people dead and 11 wounded. It was grenades,” Colonel Omar Hassan, head of police in Djibouti city, said in an interview. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack. Djibouti has the only US military base in Africa and is an important ally in the US-led fight against militant Islam.

The former French colony's port is also used by foreign navies protecting the Gulf of Aden's shipping lanes, some of the busiest in the world, from Somali pirates. It has also contributed troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia. Other contributing countries, Kenya and Uganda, have in the past been hit by gun and bomb attacks by Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab insurgents.

Somali troops and AMISOM, comprising troops from Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and Djibouti, drove al Shabaab out of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, in 2011.—*Reuters*

Nigeria's Boko Haram kills 28 in three village attacks

MAIDUGURI, 25 May — Suspected Islamist Boko Haram gunmen rampaged through three villages in northern Nigeria, killing 28 people and burning houses to the ground in a pattern of violence that has become almost a daily occurrence, according to police and witnesses.

All three attacks happened on Thursday in remote parts of Borno state, the epicentre of Boko Haram's increasingly bloody struggle for an Islamic kingdom in religiously mixed Nigeria.

One took place right next to Chibok, by the Cameroon border, from

where more than 200 school girls were abducted last month.

The most deadly was in the town of Kerenua, near the Niger border. Scores of militants opened fire on residents, killing 20 of them, and burned houses, a police source said.

Since the girls' abduc-

tion on 14 April, at least 450 civilians have been killed by the group, according to a *Reuters* count.

A spate of bombings across north and central Nigeria has killed hundreds, including two in the capital Abuja and one in the central city of Jos on Tuesday that killed 118 people.

In a sign Jos could be targeted again, a suicide bombing on Saturday that was meant to target an open air viewing of a football match in the central Nigerian city of Jos killed three people before reaching its target, a witness told *Reuters*.

Reuters

Al Shabaab attacks Somali parliament, at least 10 dead

MOGADISHU, 25 May — Al Shabaab militants stormed Somalia's parliament on Saturday, killing at least 10 security officers in a bomb and gun assault that the United States condemned as a “heinous act of terrorism.”

The attack started with a car bomb at a gate to the heavily fortified parliament compound, followed by a suicide bombing and then a gun battle that continued for hours. Al Shabaab is an al-Qaeda-linked group that killed 67 people at a Kenyan shopping mall last year.

“Ten government forces died and 14 others were injured in the attack today. Four lawmakers were also injured. Seven of the fighters who attacked the house were also killed as you see their bodies,” Kasim Ahmed Roble, a police spokesman, told reporters at the scene.

Roble made no mention of any civilian casualties.

A spokesman for al Shabaab, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, said the group's fighters had killed 30 people. “We killed 30 from the AU (African Union) and from the various forces of the so-called Somali government,” he said.

The al Shabaab estimate of the death toll was not independently verifiable.

Reuters witnesses saw bodies at the scene and a soldier fall from a rooftop after being shot. *Reuters* television pictures showed a large pool of blood near a blast site, and a man with his shirt drenched in blood running away from the scene.

The fighting continued for hours after the initial explosion, with gunfire and smaller blasts being heard around the parliament.

“We are behind the suicide bombing, explosions and the fighting inside the so-called Somali parliament house, and still heavy fighting is going on inside,”



Somali government soldiers take their positions during a clash with Al Shabaab militants outside the Parliament buildings in the capital Mogadishu, on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

said the al Shabaab spokesman.

The African Union Mission in Somalia said in a statement that all the lawmakers who were in parliament before the attack were safely evacuated.

The attack on parliament, a building about 300

metres (328 yards) from the president's palace that is guarded by African Union peacekeepers and Somali forces, showed that the al-Qaeda-linked group remained capable of hitting the centre of Mogadishu despite being pushed out of the capital two years ago.

“The terrorists have once again shown that they are against all Somalis, by killing our innocent brothers and sisters. These cowardly, despicable actions are not a demonstration of the true Islamic faith,” said Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 May, 2014

When conflicts turned into confrontation

By Aung Khin

Any political and ethnic conflict could turn into confrontations to a certain degree. However, it is important to opt in to constructive confrontation which can help the disputants develop a clear understanding of the dimensions of the problem—both from their own perspective and from their opponents' side.

A constructive confrontation can help them to separate the major conflict from the complicating

factors which are tantamount to deviate from the core issues.

Inadequate identification of options can result in destructive confrontation. Sometimes, it is caused by the limited skills of both parties. Normally, they opt for the strategies that they are accustomed to and good at—lawyers have a tendency to litigate, mediators to mediate, warriors to wage war.

There are billions of people and diversity of political systems at every corner of the globe. They would consider their own perspectives and beliefs are more serious issues. That is their rights. However, if they express themselves honestly and passionately, they will surely meet confrontation eventually.

There are many types of ruling systems in the world such as Republic, Democracy, Marxism/Communism, Socialism and Dictatorship, which

have a vast array of ideologies and political movements.

At the time of political chaos, some countries have chosen constructive confrontation, while other opted destructive way. Ordinarily, the latter broke out in the countries with fledgling democracies. Then the situation tuned into violence.

When conflicts turned into confrontation, many more people should choose unconventional and more constructive power options such as effective persuasion, nonviolent action, coalition-building, and constructive political activism to deal with intractable conflict confrontations.

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Youth, Time, Their Future and the Nation's Destiny

Kin Mg Oo

Each and every one of us gets the same gift at our disposal, from our nature. It is none other than, "TIME". The king and his royal family get 24 hours a day each, as do we, the grass-roots included. However, little is noticed the importance of time by some people. To put it simply, I would not like this group to include our valuable youths. As known by all, future belongs to younger minds, future's leaders-to-be. Younger days are the nurturing period for youths to become good and able beings. Today's distinguished people were those who spent their salad days, other than uselessly. Undeniably, their worthwhile efforts give benefits not only to their self-development but also to all people's interests. We need to convince them that they will surely feel repentance of what they did nothing useful for their future. Concurrently, stories about youths of exemplary effort and success must not go undisclosed.

Nowadays nearly all of the youths in urban areas are using mobile phones, carrying all the time with them like basic necessities. They are blessed to have such electronic devices as phones, laptops, notebooks, e-readers and such. These are of great use and convenience in every way: communication, business, education, knowledge and recreation. In fact, these resulted from arduous efforts of the persons who could manage to use the time beneficially. With each passing day, we have more and more needs, hence the increasing demand for sustainable development on technique, knowledge and new inventions. For example, scientists estimated that our Planet would come to cease producing fossil fuel in less than 100 years, at the rate of current

use. For this reason, they have been finding other ways and means to economically produce solar energy from the Sun. Otherwise, our illuminated world at night, courtesy of Thomas Alva Edison's invention, will come into the dark again. Then, we will probably be in for. But we will never plunge into such an abyss. Who can deny that inventors who will help to save the world will never come out of our youths of Myanmar younger generations? Today, there can be many a student seen studying high technology and various academic disciplines at No. 1 universities overseas. We need to produce more and more students like them at home as well.

Admittedly, our country, as it is, lagged much behind, compared to other nations, but I never mean that our people are poor in ability. Our country abounds in world-famous figures, distinguished surgeons, economists, technicians and scientists. Plus it is rich in natural resources. We all believe that a country's prosperity wholly depends upon the leadership of its leader. Sometime in the past, Singapore was a relatively less developed colonial outpost with no natural resources. From that state, it became a "First World" Asian Tiger. Much as the country lacks natural resources, the leader could manage to build up a prosperous world-class nation, using his abilities and the country's human resources combined.

In such a frenetic age, our ebullient youths are eager to take part in marching towards a modernized democratic state. Everywhere in the country, especially cities and towns see many tuition classes, training schools and book-stalls. These are an essential prerequisite for em-

ployment. They are looking for promising careers, developing their capacities as much as they can, to keep pace with the times. Students, ranging from primary level to higher education level, are likewise vying for higher academic achievements. It is heartening for us to see them trying hard. Whatever it is, the results of their endeavors will probably grow for themselves and their surroundings. Sadly, we are facing with a threatening problem. Generally speaking, it can be said to be a recreation and we need it for relaxation. Yet, it is destroying the youth's hopes or rather, the nation's destiny before we recognized it.

Up to having taken their 10th standard exam, they were totally absorbed in their studies. Just after the exam is over, they seem to be free from the great burden, and they want to be out on a spree. Being well-guided by their parents, some prepare to be able to proceed further learning well, while waiting for exam results. Under the good guidance of parents, they have the chance to study English and search for knowledge through internet and books. And they can relax by playing games in leisure hours, on their mobile phones. That is to say, those parents never let their children spend time uselessly. I never urge parents to be strict with their offspring. But we should not forget that youths are tenderfoots and they are easily inclined to prefer a bad habit to a good one. Some parents cannot manage to spare their time to look into activities of their sons and daughters. The parents themselves live in care-free style, failing to give necessary guidance. The above-mentioned threatening problem starts from here. Those boys spend their time at game-shops, instead of

playing games over their phones. Some do not go back home for two or three days, staying at game-shops like their own abodes. They do not listen to their parents any longer, failing to pay due respect in that the latter themselves are Thai-Chai-originated Myanmar 2-digit or 3-digit lottery bettors. Thus, eventually the young's hopes and ambitions fade away. It is sorrowful that we have already witnessed many including medical students and engineering students drop out. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in claiming that such an incident affects not only the person in question and his family but also our country.

In case these sorrowful events would amount to much, our country would surely face the shortage of intellectuals. We can imagine what will happen to us if the country would be void of educated persons in this intellectually challenging age. What is worse, we often heard that there happened in these TV game shops many quarrels and fighting among youths, who were assumed to be drug-addicts. They are mostly well-to-do people's children. Somehow some of those cases went unreported. In my opinion, these may be attributed to lack of reading habit among them. Now it is time for us—the authorities, parents, teachers and conscientious people—to take this problem into careful and prompt consideration. Here and there youths can be seen using face-book or playing game. Useful as face-book is in many ways, these consume a lot of their precious time. We need to use internet wisely. We can search for knowledge through the Net. Some netizens use it just for chatting and joining in face-book. Those kinds may repent their

retrospective wrong deeds at their belated time. So as not to do so, it is necessary for all of us to remind them of their access to the Net knowledge bank, which is now available in Myanmar Language, for self-development. It is never too late to rehabilitate them. We had ever heard that some political prisoners learn to know English very well, while being inmates.

Once, a wise man named Franklin Field wrote that there is a great dividing line between success and failure can be expressed in five words, "I did not have time". In fact, the real truth is that they did not spend their time usefully. There were many evidences in which there were successful people gained success and worldwide fame by spending only one hour per day over a long period of time, at their later part of their lives. Crawford H Greenwalt, the president of the world's largest chemical company, Du Pont, devoted a daily period to studying humming birds and developing special equipment for photographing them. Authorities have called his book, "Hummingbirds, a classic of natural history". Hugo L Black, a senator of the US Congress, dropped all other commitments for an hour everyday in order to read in the Library of Congress. Delving into many fields—economics, history, philosophy, poetry—he continued this practice for years, even during his busiest days as a legislature. By the time he became Mr. Justice Black of the United State Supreme Court, he was one of the most erudite men on the Bench, and the entire nation has profited from his broad knowledge of the humanities. Another example is Wilfred P Cohen, who devoted his first 40 years to becoming one of the world's leading clothing

manufacturers. Yet there was something else he yearned for—something he had never been able to manage in his crowded business days. He wanted to paint in his younger days. Eventually he decided to paint, creating a private daily hour in his early hours. The result was that his canvasses hung in scores of exhibitions and several hundred of his paintings were bought at high price. All earnings from these went into the scholarship fund for gifted art students.

Such successes writ large can be found at home and abroad. If we devote but one hour a day to an engrossing work, we will get 365 hours a year, or equivalent of more than 45 full working days of eight hours each. This is like adding one and a half month of productive living to every year of life. Provided that every individual gets a daily private hour, they can create ideas. Being alone is needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character. We should come to notice that it is time for us to get onto the right path from going astray where our time and energy would be lost. And it is important for pure minds so as not to develop a bad habit. While our government is implementing 30-year-long-term plan for youths' all-round development, we — parents, teachers, mass media and all well-wishers should take an active part in this activity. If we can do urgently, it is just a matter of time before we build up a modern nation in a short period of time, as desired. Let us accomplish this mission, hand in hand with each other.

May our country have plenty of good and able minds.

May all parents have invaluable children.

LOCAL NEWS

Umbrella hoisted atop ancient U Aung Zeya Pagoda in Maesai of Thailand



MAESAI, 25 May—A ceremony to hoist umbrella and diamond orb atop U Aung Zeya Pagoda (Loipawng Pagoda) was held in Loipawng Ward of Maesai in northern Thailand on Saturday.

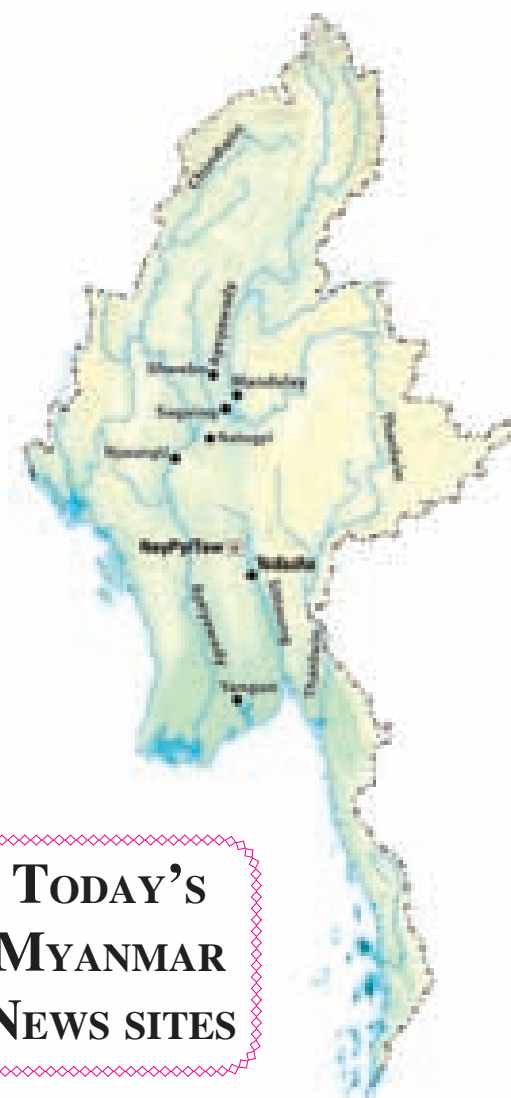
Authorities of Myanmar and Thailand, Myanmar and Thai monks led by Nga Hnakaung Monastery

abbot of Tachilek Bhaddanta Dhammasiri, Col Zaw Naing Oo of Tachilek Station and local people participated in the umbrella hoisting ceremony.

The pagoda was damaged in the earthquake that hit Tahley of eastern Shan State in 2011.

The abbot of Padamya monastery in Bago and disciples from Myanmar and Thailand donated the umbrella, the diamond orb, the pennant-shape-vane and gold foils at the pagoda spending Baht5 million.

The pagoda was built by King U Aung Zeya in Konbaung monarchial era.—*U Aung Phyto Shein*



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Mobile medical team gives health care to locals in Dala Tsp

YANGON, 25 May—A 25-member specialist team of Yangon Region Health Department made a trip to Dala Township, Yangon South District, on Saturday.

They delivered health

care services to the locals at Dala Township Hospital.

Eight squads from the mobile medical specialist team toured villages and wards as part of the mobile health care programme.

Banya Maung Maung



Villagers get power supply in Sagaing Tsp

SAGAING, 25 May—New Taungnyo Village in Sagaing Township has enjoyed electrification on 21 May morning.

As part of poverty alleviation and rural development tasks, the township authorities supervised the tasks of self-reliant electrification in the village.

The village power supply committee worked together with the local people

to get access to power supply. The local people contributed K50 million to the project for establishing one 11/10/4KV (200 KVA) transformer in the village with the assistance of township electrical engineers and skilled workers.

The village is formed with over 130 houses in the township.

Htwe Myint Naing (Sagaing)

Thukhakari Health and Social Service Association honoured

SAGAING, 25 May—The President has presented the best social welfare association award to Thukhakari Health and Social Service Association of Sagaing for 2014.

A ceremony to honour the members of the association was held at Layk-yunmyay monastery in Sagaing last week.

During the ceremony Chairman of the association U Zaw Win Aung donated one water cooler for the laboratory of Sagaing General Hospital (200-bed) to officials.

Venerable monks, well-wishers and townsellers expressed delight to the association's winning the award for their excellent performance in social and



health fields for the local people.

The association has provided health care and cash assistance to the needy persons and the aged, given social services to the people regardless of nationals

and religions and transported emergency patients to the respective hospitals in time.

Moreover, the members of the association carried out rescue and relief tasks for the victims of

natural disasters, provided cash assistance for the needy students and held respects paying ceremony to the aged annually. Especially, the association members donated blood to the hospital yearly and hospital equipment to the general hospital.—*Htwe Myint*

Demand of limes high in Mandalay market

YEDASHE, 25 May—Lime fruit is high demand in the market due to decline of yield from the

lime farms in hot summer.

Limes from Leiktho Sub-Township of Kayin State now flow into the

market and the fruits are transported to Mandalay.

Local growers cultivate lime plants in the



betel farms through mixed cropping pattern. The lime sellers carry the fruits from Letpanphyu Village from Leiktho to Swa of Bago Region daily.

Each seller carries 2000-3000 lime fruits by motorcycle. Local growers sell over 10,000 lime fruits a day at the purchase centres, said a broker.

"We buy K1200 per 100 lime fruits at the centre. Then, we send the fruits to Mandalay," said a broker from Swa Township.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

A family sorting quality lime fruits for sales at the market.

A bitter pill as China crackdowns squeeze pharma margins

SHANGHAI, 25 May—A crackdown on corruption and pricing in China's fast-growing pharmaceutical market has squeezed profits and margins, raising a red flag to global Big Pharma that the days of easy growth in the country may be over.

A Reuters' analysis of more than 60 listed Chinese healthcare firms shows average profit margins declined to around 10 percent last year from 15 percent in 2012. Average net profits fell 2.1 percent, down from close to 20 percent growth in previous years.

China has been a magnet for the big global pharmaceutical companies and other healthcare firms as growth slows in Europe and the United States. It is the largest emerging drugs market and is set to be the global number two overall within three years, according to

consultancy IMS Health.

While global drugmakers withhold their China profit figures, the analysis suggests profit growth is harder to come by — a concern as many global firms look to China as a future growth driver.

"Most companies, local and foreign, have enjoyed an easy growth phase for 5-6 years as money was thrown at the healthcare system to improve access," said Alexander Ng, Hong Kong-based associate principal at McKinsey & Co. "Now China is more into cost containment mode... and the squeeze on pricing and margins is a lot more apparent."

Over the past year, China has cracked down on high prices and corruption in the healthcare sector. Authorities probed drugmakers over pricing in July, while a high-profile



The logo of Shanghai Roche Pharmaceutical Co Ltd is seen outside their headquarters in Shanghai on 22 May, 2014.—REUTERS

investigation into British drugmaker GlaxoSmith-Kline Plc led to executives at the company being charged with bribery earlier this month.

Industry and legal sources said the investigations into the sector are likely to grow more intense, meaning downward pressure on profits is likely to remain.

The climate of investigation has stymied sales growth, with some doctors saying they are worried to meet pharmaceutical reps, fearing being caught in the glare of China's watchdogs.

In 2013, Chinese authorities visited global drugmakers including Novartis AG, AstraZeneca Plc, Sanofi SA, Eli Lilly & Co and Bayer AG as part of a broad

investigation into the sector.

GSK, which saw its China revenues plunge 61 percent in the third quarter last year, has since overhauled its management structure in China, stopped payments to healthcare professionals and changed its incentive systems for drug reps.

"Of course there will be an impact on sales. The pattern of selling through bribing definitely won't work anymore," said a Shanghai-based sales executive at another global drugmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Reuters' analysis showed combined revenue growth in the sector fell to 17.9 percent last year, from 22.6 percent in 2012 and more than 28.8 percent in 2011.

Price cuts are also putting a strain on profits and margins as China's leaders

look to cut a healthcare bill that is set to hit \$1 trillion by 2020, according to McKinsey & Co. Combined profit growth dropped to around 5.2 percent last year from 23.9 percent in 2011, according to the Reuters' analysis.

While authorities have made some moves to step back on price caps, Chinese healthcare procurement still puts the main emphasis on cost, creating an incentive for firms to push prices lower to beat rivals to contracts.

"The industry is in a very competitive stage, where firms want to take market share to stay in the game, but at the same time can't deal with the low prices," said Yu Mingde, president of the Chinese Pharmaceutical Enterprises Association, an organization supervised by China's cabinet.

Reuters

Deutsche Post aims for top spot in e-commerce logistics

FRANKFURT, 25 May—Deutsche Post (DPWGN.DE) is aiming for a top spot in the global logistics market for online shopping, its chief executive told a German weekly, adding small acquisitions could help achieve this.

"Indeed, we want to be a global leader in logistics services for the e-commerce sector. In Germany, we're the number one already," Frank Appel told *Euro am Sonntag* in an interview published on Saturday.

Deutsche Post, the world's biggest postal and logistics group, is best known internationally for its DHL parcel delivery business but it is keen to win more work from the global boom in online shopping.

E-commerce is expanding rapidly, with online retail sales in Europe seen doubling from 2012 levels to around 323 billion euros (\$440 billion) by 2018, market research firm Mintel forecasts.

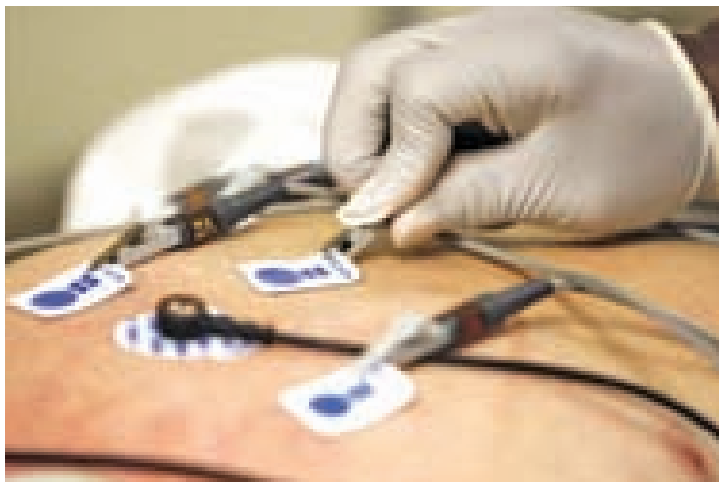
Appel said it was the group's goal to grow organically in the e-commerce sector.

"However, smaller acquisitions... are always possible — also in this area," he said.

Deutsche Post, which went public in 2000 and lost its German mail monopoly seven years later, makes three-quarters of group revenues from its DHL logistics business, compensating for the decline in traditional letter deliveries.—Reuters

EKG technician Diana Goodie performs an electrocardiogram on a patient in the hallway of the emergency room at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas, on 27 July, 2009.

REUTERS



Athlete anxiety no excuse to skip heart test

NEW YORK, 25 May—After finding that student-athletes felt no more distress about heart screening with electrocardiograms, or ECGs, than they did with physical exams, a new study concludes that anxiety should not be considered a reason to avoid giving the test.

An ECG measures the electrical activity of the heart and can detect disturbances that could predispose people to rare but dangerous cardiac arrests. Sudden cardiac death is the most common cause of death during exercise, researchers note.

Italy and Israel mandate ECG screening as part of sports pre-participation examinations, while the debate over whether to require athletes to get the test has become increasingly contentious in the United States.

One of the downsides of ECGs is that they

sometimes suggest a heart problem that turns out to be a false alarm upon further testing. In the interim, athletes may fear for their health or their future in sports.

"This is the first study to look at the psychological impact to athletes when they get screened," lead author Dr Irfan Asif told *Reuters Health*. "There's nothing to indicate you shouldn't get an ECG because of stress."

Asif, from the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville, and his team studied 952 high school athletes who participated in a range of sports. The students all received a medical history and physical examination to screen for underlying heart problems. All but 150, who served as a comparison group, also received an ECG.

Of the 802 participants

who were screened with ECG, 220 had an abnormal finding at some point during the screening process. Six of those represented serious heart conditions, and the rest were false positives.

Reviews of a student's medical history led to 127 of the false positives. An additional 50 false positives were a result of physical exams, 14 were from ECG readings and 29 were due to multiple indications.

The researchers found no difference in students' distress levels immediately after screening based on whether their testing had included an ECG.

A 2007 American Heart Association statement on cardiovascular screening warns that false-positive results from ECGs could lead to unnecessary anxiety, the authors write in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.—Reuters

Weight could be a factor in treating rheumatoid arthritis

NEW YORK, 25 May—People who are overweight when they are diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis are less likely to be able to control the disease well in its early stages than people of a healthy weight, according to a new study.

In rheumatoid arthritis, the body's immune system attacks its own connective tissue, destroying the cartilage that protects joints. The condition leads to stiffness, joint swelling and whole-body fatigue.

Unlike the more common osteoarthritis, or "wear-and-tear" arthritis, which affects people as they get older, rheumatoid arthritis can happen at any age. It affects less than one percent of adults, or 1.3 million people in the US, according to the American College of Rheumatology.

Most patients will experience improvement when they start treatment, but only a minority will go into remission, said Dr Paul-Peter Tak of the Academic Medical Center at the University of Amsterdam, who was not part of the new research.

The study included almost 500 adults in the early stages of rheumatoid arthritis between 2006 and 2009.

Reuters



Frank Appel, CEO of German postal and logistics group Deutsche Post DHL poses in front of a StreetScooter E-car and other E-cars in Bonn on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Top 10 newly-discovered species span big trees, tiny flies



A leaf-tailed gecko (*Saltuarius eximius*) from remote northern Australia is shown in this undated handout photo provided by the International Institute of Species Exploration and the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 25 May — A cross between a sleek cat and a wide-eyed teddy bear that lives in Andean cloud forests and an eyeless snail that lives in darkness 900-plus meters (3,000 feet) below ground in Croatia rank among the top 10 new species discovered last year, scientists announced on Thursday.

The list, assembled annually since 2008, is intended to draw attention to the fact that researchers continue to discover new species. Nearly 18,000 were identified in 2013, adding to the 2 million known to science.

An international committee of taxonomists and other experts, assembled by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, selects the top 10. The list is released in time for the 23 May birthday of Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), the Swedish botanist considered the founder of modern taxonomy.

Scientists believe na-

ture holds another 10 million undiscovered species, from single-celled organisms to mammals, and worry that thousands are becoming extinct faster than they are being identified, said entomologist Quentin Wheeler, president of the environmental science college, part of the State University of New York.

"The top 10 is designed to bring attention to the unsung heroes addressing the biodiversity crisis by working to complete an inventory of earth's plants, animals and microbes," he said in a statement.

Like previous lists, this one shows that even large species can elude scientists.

One top-10, for instance, is the olinguito, the cat-bear amalgam from the cloud forests of Colombia and Ecuador. The 2-kilogram (4.5-pound) raccoon relative is the first carnivorous mammal discovered in the Western Hemisphere in 35 years.—Reuters

EBay initially believed user data safe after cyberattack



An eBay logo is projected onto white boxes in this illustration picture taken in Warsaw, on 21 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 May — EBay Inc initially believed that its customers' data was safe as forensic investigators reviewed a network security breach

discovered in early May and made public this week, a senior executive told Reuters on Friday.

EBay has come under fire over its handling of

Citizen scientists can take over 36-year-old satellite, NASA says

CAPE CANAVERAL (Fla), 25 May — A group of citizen scientists can take over a 36-year-old decommissioned robotic space probe that will fly by the Earth in August, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said on Wednesday.

Launched in 1978, the *International Sun/Earth Explorer-3 (ISEE-3)* spacecraft studied how the stream of charged particles flowing from the sun, the so-called solar wind, interacts with Earth's magnetic field.

After completing its primary mission, the probe was given a new name, the *International Comet Explorer*, and new targets to study, including the famed Comet Halley as it passed by Earth in March 1986.

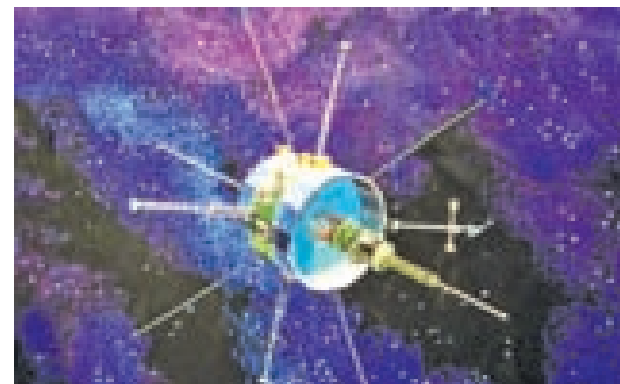
A third assignment to investigate powerful solar storms, known as coronal

mass ejections, followed until 1997, when NASA deactivated the spacecraft.

In August, the satellite's graveyard orbit around the sun will bring it back by Earth, a feat of physics that caught the eye of an ad hoc group of citizen scientists. Last month, the team launched a successful crowd-funding project to raise \$125,000 to reboot the probe.

On Wednesday, the project received NASA's blessings — and access to technical data to help engineers make contact.

"We have a chance to engage a new generation of citizen scientists through this creative effort to recapture the *ISEE-3* spacecraft as it zips by the Earth this summer," John Grunsfeld, NASA's associate administrator for science, said



An artist's concept image of NASA's *International Sun-Earth Explorer-3 ISEE-3 (ICE)* spacecraft. REUTERS

in a statement. The NASA agreement gives Skycorp Inc, a California company working with the citizen scientists, permission to attempt to contact and possibly command and control the satellite, which is believed to still have fuel and working scientific instruments.

"Our plan is simple: we

intend to contact the *ISEE-3* spacecraft, command it to fire its engines and enter an orbit near Earth, and then resume its original mission," Keith Cowing, a former NASA engineer who runs the NASA Watch website, wrote in a project status report on Wednesday.

Reuters

Panasonic aims to be sole producer in Tesla's US mega-factory



Panasonic Corp's Logo is pictured at an electronics store in Tokyo on 28 March, 2013.—REUTERS

OSAKA, 25 May — Panasonic Corp said it expected to become the sole manufacturer in Tesla Motors Inc's planned multibillion-dollar US battery factory, firming

up its commitment to the electric car maker's project.

The Japanese electronics conglomerate had until this week made only cautious comments about

Tesla's plans, for which the carmaker is seeking total investment of around \$3 billion in addition to the \$2 billion it has pledged to contribute directly.

Panasonic does not have a timeframe for a decision on its investment but any expenditure this year would be small, Yoshio Ito, senior managing executive officer and president of the Japanese firm's automotive and industrial division said on Friday. "As we're not anticipating any sudden tenfold increases in demand or anything like that, we think it is right to break it up step-by-step and invest gradually," Ito told reporters at a briefing in Osaka.

Demand from the US premium eco-car maker for lithium-ion batteries has been a boon for Panasonic as the Japanese firm seeks to expand its sales of industrial goods to other businesses and reduce its reliance on volatile consumer markets.

Ito said the two companies were discussing details of their investment in the new factory and would talk about construction plans.

He said Panasonic, which is already Tesla's prime supplier for lithium-ion cells but competes with Samsung SDI Co Ltd for auto batteries, did not expect any rival battery makers to put in a competing bid.—Reuters

Brand new meteor shower may light up Earth's skies

CAPE CANAVERAL, 25 May — Earth will travel through a fresh stream of comet dust early Saturday, possibly creating a gallery of shooting stars for night-time sky-watchers, astronomers said on Friday.

Predictions call for more than 200 meteors per hour hitting the planet's atmosphere during the peak hours of 2 am to 4 am EDT (0600 to 0800 GMT). North America will be in prime position for the celestial show, scientists said.

Weather permitting, the meteors — remnants from the recently discovered Comet 209P/LINEAR — will appear to be coming from the

direction of the northern constellation Camelopardalis.

"We're going right smack in the middle of these (comet) dust trails and the meteors are going to be pretty slow," Univer-

sity of Arizona astronomer Carl Hergenrother said in a NASA interview. "It's going to look almost like slow-moving fireworks, instead of the usual shooting stars," he added. —Reuters



US cancels joint military drill with Thailand over coup

WASHINGTON, 25 May, — The US Defence Department has canceled ongoing joint military exercise with Thailand and mutual visits by senior military officials planned for June following the coup in the country, a Pentagon spokesman said on Saturday.

Rear Adm John Kirby, Pentagon Press secretary, said in a statement that the planned trip to Thailand by US Pacific Fleet Commander Adm Harry Harris and the invitation to the Thai commander general to visit US Pacific Command were both cancelled.

“As we have made clear, it is important that the Royal Thai Forces end this coup and restore to the people of Thailand both the

principles and the process of democratic rule, including a clear path forward to elections,” he said.

In a separate statement, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the department has cancelled the firearms training programme for Thai police that was scheduled to start on Monday in the country.

“We urge the immediate restoration of civilian rule and release of detained political leaders, a return to democracy through early elections, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,” she said in the statement. The State Department announced on Friday it has suspended its annual aid to the Thai military.—Kyodo News



China's Harbin missile destroyer fires at a target during the China-Russia joint naval drill on East China Sea, on 24 May, 2014. The three-day drill "Joint Sea-2014" ended successfully on Saturday. The Chinese and Russian navies staged exercises, including joint escort drill, joint aircraft identification exercise and air defence and maritime assault drills.—XINHUA

Japan, Russia could reach compromise over territorial row

ST PETERSBURG, 25 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday Japan and Russia could reach a compromise over a territorial dispute involving Russian-administered Islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido if they follow the spirit of “hikiwake,” a judo term for a draw.

Putin said he was surprised that Japan has imposed sanctions, together with the United States and

the European Union, on Russia over its annexation of Crimea, southern Ukraine, indicating his dissatisfaction with Japan's move.

While Japan has suspended the negotiations process over a territorial dispute involving the islands, Russia stands ready to resume the talks, Putin said during a meeting in St Petersburg with representatives of news agencies from major economies,

including Japan's Kyodo News.

While Putin has shown a willingness to visit Japan as early as fall at the invitation of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the plan may be affected by strains over Crimea.

The disputed Islands — Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in World War II on 15

Aug, 1945, and the territorial row has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty.

Putin said the sovereignty of Shikotan and the Habomai islet group is on the agenda of the bilateral talks as the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration does not address the issue.

The disputed islands are known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.

Kyodo News

Italian navy rescues hundreds of children on migrant boat

ROME, 25 May — An Italian navy patrol ship picked up a migrant boat coming from North Africa carrying 435 people including 264 children, most from Syria and Egypt, authorities said on Saturday.

The rescue, which occurred on Friday afternoon, is the latest in a seemingly endless succession as the chronic migrant crisis in the southern Mediterranean has picked up this year.

At least 34,800 people have crossed from North Africa to Europe so far this year, compared to 43,000

in the whole of 2013. That leaves the annual total set to surpass the 60,000 who made the trip in 2011 when the Arab Spring revolutions loosened border controls, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

The near daily arrivals of migrant boats has become an issue in the European parliamentary elections due to be wrapped up on Sunday with growing demands in Italy for more help from the European Union to confront the emergency.

Reuters

Two Israelis killed in Saturday Brussels shooting

JERUSALEM, 25 MAY — Two of the three people killed in a shooting at the Jewish Museum in central Brussels on Saturday were Israeli tourists, Israel's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry did not give further details on their identities on the victims killed in the shooting, which Belgian officials said may have been an anti-Semitic motivated attack.

Israeli media said the two were a man and a woman, tourists from Tel Aviv.

A spokeswoman for Brussels prosecutors office said there was no clear information about the perpetrator, although a fire brigade official said earlier



Police personnel are seen at the site of a shooting in central Brussels on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

that the shooter had driven up to the museum, gone inside and fired shots.

“Regarding the motive, we have little information. Everything is possible,” Ine Van Wymersch told a news conference.

“We know that the location, the Jewish Museum in Brussels, makes one think of it being an

anti-Semitic attack, but we do not have enough to confirm this is the case.”

Belgium's interior minister, Joëlle Milquet, was quoted by the RTBF Belgian television station, saying: “It's a shooting ... at the Jewish Museum ... All of this can lead to suspicions of an act of anti-Semitism.”

No details were given on the identity of the third person killed or on the fourth victim, who was wounded and in life-threatening condition. They had been shot in the face and neck, Van Wymersch said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a statement from his office, strongly condemned the killings. They were, he said, “the result of endless incitement against the Jews and their state.”

Security around all Jewish institutions in the country has been raised to the highest level, and Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo met with police and senior officials to discuss the situation. About half of Belgium's 42,000-strong Jewish community lives in Brussels.—Reuters

Afghan army seizes explosives, detains 45 suspects

KABUL, 25 May — Afghan army recovered and seized huge explosives in the country's eastern province of Logar, said the Defence Ministry on Sunday.

“Army personnel found and destroyed two big containers of explosives, including several suicide bomb jackets, during an operation in Baraki Barak district of Logar district,” the ministry said in a statement.

About 45 suspects who had links into the case have been arrested, it said, adding the Taliban insurgents tried to use the explosives

to target security forces in the province, 60 km south of Kabul.

Three army soldiers were killed in improvised explosive device (IED) attacks within the last 24 hours elsewhere in the country, according to the statement.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched rebel offensive against Afghan government forces and more than 51,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country earlier this month.

Xinhua

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Ph 0973220023
Dated: 26 May 2014

Sri Lanka orders release of Indian fishermen as goodwill measure

COLOMBO, 25 May—Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday ordered the release of all Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody as a goodwill measure to mark the swearing-in ceremony of Indian Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi, the President's office said.

Modi will take oaths as the new Indian Prime Minister on Monday and Rajapaksa is among the guests invited for the event despite strong protests from south Indian political parties.

Mahinda Rajapaksa is also expected to have bilateral talks with the new Indian Prime Minister on Tuesday, a day after the latter is sworn-in to office.

Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said that Modi is expected to have short meetings with all the visiting heads of delegations scheduled to attend his swearing-in ceremony on Monday.—Xinhua

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Transport Aircraft Fuel Distributions Invitation to Submit expression of Interest from Developers

1. In line with the Aviation Development Plan, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been implementing the Aviation Sectors. As our endeavors for Aviation Development, the Department of the Civil Aviation is committed to develop the Aircraft Fuel Distribution Network in line with the International Standard not only in the International Airports but also in the Domestic together with the Private Sectors.
2. The Ministry of Transport now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputable local, international or joint venture developers/investors to undertake for the qualify Aircraft fuel, the storage system of Aircraft fuel, the transportation system of Aircraft fuel, Aircraft fuel distribution according to the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)'s Standard.
3. The EOI form will be taking at the Head of Office, Building No. 5, Ministry of Transport, Nay Pyi Taw. Developers must submit EOI form in original, a duplicate copy and electronic copy of a CD ROM not later than (12:00) hours on 9th June 2014. No submission by email shall be entertained.
4. Enquiries can be made by calling 067-411039 and 067-411040.

Head of Office
Ministry of Transport

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Gunman kills six in rampage in California college town

SANTA BARBARA, 25 May — A 22-year-old gunman killed six people before taking his own life in a rampage across a California college town, shortly after he posted a threatening video railing against women, police said on Saturday.

Elliot Rodger, the son of a Hollywood director, stabbed three people to death in his apartment before gunning down three more victims on Friday

night in the town of Isla Vista near the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Rodger opened fire on bystanders from his car and on foot in a killing spree that ended when he took his life after a shoot-out with sheriff's deputies, police said. Authorities found three legally purchased semiautomatic guns, two Sig Sauers and a Glock, and more than 400 rounds of ammunition in



A wrecked black BMW sedan is pictured on the street after a series of drive by shootings that left 6 people dead in the Isla Vista section of Santa Barbara, California on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Colombians vote for president with peace talks in the balance



Colombia's presidential candidates (L-R) Ivan Zuluaga Oscar, Enrique Penalosa, Juan Manuel Santos, Marta Lucia Ramirez and Clara Lopez attend a televised debate in Bogotá on 23 May, 2014. Colombia's presidential election will be held on 25 May.—REUTERS

BOGOTA, 25 May—Colombians vote for a president on Sunday in the tightest election in two decades that may determine whether the country continues peace talks with leftist guerrillas or steps up its battlefield offensive to end a 50-year war.

The vote has largely become a plebiscite on President Juan Manuel Santos' strategy of negotiating disarmament of Marxist FARC rebels to end bloodshed that has killed some 200,000.

Right-winger Oscar Ivan Zuluaga dismissed the talks as pandering to terrorists and suggested he would scrap them in favor of US-backed military campaigns

similar to those led by his mentor, former President Alvaro Uribe. Santos and Zuluaga are polling neck-and-neck following a race marred by accusations of electronic espionage and drug-linked campaign financing. Neither is seen winning enough votes to avoid a on 15 June run-off.

"Peace is the hope for humanity, and Santos is peaceful, not a warrior," said Arley Bustos, 48, who was selling umbrellas and World Cup stickers on a street Bogotá. "Peace will bring us progress."

Uribe fell out with Santos, 62, when the president launched peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

(FARC) instead of sticking to the eight-year strategy of forcing the group's surrender on the battlefield.

Santos appeals to Colombians who hope the guerrillas will finally lay down arms after seeing top leaders killed and their numbers halved to about 8,000 fighters.

The talks in Cuba have yielded agreements on three items of a five-point agenda, including one deal just signed in which the FARC agreed to step away from the drug trade.

But Zuluaga has galvanized conservative Colombians who believe the talks will fail like three similar attempts since the 1980s, including a 1999 peace deal that let the FARC bolster its ranks and boost involvement in drugs.

Three other candidates also on the ballot have mostly polled in single digits and are not seen reaching the second round.

While Colombians are desperate to see an end to the killing, many are outraged that guerrilla leaders accused of crimes against humanity could be pardoned or hold political office.

Reuters

Vietnam anti-foreign violence has negative impact on economic growth

WASHINGTON, 25 May — US experts have said the recent upheavals in Vietnam will damage its reputation of good business environment and have a negative impact on its economic growth.

Protests broke out last week in some Vietnamese cities and escalated into looting and violence targeting Chinese enterprises and nationals, following Vietnam's intensive disruptions of China Oilfield Services Limited's normal drilling in waters of China's Xisha Islands in the South China Sea earlier this month.

The violence has left at least two Chinese dead and more than 100 others injured. Firms from countries like Singapore, Japan and the Republic of Korea in Vietnam were also affected. "The affected factories are also suppliers to Walmart, Target or other British and European retail outlets. Even though it (the violence) is mainly

anti-Chinese, it affects the global supply chains that Vietnam is participating in. In that sense, it could damage the business environment reputation of Vietnam," said Theodore Moran, a senior fellow with the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics.

The recent upheavals were not going to "destroy" the already diversified Vietnamese economy, but would "have a negative impact on the growth," Moran said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Since opening its door to foreign investors, Vietnam has offered preferential land and tariff policies to attract foreign investment. After entering the World Trade Organization in 2007, foreign investment to Vietnam hit a peak of 71.7 billion US dollars in 2008, but then slid following the global financial crisis.

Xinhua.

Stars draw public, but market brings money to Cannes

CANNES (France), 25 May — While attention in Cannes is focused on film premieres and stars on the red carpet, movie sales and deals struck by high rollers and bit players are what keep the Mediterranean seaside town awash in money.

Eighteen film titles ranging from 83-year-old French director Jean-Luc Godard's "Adieu rector Xavier Dolan's "Mommy" are competing for the top Palme d'Or prize that will be

But that is just a drop in the bucket compared to what festival officials estimate are potential buyers or investors.

There were fewer big-budget Hollywood titles in the Cannes market this year, but Market), sees that as cyclical.

"It's not necessarily a short-term threat because most of the business we do isn't

"You know we have 5,000 titles in the market and this doesn't change. The diver-

It's enough to attract big names, like veteran producer Harvey Weinstein, and

The Weinstein Co announced it had bought the US distribution rights to the musical 1980s, with a soundtrack from U2's Bono and the Edge, for what trade publications

It also struck a deal with producers Emile Sherman and

were behind the global hit "The King's Speech", for world-

to "Lion" about a five-year-old Indian boy who takes the

train and is separated from his family for decades, for a

\$12 million.—Reuters

au Langage" (Goodbye to Language) to 25-year-old Canadian di-
announced on Saturday night.

some 5,000 films shown here, in complete form or as trailers, to

Jerome Paillard, chief executive of the Marche du Film (Film

on those sorts of films," Paillard told Reuters in an interview.

sity of Cannes is still there."

newcomers like media mogul Haim Saban.

film "Sing Street" set in Dublin during the

said was \$3 million.

Iain Canning, who

wide rights

w r o n g

reported

Beyonce Knowles congratulates Kim Kardashian on wedding

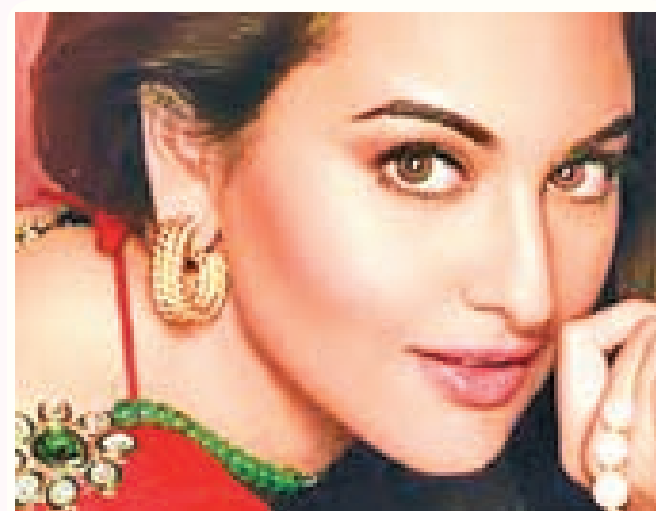


LONDON, 25 May —Pop star Beyonce Knowles, who was apparently not present at the wedding ceremony of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, wished "a lifetime of unconditional love" to the new-lyweds.

It was earlier rumoured that the singer, 32, and her husband Jay Z, were planning to perform at the socialite's much talked about wedding. Kim, 33, married yesterday in an outdoor sunset ceremony at the Forte di Belvedere in Florence, Italy, reported *Daily Mirror*.—PTI

Director Quentin Tarantino (L) and actress Uma Thurman pose on the red carpet they arrive for the screening of the film "Sils Maria" (Clouds of Sils Maria) in competition at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 23 May, 2014.

REUTERS



Sonakshi Sinha

Sonakshi Sinha to Don the producer's hat

NEW DELHI, 25 May — Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha's first love is acting, but Shatrughan Sinha's daughter is also keen on working as a produce and wants to be associated with her family production house Shotgun Movies which is helmed by her twin brothers Luv and Kush.

Sonakshi said in an interview recently, "I do have a production house at home called Shotgun Movies, which my brothers are taking care of. They are working on getting a good project in place. I am sure directly or indirectly, I will be a part of it."

The Dabangg actress will follow in the footsteps of actresses like Shilpa Shetty, Anushka Sharma and Priyanka Chopra who have also entered into film production with the movies Dishkiyaaon, NH 10 and Madamji respectively.

The 26-year-old, overloaded with film projects such as Tevar, Lingaa and Action Jackson, is currently busy promoting her upcoming film Holiday in which she co-stars with Akshay Kumar.—PTI

Turkey's harrowing 'Winter Sleep' takes top prize at Cannes

CANNES (France), 25 May — Turkish film "Winter Sleep" examining the huge divide between rich and poor and the powerful and powerless in Turkey won the Palme d'Or award for best film for director Nuri Bilge Ceylan on Saturday at the 67th Cannes International Film Festival.

Ceylan's three-hour-plus dark and atmospheric film was only the second Turkish movie to win the top award at the world's most prestigious film festival, and the director noted that it came on the 100th anniversary year of Turkish film.

He dedicated the honour to "those who lost their

lives during the last year", adding that he was referring to the youth of his country and to unrest in Turkey.

"These young people actually taught us a lot of things. Some of them sacrificed their lives in a way for us," Ceylan said later at a news conference.

"Le Meraviglie" (The Wonders) by Italian director Alice Rohrwacher took the second-place prize for a coming-of-age story set in the Tuscan countryside as a family tries to eke out a bohemian life making honey.—Reuters



(L-R) Master of Ceremony actor Lambert Wilson, director Quentin Tarantino, director Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Palme d'Or award winner for his film "Winter Sleep", actress Uma Thurman, and actor Timothy Spall, Best Actor award winner for his role in the film "Mr. Turner", pose on stage during the closing ceremony of the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 24 May, 2014. —REUTERS

GENERAL

Interpreter aims to use language skills to improve Japan-China ties

TOKYO, 25 May — An interpreter for a series of delicate Japan-China meetings hopes to use his language skills as a bridge between the two countries, at a time when bilateral relations remain tense amid a territorial dispute and conflicting views of wartime history.

In April 2012, Yuki Izumikawa, 35, an official of the Association for the Promotion of International Trade, was appointed to work as interpreter in a meeting between the association's chairman, Yohei Kono, and then Vice Chinese President Xi Jinping.

It was shortly after then Tokyo Gov Shintaro Ishihara announced plans by the Tokyo metropolitan government to purchase the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, to underline Japan's sovereignty over the disputed territory. The uninhabited, Japanese-controlled islands are claimed by China, which calls them



Photo taken on 18 March, 2014 in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward shows Yuki Izumikawa, who works as Japanese-Chinese interpreter at the Association for the Promotion of International Trade, an organization promoting trade and economic exchanges between Japan and China.

KYODO NEWS

Diaoyu. The Japanese government eventually purchased a major part of the Senkakus in September 2012 from a private Japanese owner.

"I was so worried — what if the issue gets even more complicated as a result of my interpretation," Izumikawa said. "I was so nervous and made a num-

ber of trips to bathroom." In another meeting between Kono and then Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao following the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Izumikawa paid careful attention to his way of speaking and the timing when conveying Tokyo's gratitude for Beijing's support for the victims of the disaster.

Looking back on his childhood, Izumikawa described himself as a boy who did things in his own way at his own pace, tending to become absorbed in one thing once he began to find it interesting.

At university, he studied Chinese and became intrigued by the language. He was also moved by hardworking Chinese classmates. After graduating from university, Izumikawa went to Beijing to study Chinese. He had his bag stolen there but met a compassionate man who kindly helped him out of trouble.

As he decided to "place Chinese at the center of my life," Izumikawa went to an interpretation school and joined the association promoting trade and economic exchanges between Japan and China. Izumikawa has never missed a day of studying Chinese. For him, it is part of his daily activities "just like breathing."

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(26-5-2014, Monday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

2. Physical Exercises

7:00 am

3. News / Weather Report

7:20 am

4. People Talks

8:00 am

5. News/ International News

8:30 am

6. Documentary (ASEAN)

9:00 am

7. News/ International News

9:30 am

8. Cartoon Series

10:50 am

9. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

11:05 am

10. Teleplay

12:00 pm

11. News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

12. Myanmar Movie

3:00 pm

13. News

3:15 pm

14. Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

4:35 pm

15. University of Distance Education

(TV Lectures)

-Second Year (History)

5:00 pm

16. News

5:15 pm

17. Songs of Yester Years

6:00 pm

18. News / Weather Report

6:20 pm

19. Traditional Boxing

7:20 pm

20. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

21. News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm

22. Documentary

9:00 pm

23. News

- Documentary

- Mono Classical Songs

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-5-14 07:00am~ 27-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Art Students : Sculpture
- * World News
- * Black Gold (Part - II)
- * Local News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Food (Episode-12) (Shwe Musel)
- * World News
- * Wholesale Fish
- * Local News
- * Caves of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Goldsmith
- * Local News
- * Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Porcelain and Glass
- * Local News
- * The Hills of Phowintaung and Shwebataung
- * 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

Energy cooperation to lead Silk Road economic belt

XI'AN, 25 May — Energy cooperation including exploitation of oil and gas reserves will boost the development of the Silk Road economic belt covering China and central Asia, industrial experts have said.

Exploitation of energy resources will serve as the major force driving the economic belt, said Zeng Xingqiu, deputy head of the Energy Research Centre under the Investment Association of China, dur-

ing an ongoing forum held in west China's Xi'an City on promoting cooperation in the belt. His words were shared by Zhang Yuqing, deputy director of the National Energy Administration, who believes energy cooperation is pivotal in the development of regions along the route, which will ensure regional energy security and support sustainable economic growth.

The Silk Road is a series of routes for trade and

cultural exchange connecting China and European countries since around 100 BC, with central Asia as the intermediate station. Chinese President Xi Jinping called for joint efforts from countries along the route to build the belt and boost cooperation on a visit to Kazakhstan in September.

Over the last decade 60 million tonnes of crude oil and 81 billion cubic meters of natural gas have

been piped from central Asia to China, following the same path once used by camel caravans to transport silk and other regional goods in ancient times. The cooperation prompted rapid increase in trade volume between China and four central Asian countries, which jumped to 40.2 billion US dollars in 2013, nearly 100 times than that of 1992, data from China's Ministry of Commerce showed.—Xinhua

Late Zamora goal sends 10-man QPR into Premier League

LONDON, 25 May — Ten-man Queens Park Rangers snatched a 90th-minute goal through substitute Bobby Zamora to clinch promotion to the Premier League with a 1-0 win against Derby County in the Championship play-off final at Wembley on Saturday.

After QPR were reduced to 10 men when Gary O'Neil was sent off in the 60th minute, Derby laid siege to their opponents' goal but could not find a way past a well-drilled defence in a match billed as the richest in world football.

With extra-time beckoning, Zamora curled a delightful finish into the corner of the net after a se-

ries of defensive errors by the Derby defence in the build-up to secure victory for QPR's relieved manager Harry Redknapp and chairman Tony Fernandes.

Promotion is worth at least 80 million pounds for QPR, who return to the top flight after one season in the Championship (second division) along with champions Leicester City and second-placed Burnley who went up automatically.

Following a lacklustre first half, Derby dominated after the break but Steve McClaren's usually free-scoring side were left to rue their failure to get on the scoresheet.

It was the second time Zamora had scored the only goal to clinch victory



Queens Park Ranger's Bobby Zamora (R) reacts after their Championship play-off final soccer match against Derby County at Wembley Stadium in London on 24 May, 2014. — REUTERS

in a Championship playoff final having struck the winner for West Ham United against Preston North End in 2005.

"I scored the winner for West Ham to get back in

the Premier League as well but this was equally important," the well-travelled striker told Sky Sports. "It was a massive game and I'm so pleased for all of the lads."

"To score the winner in the playoffs is a magnificent feeling. I never thought it would have happened again. We've worked hard all year, we really have."

"We've got a great togetherness, after the last playoff game (a 2-1 semi-final victory over Wigan Athletic) we were never going to die, we fight to the end and we did that again today." Torrential rain greeted the players and ensured chances were at a premium with Will Hughes' penalty appeal for Derby the only notable incident in the first period.

The second half was more open and after QPR's 20-goal striker Charlie Austin fired narrowly wide,

the Hoops had the experienced O'Neil dismissed for a cynical challenge on Derby forward Johnny Russell as he bore down on goal.

The tone for the rest of the game was set with Derby dominating possession but Redknapp's stubborn side — who had finished one spot and five points behind third-placed Derby in the final league standings — refused to wilt under pressure. The game looked to be heading for extra time when Zamora took advantage of a poor attempted clearance by defender Richard Keogh inside the area as he kept his cool to clinically steer the ball home from 10 metres to delight the Hoops fans.

Reuters

Real fight back to triumph on another glory night



Real Madrid's captain Iker Casillas (3rd R) and team mates celebrate with the trophy after defeating Atletico Madrid in their Champions League final soccer match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon, on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

LISBON, 25 May — Real Madrid came back from the dead to write another glorious chapter in their history when they beat Atletico Madrid 4-1 in extra time helped by goals from Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo to win a 10th European Cup on Saturday.

With Atletico poised to win the trophy for the first time after going ahead with a first-half Diego Godin header, Real struck back after relentless pressure with a Sergio Ramos header in the third minute of added time from a Luka Modric corner.

That sent the final into extra time and with a tiring Atletico almost out for the count after taking a battering for most of the second half, Real scored three times in the last 10 minutes.

World record signing Bale headed them in front after 110 minutes, Marcelo made it 3-1 following a solo run eight minutes later before Ronaldo, the Portugal captain playing in his capital city, converted a penalty with almost the last kick.

The goal was Ronaldo's 17th of the Champions League campaign, a record for one season, and he be-

came the first player in the competition's 59-year history to score for two different winning sides in open play in the final, having scored for Manchester United when they won the 2008 European Cup.

The victory also meant Carlo Ancelotti became only the second coach to win the European Cup three times after Bob Paisley's Liverpool triumphs in 1977, 1978 and 1981.

Italian Ancelotti also won the trophy twice as a player with AC Milan in 1989 and 1990, while Real became the first team to score four goals in the final since Milan's 4-0 win over Barcelona in 1994.

"Yes that was just incredible, what can I say, it was our aim from the start of the season," Ancelotti told reporters. "It was such a hard game and Atletico were such powerful opponents, but I think we deserved it in the end."

"We scored in extra time. We believed that we could win the game and it went well for us in the end. Everyone did well and what they could and we finished drained, exhausted but very, very happy. Were we lucky to score so late?

I don't think so, I think we deserved it."

In contrast Atletico coach Diego Simeone was ordered off the field by referee Bjorn Kuipers for running on to the pitch after Atletico went 4-1 down, but he was much calmer when he faced the media later, walking in to applause at the news conference.

The Argentine said he was angry because Real defender Raphael Varane flicked the ball at him but added that he should not have acted as he did. "At that point it was pointless for the player to create that situation," he said.

"After a 4-1 scoreline maybe it was pointless for me to get angry. But if you analyze the whole match Real Madrid were better in the second half, they pinned us in our own half and we could not move."

For Atletico the evening evoked painful memories of the last time they reached the final in 1974 when they were leading Bayern Munich in Brussels only for Georg Schwarzenbeck to equalize in the last minute of extra time to force a 1-1 draw and a replay which Bayern

won 4-0 two days later.

This time Atletico were almost as close to glory and a Champions League and domestic league double but instead Real secured a Champions League and Spanish Cup double as Ancelotti's first season in charge ended in absolute joy for their fans at the Stadium of Light and utter dejection for Atletico's.

A header from Bale 20 minutes into extra time turned the match a month after the Welshman scored the winner with a stunning solo goal in a 2-1 King's Cup triumph over Barcelona.

His latest goal repaid a further chunk of the 100 million euros (\$136.31 million) Real paid Tottenham Hotspur to secure his signature last August and all but killed off any hope the flagging Atletico players had of winning the match.

Marcelo made it 3-1 with a shot from outside the box that goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois probably should have saved before Ronaldo converted the penalty after being fouled by Gabi.

Atletico had suffered a setback in the ninth minute when their leading scorer Diego Costa succumbed to the hamstring strain he picked up playing against Barcelona last week.

Although they took the lead after his departure, and held it almost to the end of normal time, the Brazil-born Spanish international's presence could have given them a greater advantage.

Instead, with the game still finely balanced, Bale went close to scoring on three occasions in normal time while Ronaldo also had his chances, including three in a 90-second spell as Real hammered away for the equalizer.

Eventually Atletico caved in when Ramos equalized and Bale then turned the match Real's way as he rose at the far post to head home, after a shot from Angel Di Maria was deflected into the air off the keeper.

The Argentina winger was named Man of the Match for his tireless running and passing.

The end of the game was marred by an unseem-

ly brawl sparked by Simeone but, after everyone had calmed down, Real skipper Iker Casillas led his team mates to collect the trophy he won as a young keeper in 2000 and again in 2002.

Casillas was a relieved man at the end because it was his mistake that led to Atletico taking the lead after 36 minutes. Stranded in no man's land, Godin got to a loose ball before the Real keeper did to head it goalwards.

Casillas rushed back to try to scoop the ball away but it had already crossed the line.

That looked likely to cost his side dearly but, inspired by the speedy runs of Di Maria, clever passing and moving from Modric in midfield and a hard-working performance from Ronaldo, Real gradually swung the match their way.

Following their triumphs of 1998, 2000 and 2002, Real became the first team to lift the trophy four times since the Champions League was reformed in 1992. It was a hard-won victory for Real but in the end they deserved it.

Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo attempts an acrobatic shot on goal during their Champions League final soccer match against Atletico Madrid at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Serena to meet French friend in Paris opener

PARIS, 25 May — World number one Serena Williams begins her French Open title on Sunday against local favourite Alize Lim, a training mate she uses to hang around with off the courts.

American Williams, who is bidding for an 18th grand slam singles title to move alongside Chris Evert and Martina



Serena Williams

Navratilova, is third on Court Philippe Chatrier in what is likely to be a chilly, and possibly rainy day in Paris.

"We were talking about it before the draw was made. It's ironic, I guess. It is what it is," the 32-year-old, a huge favourite after winning the Rome title last week, told reporters after discover-

ing her first opponent.

Before her on centre court is Swiss crowd favourite Roger Federer, who takes on unheralded Slovakian Lukas Lacko as he looks to add to his record 17 grand slam titles having not won a major since Wimbledon 2012.

Closing proceedings will be Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, probably France's best

hope for a men's champion, against compatriot Edouard Roger Vasselin.

"I expect a lot from me, especially here," Tsonga said.

"I know it's always a lot of pressure, but I think now I have enough experience. I played a few times Roland Garros. I know how it is."

Reuters