

Myanmar eyes cooperation with Int'l investors

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May— Myanmar is hoping for “win-win cooperation” with international investors as it has completed the Foreign Investment Law-FIL, said Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint on Monday at Myanmar Man-

ufacturing Summit at the Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon.

In his opening address, the Union minister said the country has already changed its economic policies, encouraging competitiveness in accordance with market economy while the

country is moving to the heart of ASEAN economic integration.

A total of 616 companies from 33 countries are currently investing in 12 sectors in Myanmar, according to the Union minister.

Union Minister U Maung Myint also expressed his hope that foreign investors who are participating in the summit would see opportunities for further investment in Myanmar.

MNA

Buddhist monastery in Japan launches Myanmar language class

YANGON, 26 May— A Buddhist monastery in the Itabashi Ward of Tokyo, Japan, is conducting Myanmar language classes every weekend for the children of Myanmar migrants, according to a report by Kyodo news.

The report said that around 10 Myanmar children, from preschoolers to junior high school students who have been living all their lives in Japan, are taking part in the class.

The children go to public schools on weekdays and live the lives ordinary Japanese children would as most of their parents migrated to Japan in the 1990s.

Although the civilian government welcomed back exiled Myanmar families, many families are still hesitant in returning to their home after having lived in Japan for nearly 20



Children

learning

Myan-

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language

in Tokyo

(PHOTO

BY KOTA

KYOGO-

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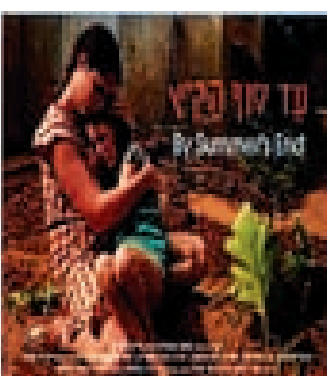
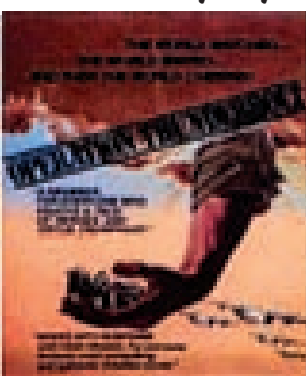
years.

According to statistics by the Japanese Foreign

Affairs Ministry, the number of Myanmar people in Japan is 8,366, and the

figure of community organisations estimated at as many as 10,000.

Public invited to Israeli film festival in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay



YANGON, 26 May— The Israeli Embassy in Yangon is inviting the pub-

lic to watch Israeli films at the “Second Israel Film Festival 2014” launched

under the cultural cooperation between the state of Israel and the Republic of

the Union of Myanmar, officials said Monday.

The film festival will be launched at the Junction Cineplex in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 and 6 June, and at the Myoma Cinema in Mandalay on 6 and 7 June. Films featuring life and struggles of Israeli people include “Something Sweet”, “By Summer's End”, “Desperado Square” and “Operation Thunderbolt”.—NLM

INSIDE

President Office's Union Minister participates in Future of Asia Conference in Tokyo

PAGE-3

MAI provides stipends, stationery and textbooks to students

PAGE-3

One representative of Armed forces substituted

PAGE-3

Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism being taken faith and practised by the Buddhist Communities in the Buddhist world

PAGE-8

Good Feeling

PAGE-8

Myanmar to host 1st ASEAN-Japan Defense Chiefs Meeting in Nov

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 26 May— The first meeting of defense ministers from Japan and ASEAN member countries is expected to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in November, according to a report by Kyodo News.

Japanese government officials on 22 May announced that the meeting is aimed at boosting security ties between Tokyo and the member countries of the bloc.

Joint development and provision of defense equipment are likely to be discussed at the November meeting, with a peaceful solution to China's maritime disputes with Vietnam and the Philippines in the South China Sea set to be among the major issues of the talks.

The report said Japan aims to strengthen defense cooperation with the ten ASEAN member states when it is experiencing

territorial issues with China in the East and South China seas. During the Japan-ASEAN summit in Tokyo last December, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe suggested holding this meeting.

Senior Japanese defense officials and their counterparts from ASEAN agreed in February to expand cooperation in joint development of equipment to combat terrorism, as well as natural disasters.

Japan has also adopted new principles and guidelines on arm exports, which is the first major overhaul in nearly half a century of its arms embargo policy, in an attempt to play a more active role in global security, the report said.

Vice-minister level officials from Japan and ASEAN countries met in Tokyo in March 2013, together with several participating nations embroiled in territorial disputes with China.

UN-ACT

project

introduced

YANGON, 26 May—An event to introduce the United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons was held at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel on Monday afternoon.

Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police-General Zaw Win, Senior Advisor for Peace of UN Resident Coordinator Office Dr Su Su Thar Tun and Ms Annetie Lyth of the Regional UN-ACT project briefed on the project. The talks were attended by officials of the MPF, the UN, international organizations and donor countries and the media.

The UN-ACT is the follow-up project of UNJAPC, which plays an important role in the combat against trafficking in persons in Myanmar. —MNA

MANDALAY, 26 May—In order to curb road accidents, traffic police in Mandalay are conducting more checks, officials said.

“Day and night, traffic police are on patrol and doing checks everywhere in the city. Action is taken against rules-breaking motorcyclists. With an increase in checks, motorcyclists are now using helmets more and obey traffic rules,” said a traffic police official.

From 1 to 19 May, action was taken against drivers of 475 vehicles and 4,200 motorbikes, police said.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Mandalay Region Traffic police conducts more checks in Mandalay



UNESCO officials observe parks, sanctuaries for World Heritage List

MOHNYIN, 26 May—Adviser to UNESCO Koen Meyers and Country Director Frank Momberg of FFI visited Natma Hill National Park from 14 to 19 May and Indawgyi Sanctuary from 20 to 24 May to observe emergence of world heritage region and

bio-society.

Myanmar designated Khakaborazi National Park, Indawgyi Sanctuary, Alaungdaw Kassapa National Park, Inlay Lake Sanctuary, Meinmahl-akyun Sanctuary, Lanpi Annawa National Park and Natma Hill National

Park as ASEAN heritage parks.

Workshops were held in Nay Pyi Taw in November in 2013 and February in 2014 to put the Khakaborazi National Park and Natma Hill National Part into the list of World Natural Heritage. Therefore,

UNESCO officials made field trips to the parks to be enlisted to the World Heritage list, said U Htay Win, administrator of Indawgyi Lake Sanctuary.

NLM-001

**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**



Digital library service available at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport

LEWE, 26 May—Public Digital Library Service has been available at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport since 9 May.

The Information and Public Relations Department provides service that can download about 6,000 books with mobile phones

without any Internet access. Officials said a book centre has opened at the airport as well.—*Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)*



New library opens in Maulaybin village in Ottarathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—A library named “Pillar of wisdom” was commissioned into service at Maulaybin Village in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 23 May.

On the occasion, Administrator of Ottarathiri Township U Ye Myint Tint delivered an opening speech and Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha of Myanmar Women’s and Child Development Association discussed the role of young leaders and capacity building.

Staff officer of Ottara

District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Swe Swe Moe explained the purpose of opening the library, with Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha pre-

senting K1.3 million for the renovation of the library and its furniture, and K180,000 as allowance for a librarian for six months.

District IPRD



Express buses to ply for departmental staff from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay and Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Directorate of Road Administration will provide transport services to departmental staff from Nay Pyi Taw who want to travel to Mandalay and Yangon.

The air-conditioned buses will leave Nay Pyi Taw Bawgathiri highway bus terminal at 5.30 pm,

Myoma Market terminal at 6 pm and Thabyegon bus terminal at 6.15 pm for Mandalay during the weekends.

On Sundays, the buses will depart Yangon and Mandalay for Nay Pyi Taw. Tickets are sold at K3,500 per passenger and may be bought three days ahead of

departure.

For further information, contact 09-49332305, 09-420759502 and 067-26189 of the Directorate of the Road Administration. Bus fare includes expressway special travel insurance and third party injury insurance. — *Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)*

NATIONAL

President Office's Union Minister participates in Future of Asia Conference in Tokyo



Union Minister U Soe Thane delivers speech at Future of Asia Conference in Tokyo.—MNA

MOAI provides stipends, stationery and textbooks to students

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation provided stipends, stationery and textbooks to the children of the staff at the Minister's Office at a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained the purpose of provision of stipends and stationery for students.

Deputy ministers of the ministry and a total of 422 staff attended the ceremony.

The minister urged the staff to be united and help one another as if they were from the same family.

MNA

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing presents prize to an outstanding student of staff.—A&I

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane read out a paper titled "Rising Asia: Myanmar in the coming two decades" at the Future of Asia Conference in Tokyo on 23 May.

The Union minister participated in the conference which was held from 21 to 23 May with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam Vu Duc Dam and Former Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir

Mohammad.

During his recent trip to Japan, Union Minister U Soe Thane held talks separately with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso over cooperation issues between the two countries.

He discussed matters related to aid to Myanmar with MPs of the lower house of Japan during a working luncheon on 22 May.

He also attended a ceremony to approve the Japan-Myanmar investment agreement at the lower house of Japan.—MNA



Education minister meets with international development partnership organizations

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—The meeting between the union minister for education and international development partnership organizations was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Yangon on Sunday afternoon.

School enrollment ceremonies held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — School enrollment ceremonies for 2014/2015 academic year were held at basic education high schools on Monday morning.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi briefed on cooperation with 18 teams of education enhancement implementation for practical education reform, measures taken for vocational education, arrangements made for participation of the private sector in education, tasks to be carried out in cooperation with international partnership organizations and drafting

Education High School in Zabuthiri Township and No 2 Basic Education High School (Branch) in Dekkhinathiri Township. At the ceremonies, textbooks and exercise books were provided for students.—MNA

laws for the education sector.

The meeting was attended by officials of the MOE and representatives of the ADB, Ausaid, British Council, the EU, the GIZ, the JICA, Save the Children, the SDD, the UNESCO and the UNICEF.

MNA



Free education system for primary and middle school students

By Yi Yi Thant

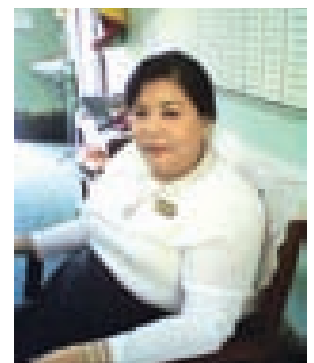
YANGON, 26 May — The free education system for primary and middle school students has reduced the burden on parents as school enrollment season has started.

"I had to work hard for the school enrollment season in the previous year to earn more money to be able to send my daughters to school. But I'm very

delighted to send my two daughters to school today," said a man who works as a trishaw driver. He enrolled his two daughters at the Basic Education Middle School No. 2 in Thingangyun Township on Monday, the 2nd day of the School Enrollment Week for the 2014-2015 Academic Year.

Under the free education programme, schools have to provide primary school students with K1,000 and six exercise books and middle school students with text books free of charge, as well as free enrollment.

The school enrollment



Headmistress Dr Daw Theingi Kyaw of Thingangyun BEHS No 2.

week for the 2014-2015 academic year began on Sunday at schools across the country.

Trs: AMS

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. (17/2014)

13th Waning of Kason, 1376 ME
(26 May 2014)

One representative of Armed forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Lower House Election Law to substitute one representative of the Armed Forces who is parliamentarian, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following one Lower House of representative under the Notification No. 1/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011.

The Lower House representative to be substituted was nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

(1) BC 22806 BC 34894
Major Myat Moe Major Htin Lin Oo

By Order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Mandalay regional development discussed

MYINGYAN, 26 May— Lower House MP U Win Myint held a meeting on regional development with local people at the hall in Ward 2 of Myingyan of Mandalay Region on 23 May, discussing a Hluttaw decision which stated that a K100 million fund will be allotted on the develop-

ment of the township.

The participants discussed supply of drinking water, construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and requirements in the education and health sectors in the township this year.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)

Low pressure area over west central Bay of Bengal

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—According to the observations at (13:00) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay of Bengal and

adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved to the Odisha Coast, India, announced Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Even before he is crowned, Modi struts the global stage



Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi, who will be the next prime minister of India, wears a garland presented to him by his supporters at a public meeting in Ahmedabad on 20 May, 2014. —REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 26 May — Narendra Modi will be sworn in on Monday as India's prime minister at a glittering ceremony that will be as much a show of his determination to be a key player on the global

stage as a celebration of his stunning election victory.

For the first time in India's history, a clutch of South Asian leaders will be among the guests watching Modi's inauguration at the presidential palace in New

Delhi — including the prime minister of arch-rival Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif.

Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies swept India's elections this month, ousting the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty in a seismic political shift that has given his party a mandate for sweeping economic reform.

Even before his inauguration, Modi made waves on the global stage, where once he was treated by many with suspicion — and by some as a pariah — for a rash of Hindu-Muslim violence that erupted 12 years ago in Gujarat, the state he ruled.

Modi, 63, has spoken with the presidents of the United States and Russia, and he has become one of

only three people that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe follows on Twitter. The US administration denied Modi a visa in 2005, but President Barack Obama has now invited him to the White House.

The low-caste son of a tea stall-owner, Modi has given India its first parliamentary majority after 25 years of coalition governments, which means he has ample room to advance reforms that started 23 years ago but have stalled in recent years.

Many supporters see him as India's answer to the neo-liberal former US President Ronald Reagan or British leader Margaret Thatcher. One foreign editor has ventured Modi could be so transformative he turns out to be "India's

Deng Xiaoping", the leader who set China on its path of spectacular economic growth.

The BJP has long advocated a tough stance on neighbour Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars since independence from Britain separated them in 1947, and Modi has been seen as a hardliner on issues of national security.

In that respect, Modi's decision to invite Sharif for his inauguration and bilateral talks came as a surprise and raised hopes for a thaw in relations between the nuclear-armed rivals, particularly frosty since 2008 attacks on the city of Mumbai by Pakistan-based militants.

"Modi has already displayed his political dexterity and diplomatic skills

in inviting Nawaz Sharif, among other leaders, to his swearing in," wrote columnist Prashant Jha in the *Hindustan Times* on Monday. "But will he be able to stay the course? What happens after the first terror attack?"

Vikram Sood, former head of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, told *Reuters* that inviting all the leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was "an astute" diplomatic gesture.

"This augurs well for the region, and an improvement of relations all over the region is possible if these moves are followed by other steps, bilaterally and multi-laterally," he said.—*Reuters*

Thai protesters test military's resolve

BANGKOK, 26 May — Thailand's military tightened its grip on power on Sunday as it moved to quell growing protests, saying anyone violating its orders would be tried in military court.

It also took its first steps to revitalize a battered economy, saying nearly a million farmers owned money under the previous government's failed rice-subsidy scheme would be paid within a month.

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 and the bureaucracy, and an upstart clique led by Yingluck's brother and former telecommunication mogul Thaksin Shinawatra. The Shinawatras draw much of their influence from the provinces.

The military detained numerous people including Yingluck and many of her ministers, party officials and supporters. Leaders of anti-government protests against Yingluck were also held. The military said anyone detained would be freed in a week and on Sunday it relaxed restrictions on Yingluck, allowing her to go home though she remained under military supervision,



Protesters against military rule and soldiers deployed to control them confront each other at Bangkok's shopping district on 25 May, 2014.—REUTERS

a senior military official said.

"She is free to come and go as she pleases but will have to inform us as a sign of mutual respect and we will have soldiers guarding her home," said the officer, who declined to be identified.

The military has thrown out the constitution, censored the media and dismissed the upper house Senate, the last functioning legislature. On Sunday, it said anyone accused of insulting the monarchy or violating its orders would face military court.

Power lies in the hands of army chief General

Prayuth Chan-ocha and his junta and their priorities are stamping out dissent and tending to the economy.

Thailand's Prayuth vows to appoint interim PM, set up cabinet

An army spokesman warned against protests and told the media to be careful in its reporting too.

"For those who use social media to provoke, please stop because it's not good for anyone," deputy

BANGKOK, 26 May — Thai Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha on Monday promised to appoint an interim Prime Minister and set up cabinet, but did not give a timeframe.

Prayuth made the remarks at a Press conference held after receiving a royal endorsement as the leader of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) on Monday.

He sidestepped the question as whether he would become the Prime Minister himself, telling the reporter who asked the question to wait and see, reported the *Nation* online newspaper. The NCPO also chief declined to say when the next election would be held, saying it depends on the situation.

Addressing the Press conference, Prayuth called for public understanding over the coup, affirming sincere action aimed at easing unrest, adding that the NCPO will do the best to solve the problems. Prayuth also emphasized the "full power" to rule, saying curfew will continue but with leniency while stressing focus on keeping peace.

The NCPO chief also called on media not to amplify conflicts.

"I'm not here to fight but fix. But I will do anything (in order to fix)," he said. "Excuse me any extra-tough measure. They are necessary."

"The less you allow me to speak, the more I'll be able to work. Please be calm and patient, like you have always been.—*Xinhua*

army spokesman Winthai Suvarree said in a televised statement. Despite the warnings, a small crowd of protesters, some holding handwritten signs such as "Get out Dictators", formed outside a Bangkok shopping centre and grew through the day.

Hundreds of soldiers, most with riot shields, lined up to contain the crowd and there was some shouting and pushing and at least two people were detained, a *Reuters* reporter said.

By late afternoon about 1,000 people had gathered at the Victory Monument, a central city hub, confronting soldiers at times but there were no clashes.

In his first public comments since the coup, Thaksin said on Twitter he was saddened and he called on the army to treat everyone fairly. Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a 2006 coup and has lived in self-exile since a 2008 graft conviction.

Reuters

WORLD

IMF's Lagarde calls for closer cooperation among central banks

SINTRA (Portugal) 26 May — Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, called on Sunday for closer cooperation among the world's central banks to cope with the challenges of increasingly interlinked and complex financial systems.

Speaking at a dinner in Sintra, Portugal, to kick off the first annual ECB Forum conference, Lagarde said the potential gains from cooperation could be huge in times of distress as seen during the financial crisis.

"If policies are viewed only from a national perspective, we may end up in a world of ad hoc intervention, less rebalancing, and



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde addresses the Bretton Woods Committee annual meeting at World Bank headquarters in Washington on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

the potential to export financial instability," she said in the text of her speech. "This would be a world of possibly large welfare losses in many countries, with

not just spillover effects — from advanced to emerging market economies, but also 'spillbacks' — feedback effects from emerging market to large advanced

economies."

The financial crisis has shown that coordinated international action helped prevent disruption spreading to economies around the globe, she said. And these upsides should not be forgotten as the crisis subsides. "We need a concerted effort to examine the effectiveness of cooperative policy responses, their spillover effects, and their global welfare implications — also in light of the evolution of the financial system," Lagarde said.

She also said advanced economies could help reduce volatility by communicating clearly the course of their monetary policy.

Reuters

N Korea's nuclear envoy says met with ex-US officials in Mongolia

BEIJING, 26 May — A senior North Korean diplomat in charge of nuclear issues said on Monday he had informal talks with former US government officials in Mongolia.

Ri Yong Ho, North Korea's chief negotiator to the long-stalled aid-for-disarmament talks, told *Kyodo News* that he met with former US State Department official Joel Wit and others who used to be responsible for issues related to Pyongyang in Washington during his stay in Mongolia from last week.



Ri Yong Ho, North Korea's chief negotiator for the long-stalled six-party talks, is pictured upon his arrival at Beijing international airport from the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator on 26 May, 2014.

Ri confirmed the contact at Beijing's international airport upon his arrival from the Mongolian

capital of Ulan Bator.

Ri, who unexpectedly arrived in Beijing last Tuesday from Pyongyang on his way to Ulan Bator, is most likely to have discussed with them how best to resume the six-party talks, chaired by China and involving Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States, North Korea, which has called for the resumption of the talks that have been deadlocked since 2008 without preconditions, threatened in March to conduct a new-form nuclear test.

Kyodo News

Top CIA officer in Afghanistan mistakenly named by White House

WASHINGTON, 26 May — The White House inadvertently included the name of the top CIA official in Afghanistan on a list of participants in a military briefing with President Barack Obama that was distributed to reporters on Sunday, the *Washington Post* reported.

The newspaper said the official, identified as "Chief of Station" in Kabul, was named as being among those at a briefing with Obama during the president's trip to Bagram Air Base near the Afghan capital.

The list of names was sent by email to reporters travelling with Obama on his surprise Afghanistan visit and included in a "pool report" shared with correspondents and others not on the trip.

The *Post* said the White House issued a revised list deleting the CIA official's name after it recognized the mistake.

The newspaper said its White House bureau chief, Scott Wilson, who was on the trip, copied the original list from the email provided by White House Press officials and included it in a report sent to a distribution list with over 6,000 recipients.

After he spotted the reference to the station chief, Wilson asked White House Press officials in Afghanistan if they had intended to include that name, the *Post* said.

"Initially, the Press office raised no objection, apparently because military officials had provided the list to distribute to news organizations," the *Post* added.

"But senior White House officials realized the mistake and scrambled to issue an updated list without the CIA officer's name."

The newspaper said it withheld the individual's name at the request of the Obama administration, which warned he and his family could be at risk if his name were circulated.

A review of the pool reports from the trip shows that the name was taken out of an updated list sent to reporters.

Reuters is also withholding the name from this article.

The *Post* said it was not clear if the CIA would now be forced to remove the officer from Afghanistan.

The White House declined to comment.

Reuters

Regulator OKs construction of underground ice wall at crippled plant

TOKYO, 26 May — Japan's nuclear regulator said Monday it will allow Tokyo Electric Power Co. to begin the construction of an underground ice wall at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex in June as planned, after dispelling a number of safety concerns.

The frozen wall, to be set up around the buildings housing the Nos. 1 to 4 reactors hit by the 2011 nuclear accident, is seen as a key measure to address the radioactive water buildup at the complex. The project is funded by the government.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority has been wary about the impact of ground sinking that may occur by implementing the project, but it accepted TEPCO's explanation on the same day that tilting of the ground supporting the



The government and general contractor Kajima Corp show an experiment to create underground walls of frozen soil to stop groundwater flowing into the reactor buildings at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture on 16 May, 2014. Cylindrical ducts to freeze soil are placed underground at 1-meter intervals.—KYODO NEWS

reactor buildings will not be significant enough to undermine safety.

"We do not think there is a problem in regard to the stability of the ground," a TEPCO official told NRA members and experts.

After hearing the explanation, NRA Commissioner Toyoshi Fuketa said, "I think we have been able to confirm today the scale of ground sinking, which is what we have most feared as side effects of building the wall." But he noted that there are still issues to be discussed concerning the project, such as how to accurately measure the level of radioactive water accumulating inside the reactor buildings.

The 1.5-kilometer frozen wall will be built by inserting a line of pipes into the ground to circulate cool liquid.—*Kyodo News*

Obama, in Afghanistan, hopeful on security pact

BAGRAM AIR BASE, (Afghanistan), 26 May — President Barack Obama made a surprise trip to Afghanistan on Sunday to visit US forces who are wrapping up a 13-year mission and signaled that he intends to keep a small number of troops in the country for training and counter-terrorism operations. Cheers erupted among the hundreds of US troops gathered in a Bagram hangar when Obama said that at the end of this year, “America’s war in Afghanistan will come to a responsible end.”

With Afghanistan immersed in a runoff election to choose a successor to President Hamid Karzai, Obama did not meet Afghan government officials nor travel to the capital Kabul. Karzai has long been out of favor with Washington over his refusal to sign a bilateral security agreement to allow US troops to stay beyond 2014.

Obama’s fourth visit to Afghanistan came as he faces criticism at home over a foreign policy often derided as too passive in dealing with crises from Syria to Ukraine and Russia. He is to respond to those criticisms in a speech on Wednesday at the US Military Academy at West Point.

Karzai’s refusal to



US President Barack Obama is greeted by US troops deployed in Afghanistan during an unannounced visit to Bagram Air Base in Kabul, on 25 May 2014.—REUTERS

sign the bilateral security agreement has exacerbated concerns about the country’s prospects for stability as the Taliban insurgency rages on, and has contributed to a steep economic downturn in recent months.

Obama administration officials briefed on the matter told *Reuters* last month that the number of US troops in Afghanistan may drop well below 10,000 beyond 2014, the minimum demanded by the US military to train Afghan forces.

The decision to consider a small force, possibly less than 5,000 US troops, reflects a belief among White House officials that Afghan security forces have evolved into a robust enough force to contain a still-potent Taliban-led insurgency, the officials said.

There are now about 33,000 US troops in Afghanistan, down from 100,000 in 2011, when troop numbers peaked a decade into a conflict originally intended to deny

al-Qaeda sanctuary in Afghanistan after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks.

The two leading candidates in Afghanistan’s presidential race, Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, have both pledged to sign the security agreement as soon as possible, should they be elected in the second round of voting scheduled for 14 June.

The new president may not start work until August, as logistical constraints and widespread fraud could

mean it will take the country’s electoral commission weeks to determine the outcome of the vote.

Obama called Karzai from his plane after leaving Bagram, saying he wanted to conclude a bilateral security agreement with the next president. He also told Karzai he would inform him of his decision on post-2014 troop levels before making it public, a senior administration official told reporters on the plane.

Reuters

China busts 23 ‘terror, religious extremism’ groups

BEIJING, 26 May — Chinese police in the far western region of Xinjiang have taken down 23 “terror and religious extremism groups” and caught more than 200 suspects in May, state media said, days after the region’s deadliest attack in years. China has announced year-long “anti-terrorism” operations in restive Xinjiang, home to a large Muslim Uighur minority, as well as nationwide, following a series of bloody incidents that Beijing blames on Islamists and separatists from the region.

Police busted the groups in the southern Xinjiang prefectures of Hotan, Kashgar and Aksu and seized more than 200 explosive devices in raids, the official *Xinhua* news agency said late on Sunday. Many of those captured were in their 20s and 30s, and had learned how to make explosives by watching online videos, *Xinhua* said.

“They exchanged their experiences of making explosives and propagating jihad through chatting tools, text messages and illegal preaching sites,” the news agency said, citing the regional public security department.—*Xinhua*

Shopping mall fire kills five in latest South Korean accident

SEOUL, 26 May — A fire at a bus terminal and shopping complex in a busy suburban neighbourhood north of Seoul killed five people and injured dozens on Monday, the latest in a series of accidents in South Korea, including a ferry disaster that killed more than 300.

The blaze broke out in the morning in the terminal complex that houses large shopping malls and a movie theatre.

Fire officials said the fire started in the food court area where renovation was being carried out and a welding torch was likely responsible. Most of victims suffered from smoke inhalation, they said.

South Korea, Asia’s fourth-largest economy and a leading manufacturing powerhouse, has developed into one of the world’s most vibrant and technically advanced democracies, but faces criticism that regulatory controls and safety standards have not kept pace.

The country is mourning more than 300 people who drowned when a heavily overloaded ferry capsized and sank on 16 April, the country’s worst maritime disaster in 20 years.

Many of the dead were students and teachers from the same school.

There have since been two subway accidents that left nearly 200 people injured.

President Park Geun-hye and her government have faced sharp criticism of the way they handled the ferry disaster. Park has promised to overhaul safety oversight and has broke up the country’s coast guard to streamline maritime search and rescue operations.—*Reuters*

Ukrainians back Poroshenko to find way out of crisis

KIEV, 26 May — Petro Poroshenko, a billionaire chocolate manufacturer, claimed the Ukrainian presidency with an emphatic election victory on Sunday, taking on a fraught mission to quell pro-Russian rebels and steer his fragile nation closer to the West.

A veteran survivor of Ukraine’s feuding political class who threw his weight and money behind the revolt that brought down his Moscow-backed predecessor three months ago, the burly 48-year-old won 55-percent in exit polls on a first round ballot marred by millions unable to vote in troubled eastern regions.

Results will not be announced until Monday, but runner-up Yulia Tymoshenko, on 13 percent, made clear she would concede, sparing the country a tense three weeks until a runoff round.

Preliminary results with almost 25 percent of votes



Ukrainian businessman, politician and presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko speaks to supporters at his election headquarters in Kiev on 25 May, 2014.—REUTERS

counted gave Poroshenko 54.1 percent and former premier Tymoshenko 13.1.

Poroshenko, known as the “Chocolate King”, has no time to lose to make good on pledges to end “war” with separatists in the Russian-speaking east, negotiate a stable new relationship with Moscow and rescue an economy sapped by months of chaos and 23 years of

post-Soviet mismanagement and chronic corruption.

The size of his victory reflects in part Ukrainians rallying behind the front-runner in the hope of ending a political vacuum that Russian President Vladimir Putin has exploited to annex the Crimea peninsula and offer solidarity, and maybe more, to rebels in the east who want to break with Kiev

and accept Russian rule.

“He has taken a heavy burden on his shoulders,” said Larisa, a schoolteacher who was among crowds watching the results on Independence Square, where pro-Western “EuroMaidan” protests ended in bloodshed in February that prompted President Viktor Yanukovich to flee to Russia. “I just want all of this to be over. I think that’s what everybody wants.”

In the eastern Donbass coalfield, where militants ensured polling stations were closed to some 10 percent of the national electorate, rebels scoffed at the “fascist junta” and announced a plan to “cleanse” their “people’s republic” of “enemy troops”. A minister in Kiev said in turn its forces would renew their “anti-terrorist operation” after a truce during the polling.

More than 20 people were killed in the region last week.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Libyan premier wins congress backing after ex-general's threats



Libyan Security forces vehicles patrol to secure the area where Libya's parliament members are meeting, at the Crown Prince's Palace in Tripoli on 25 May, 2014.—REUTERS

TRIPOLI, 26 May — Libya's new Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq won a vote of confidence from parliament on Sunday in defiance of a renegade former army general who has challenged the assembly's legitimacy.

Maiteeq, backed by the Muslim Brotherhood, was initially elected two weeks ago after a chaotic parliamentary session that some lawmakers had rejected as illegal.

Libya's legislature is at the center of a growing standoff between rogue former general, Khalifa Haftar, with a loose alliance of anti-Islamist militias, and pro-Islamist factions positioning for influence in the

North African country.

The Europe Union's special envoy on Sunday called the crisis Libya's worst since the 2011 war ousted Muammar Gaddafi, with the fragile government struggling to control brigades of former rebels and militias who are now key powerbrokers.

Lawmakers met on Sunday under heavy security to vote to approve Maiteeq's government, a week after militia forces claiming loyalty to Haftar attacked the congress to demand lawmakers hand over power.

"The congress has granted Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq its confi-

dence. Out of 95 members, 83 voted in favour of his government," Abdulhamid Ismail Yarbu, an independent lawmaker told Reuters.

Another lawmaker confirmed the votes for Maiteeq, a businessman who will be Libya's third premier since March after months of unrest in the OPEC oil producer.

There was no immediate response from a spokesman to Haftar, a former Gaddafi ally who broke with the Libyan autocrat in the 1980s, sought exile in the United States and returned to help fight in the 2011 war to end his one-man rule.

Three years after a NATO-backed revolt top-

pled Gaddafi, Libya still has no national army, no new constitution and its parliament is caught up in infighting that has delayed the country's transition to full democracy.

Powerful rival brigades of former rebel fighters, still heavily armed with anti-aircraft cannons and armored vehicles, often make demands on the weak state. Each is loosely allied with competing Islamist and anti-Islamist political forces squaring off for control.

In March, the parliament ousted one premier, and his successor also asked to step down after his family was attacked by gunmen.

Reuters

Polls open in Egyptian presidential election

CAIRO, 26 May — Egyptians began voting on Monday in a two-day presidential election which former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is expected to win, reviving rule by strongman three years after the downfall of Hosni Mubarak.

Polling stations opened at 9.00 am (0600 GMT) across the country. Sisi, widely seen as Egypt's de facto leader since he deposed the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi last July, faces only one challenger: the leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi.

Reuters

Homemade bomb explodes outside polling station in Egypt: state TV

CAIRO, 26 May — A homemade bomb exploded outside a polling station in the Egyptian city of El-Mahalla El-Kubra on Monday, state TV reported, on the first day of voting in presidential elections.

Egypt has faced a surge in violence after the army ousted the country's first democratically elected president Mohamed Mursi in July following mass protests against his rule and announced a roadmap that would see presidential and parliamentary elections this year.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Reuters

30 killed in train accident in N India

NEW DELHI, 26 May — At least 30 people were killed and over 50 injured in a collision of passenger train and goods train in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Monday, said local media reports.

The Gorakhdham Express on Monday ramped into a stationary goods train at Sant Kabir Nagar, 230 km from the state capital Lucknow, according to the reports.

The district administration, involved in the rescue and relief operation, confirmed death of 30 people and that casualties could rise as many people are still trapped inside at least three coaches which derailed.

TV footages showed rescuers were trying to take wounded people out the derailed coaches.

Xinhua

Yemen says security forces kill senior al-Qaeda leader

SANAA, 26 May — Yemen's security forces on Sunday killed a senior al-Qaeda leader wanted for attacks on local and foreign targets in Sanaa, the Yemeni government said, after a raid near the capital in which at least four other militants died.

The government said in a statement that two officers also died when anti-terrorism units raided an al-Qaeda hideout and a car bomb-making facility in Bayt al-Adhari and Bani Hakam districts, in the Arhab region, and fought a gunbattle with its occupants. Two officers were also wounded.

Security forces also conducted two other separate raids in downtown Sanaa, the statement said, but gave no details.

The raids were part



Yemeni soldiers check cars to seek for al-Qaeda suspects after military operations in northern Sanaa, Yemen, on 25 May, 2014.—XINHUA

of an escalating campaign against militants responsible for a wave of attacks across the country.

"The forces exchanged fire with the wanted men who were holed up inside a house," a government

official, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters. "Five were killed and four were captured."

The government statement, received by email, said one of the dead militants was Saleh al-Tais, who it said was involved in the January killing of Ahmad Sharafeddin, a delegate at national reconciliation talks representing the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi group and a former dean of the law faculty at Sanaa University.

One of 25 people listed by the Interior Ministry's most wanted list, Tais was the operational commander of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Sanaa who had a 5 million riyal (\$25,000) bounty for his capture, the statement said.

Tais, who had evaded capture more than once in the past, was involved in a number of major attacks, including an attack on the

Yemeni Defence Ministry compound in Sanaa last December and the assault on the Central prison last February, it said.

"Tais was also linked to a number of terrorist operations that targeted national and foreign interests, particularly the cold-blooded assassination campaign targeting security personnel in the Yemeni capital," it said.

Explosives, car bombs and heavy weapons were found during the raid.

President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi said last month that Yemen was at war with al-Qaeda, as the militants have stepped up attacks on government facilities after being driven out of strongholds in southern Shabwa and Abyan provinces.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 May, 2014

Overcoming contradictions for a better future

By Aung Khin

Economic and democratic transitions are underway in many Southeast Asian countries. The transition processes are also now facing some contradictions in these nations. Overcoming contradictions through the balance of power among the governments, parliaments, military and social classes are one of the crucial issues to achieve a stable political system.

The countries which are in a transitional phase need a more equitable power balance sys-

tem for a stable development. If the power balance does not benefit economic transition and environment for reform, the administrations will be weak and more susceptible to internal or external groups of different interests, thus further leaving their authorities and powers paralyzed.

How to persuade one group of people to give a chance to others and to give up a certain portion of their privileges and benefits, in the concept of reform, is a very critical issue.

Practically, this is easier said than done. It will have some losses and pains for some social classes. In fact, a successful distribution structure depends on the stable development of the strength of all levels of society, in particular, that of the poor at the bottom of the social ladder.

If the low income class has to suffer a long-term loss, the transition process will not gain success, threatening the development of the countries

as well as the property of upper level people. Under these circumstances, the respective governments, policy makers and upper level officials should take serious consideration on securing the lives of the working class, and help develop them into middle class.

Power balance plays a key role in the emergence of a middle income class. Any form of favouritism is an obstacle to the stability of economies and their political systems. If countries could overcome contradictions in power balance, economic and reform process, they will achieve a basic state of stable development, and then move into the rank of developed nations.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism being taken faith and practised by the Buddhist Communities in the Buddhist world

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In modern times, there are mainly two schools of Buddhism. They are Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism. Theravada Buddhism is taken faith and practiced chiefly in Srittlanka (Ceylon), Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, and Mahayana Buddhism is taken faith and practiced chiefly in China, Tibet and Japan.

Theravada, the way

of the Elders, was the original and only tradition from the earliest time to the time of holding the second great Buddhist Council in the year 100 of the Buddhist Era when the Mahasangika School, a precursor of Mahayana was formed Sarvastivada then arose as the second major school which differed from Theravada, although in only minor details at first, after which it

divided into several sub-sects, many of which eventually developed into Mahayana.

The main differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism are the concepts in regard to the Buddha himself as well as in regard to the Bodhisatta ideal the canon of scriptures, the development of doctrine, the celibacy of the monks and the form of ceremony.

The similarities between the two schools of Buddhism are the Four

Noble Truths, which relate human suffering to the attachment of what is only transient and impermanent; the Anatta (non-ego) doctrine and the doctrine of the chain of causation although variously interpreted; the Noble Eightfold Path, as the way of deliverance which involves a moral discipline as well as the practice of meditation; the virtue of Metta, loving-kindness, as being fundamental; the acceptance of the Buddhist

Teaching as being of happiness.

universal in its application; and the Middle Reference; Essential Themes and way of life to the goal of Buddhist lectures by Ash-Nibbana, the highest in Thittila

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (26-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 661,400 per tical: Selling K 661,900

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 661,000 per tical: Selling K 661,500

FE RATE

USD Buying K 963 - Selling K 967

SGD Buying K 765 - Selling K 773

Euro Buying K 1316 - Selling K 1328

Good Feeling

Kyi Mun

When do you have a good feeling?

How do you know that you have a good feeling when you have one?

Where do you think you have a good feeling?

In your mind, in your heart, in your guts or in your head?

"I've the blues, because I've no shoes;
Until I saw in the street,
A man with no feet."

Anonymous

Just A Matter of Mental Attitude

The blues we have is surely a bad feeling, but you see that you can easily cure your bad feeling when you change your mental attitude, or rather when the mental attitude is changed by the circumstances.

Half-Empty or Half-Full?

When you are offered a glass of water which just fills exactly half the glass, how would you feel? Would you feel that the glass is half-empty or would you feel that the glass is half-full? It actually depends on the state of your mood. The objective fact is that you are being offered half a glass of water, neither half-empty nor half-full. That negative or positive view first depends on your view, and your good feeling or bad feeling depends upon that view of yours. It is as simple as that.

The Real Leader

In the open seas, when the winds were very rough,

The Pessimist cursed the wind, and

The Optimist prayed for the wind to calm down, but

The Leader adjusted the sails!

-Maxwell Taylor?

In that case, the pessimist had the bad feeling and the optimist had the good feeling, but the Leader had a great feeling.

The Nature of A Mirror

It is said that the Mirror has always a great feeling. Why? Because The Mirror has always a clear and clean NATURE. It's nature is PURITY itself. It has neither a cloudy feeling of DISLIKE nor a fanciful passion of LIKE.

The Mirror refuses NOTHING and it accepts ALL, but it KEEPS NOTHING. So, the Mirror is never disturbed or perturbed. It remains UNSWAYED. The Mirror is ever SOUND, SOLID and SERENE.

The Mirror and the Window

By the way, Management Gurus used to say that when you meet with success, you should look outside through the open WINDOW, and that when you are confronted with failure, you should LOOK INTO the MIRROR. But, in actual life, most of the managers used to get themselves a good feeling by blaming oth-

ers through the open window when there is a failure, and look into the mirror when there is a success, having lots of good feeling for themselves.

Good Feeling is Natural

Mind is like a Mirror. The original nature of mind is clean, clear and pure; only when likes and dislikes are harbored in the mind, the original purity of mind is disturbed and defiled. So, it is imperative that all kinds of mental defilements be dispelled from the mind in order for a good feeling to have a chance to appear in the clear mind. Original Mind is just like a Blue Sea without any WAVE or Mind (Original Mind) is similar to a Blue Sky devoid of any CLOUD. Only the Wave or the Cloud are the Catalysts of the disturbances.

Gold is Not Afraid of Fire

So, to be able to enjoy a Good Feeling, the Mind must be CLEAR of all sorts of defilements or disturbances or pollutions, just like PURE GOLD. It is said that "Gold is Not Afraid of Fire". So also, an original, pure mind is not afraid of Bad Feeling, because its NATURE is PURITY itself. Pure Mind, like Pure Gold, is not afraid of FIRE - The TRIALS and TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE!

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

LOCAL NEWS

Donors supply water to locals in Kyaukpadaung Tsp

KYAUKPADAUNG, 26 May—Some villages in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region are facing shortage of water in the summer. Therefore, donors provided water to the local people.

On 24 May, a water bowser distributed potable water to the local people in Yochar Village for the fifth time.

“Donor is U Bo Kyaw and wife Daw Than Yu Swe of Kyaukpadaung. They bought a water bowser to donate water to the water shortage villages when they need water in the summer annually. On average, each time of water

donation costs K20,000,” said U Aye Lwin, driver of the water bowser.

Yochar village is formed with over 80 houses. All the people are engaged in production of baskets made of bamboo.

“Last five years, a tube-well was sunk near the monastery of the village. But, the water pumped out from the tube-well could not be used for consumption. In think it is necessary to improve the lakes nearby the village for public consumption,” said a local.

Kanthit Lake and West Lake are located not far from the village.—*Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)*



Drains dredged for proper flow of water

TATKON, 26 May—Workers of Township Development Affairs Committee of Tatkon Township



in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area carried out sanitation at the 1850 feet long drain from Aungthiha Road traf-

fic light to old hospital on 23 May morning.

They will carry out similar tasks at the drains on other roads in May and June with the aim of ensuring proper flow of water in the rainy season.

In July, they will dredge the 2500 feet long drains along Lanmadaw Road of Yangon-Mandalay Highway. A plan is underway to construct the brick drain, according to Assistant Engineer U Moe Kyaw.—*Tatkon Township IPRD*

Menace of narcotic drugs explained in Myawady

MYAWADY, 26 May — A talk on menace of drugs in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at the Basic Education Primary School in Thingan-nyin-aung Village of Myawady Township, the border town of Kayin State near Thailand, on Sunday.

Commander of Town-

ship Police Force Police Major Aung Ngwe explained crime reduction, disadvantages of narcotic drugs and preventive measures against menace of drugs.

Officiating police major Aung Si of No 32 Anti-Drug Squad talked about action taken against for drug addicts and drug abuse.

Township Law Officer U Saw Thein Pe Myint gave lectures on articles related to drugs and penalty, Chairman of District Anti-Narcotics Association U Than Win treatment of drug addicts and medical/public relation officer U Aung Myo Thein drug-related health conditions.

Thuza (Myawady Town)

Buddhist culture course exam conducted for students

MYINGYAN, 26 May—The examination for the Buddhist culture course took place at the Basic Education Middle School in Zeebingan Village of Myingyan Town-

ship, Mandalay Region, on Sunday. The Abbot of Yadanabon Monastery gave advice on emergence of outstanding youths.

The examination was

aimed at turning out good and able sons who will adore the religion and lineage. A total of 348 students joined the examination.—*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

Meiktila's youths equipped with martial arts



MEIKTILA, 26 MAY—The summer martial arts course conducted by Bando Aung martial arts group, concluded at the township sports ground in Meiktila on Sunday.

Chairman of Mandalay Region Martial Arts Propagation Committee U Ko Ko Htwe presented

K100,000 to the Meiktila Township Martial Arts Subcommittee and K5,000 each to trainees. The trainees showed off their skills in the demonstration. Township Sports Officer Daw Myo Seint Kyaw presented cer-

tificates to the trainees.

The martial arts group trained 38 youths from 10 March to 25 May. The training group was recognized by Myanmar Martial Arts Federation.

Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

ECCD school opened in Meiktila Township

MEIKTILA, 26 May—A ceremony to open Early Child Care Development School was held in Thegon Village of Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on Sunday.

Manager of Save the Children Daw Theingi Han explained the plan of her organization and Phupwintsa Network Chairman U Kyi Win, the programme of the network. Early Child Care Development Committee

Secretary U Thein Lwin of the village gave lectures on efforts for emergence of the school.

Three teachers were appointed for teaching 33 students from the early child care development school.

Save the Children contributed K1.35 million and the village K250,000 to the fund of the school.

Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo of Myawady District in Kayin State and officials seen with the background of newly-erected signboard bearing “School Enrollment Day for 2014-15 academic year” in front of Myawady Basic Education High School No 1 on Sunday.—THUZA (MYAWADY TOWN)



Business aviation picks up, but jet surplus persists

SEATTLE, 26 May—Business aircraft are taking to the skies again as many economies around the world improve, but a surplus of jets delivered just before the recession means the equivalent of 2,750 jets remain parked in hangars.

An excess of jets is depressing prices for planes, particularly older ones, and clouding the outlook for manufacturers of new jets, such as Bombardier Inc, Gulfstream and Cessna.

Some companies are cutting back on corporate jet travel and reducing executives' use of corporate jets for personal trips.

With so many jets not being flown, businesses are finding it more difficult to justify new purchases, said Rolland Vincent, president



Visitors talk in front of a Bombardier Challenger aircraft in the static display area during the annual European Business Aviation Convention And Exhibition (EBACE) at Geneva International Airport in Geneva on 20 May, 2014.—REUTERS

of Rolland Vincent Associates, a jet consulting firm that works with Utica, New York-based JetNet.

"It's like having a lot of cars in your driveway," Vincent said. "If you don't

use them that much, you're not going to be out shopping for another one."

The recovery in business flying is uneven around the world, and prone to setbacks. A global survey

of private aircraft, including helicopters and charters, showed a 2 percent decline in the hours flown in the first quarter, from a year ago.

Flight hours in Asia, Europe and the Middle East rose in the past year through March, but declined in the United States and Latin America, according to the survey by Jet Support Services Inc (JSSI), a Chicago-based company that supplies service and support for aircraft.

The harsh US winter played a big role in depressing demand for flying, while political issues in Eastern Europe and slower economic growth in Asia affected flying in those regions, JSSI said.

Reuters

Prawns replace abalone as China property developers go down-market

HONG KONG, 26 May—The Chinese developer behind an eight-storey clubhouse with a billion-dollar view over Shanghai's Huangpu River is turning to lower-end coffee shops and restaurants to fill the space, as a broad anti-graft campaign puts the brakes on conspicuous spending.

The state-of-the-art, steel and glass building was originally designed as a playground for China's elite, including space to mix and mingle with officials from state-owned enterprises based in offices nearby.

"Last year, we originally planned to open a club-

house in the building, but it became too sensitive," said Vincent Zuo, a manager of research and development at Franshion Properties (0817.HK), which has a market value of \$2.7 billion.

"We are now looking to open restaurants and coffee shops," said Zuo, adding that an art museum was another option for the arch-shaped building which sits in the middle of the company's 30 billion yuan (\$4.8 billion) cruise terminal complex.

The decision to target middle-market consumers comes amid a crackdown on official corruption and

extravagance in China that is forcing some high-end developers and hotel operators to change tactics to adapt to the new environment.

Franshion, a unit of state-owned Sinochem Corp which also operates the five-star Grand Hyatt Shanghai, has shifted its hotel focus more towards private events from government and business dinners. The number of wedding banquets is up 50 percent from last year, said Andy Ding, vice president of Franshion's unit China Jin Mao Group.

At the same time, consumption per head among business clients has dropped by about 30 to 40 percent since the crackdown began in 2012. Where once the average spending was around 1,000 yuan per person, now it is 600 to 700, Grand Hyatt Shanghai's manager Grace Tsou said.

As customers cut back, hotels are reviewing their menus. That means expensive and extravagant dishes such as abalone and lobster are out and cheaper offerings such as tiger prawns are in, said Tsou.—Reuters



A woman walks along Block 11 area at Huangpu River in Shanghai on 25 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Asian shares hit one-year high on Wall St rally, Ukraine vote

TOKYO, 26 May—Asian shares hit one-year high on Monday thanks to a strong session on Wall Street and a decisive win for billionaire Petro Poroshenko in Ukraine's presidential election.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan. MIAPJ0000PUS rose 0.15 percent while Japan's Nikkei share average. N225 gained 0.7 percent to hit one-month high.

Investors took their cue from upbeat US housing data on Friday, with sales of new single-family homes rising more than expected in April and the number of houses on the market hitting a 3-1/2 year-high.

The figures were good enough to boost Wall Street shares after Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen said earlier this month that a slumping housing market, as well as geopolitical tensions, risked undermining the US economy.—Reuters

Quality issues push e-cigarette production to US from China

SHENZHEN, 26 May—Some of the leading US producers of electronic cigarettes are moving their manufacturing to the United States from China in response to growing concern about quality and the prospect of tighter federal regulations.

In recent weeks, some of the best-selling US e-cigarette companies, including closely held Mystic and

require, among other things, manufacturers that want access to the US market to register with the agency and list the ingredients in their products.

"As a general rule, the FDA regulation will require more control over the manufacturing process," said Bryan Haynes, an attorney at Troutman Sanders, a law firm in Richmond, Virginia, that represents e-cigarette



Employees work on electronic cigarettes at a production line in a factory in Shenzhen, southern Chinese province of Guangdong on 15 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

White Cloud, announced that they would move production to new, highly automated US factories that would enable them to track ingredients and quality more closely. As a fringe benefit, they even expect costs to be lower than in China, the country that invented the battery-powered cartridges that produce a nicotine-laced inhalable vapor.

"People are concerned about quality," said Bonnie Herzog, a senior analyst at Wells Fargo Securities, who expects more manufacturing to shift to the United States.

"There is varying quality among all these different brands," she said. "I think regulation will standardize these products because they will be forced to improve."

The shift has gained momentum since April, when the US Food and Drug Administration proposed rules that would

companies. He said more companies plan to move production to the United States because it "could make compliance easier".

Many of these companies already produce the nicotine-laced liquid used in e-cigarettes in the United States and then ship it to China, where the battery-powered devices are assembled. Most batteries will continue to be made in China.

E-cigarettes are considered a crucial business for the three major US tobacco companies, which have bought or developed their own brands in recent years to offset shrinking sales of conventional tobacco cigarettes. Compliance with new US regulations has become a top priority.

US sales of e-cigarettes are expected to outpace sales of tobacco cigarettes by 2020, in part because of the perception they are safer to smoke.—Reuters

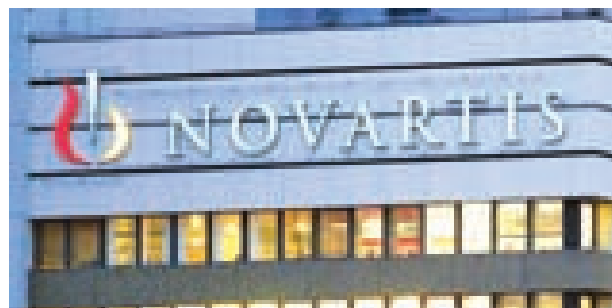
EU agency recommends against Novartis heart failure drug

ZURICH, 26 May—EU health regulators have recommended against approving Novartis's experimental heart failure drug for the second time this year due to insufficient evidence it improves symptoms, the Swiss drugmaker said in a statement on Friday.

The ruling by the European Medicine Agency's

Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) follows a previous rebuff given in January and dashes Novartis's hopes for approval of serelaxin in Europe this year.

The Basel-based firm was banking on serelaxin, also known as RLX030, to help replace lost revenue from blood pressure pill



The logo of Swiss drugmaker Novartis is seen at its headquarters in Basel on 22 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

Diovan which faces competition from cheap, copycat medicines.

Tim Wright, global head of development at Novartis Pharmaceuticals said he was "disappointed" that the drug would not be available for patients this year, but said the company was committed to providing further evidence.

Novartis said it would re-submit the drug for approval as soon as it had data from a second late-stage trial involving 6,300 patients.

Last week US health regulators also turned down an application to approve serelaxin, citing a lack of sufficient evidence.

Reuters

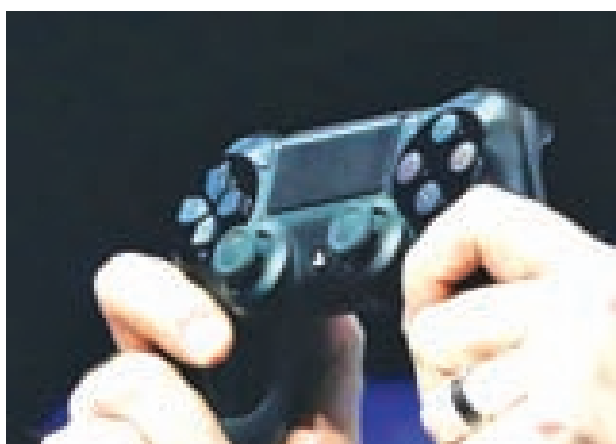
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sony, Shanghai Oriental Pearl to set up China PlayStation JVs

BEIJING, 26 May—Japan's Sony Corp and China's Shanghai Oriental Pearl Group Co Ltd will set up two joint ventures to make and market Sony's PlayStation games console in China, Shanghai Oriental Pearl said in a stock exchange filing on Monday.

One joint venture will be responsible for the console's hardware, while the other will be focused on software, the company said in the filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The joint ventures, which will be in Shanghai's free trade zone, will be set up by a subsidiary of Shanghai Oriental Pearl and by Sony's China arm. But China is likely to be a difficult market for games consoles, which were banned from 2000 until



PlayStation 4's lead system architect Mark Cerny shows the Dual Shock 4 controller during the PlayStation 4 launch event in New York, on 20 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

last January. Piracy and smuggling of consoles is rife, and the Chinese gaming market is very different to traditional console markets like Japan, Europe and the US as Chinese gamers

predominantly play PC and mobile games.

Chinese games developers and publishers have also adopted a "free to play" model where games are free and they make money by

selling in-game upgrades like extra lives and special weapons. Games consoles traditionally make their money from the sale of the console and games themselves.

Sony and Shanghai Oriental Pearl are setting up the joint ventures in response to the suspension of the ban on game consoles within Shanghai's free trade zone, a Sony Computer Entertainment Inc spokesman told Reuters.

Nothing has been decided regarding the development of operations, and details will be announced later, the spokesman said.

Sony Computer Entertainment Inc is the Sony unit responsible for the PlayStation.

One of the joint

ventures will have registered capital of 10 million yuan (\$1.60 million) and will be 51 percent owned by Shanghai Oriental Pearl Culture Development Co and 49 percent owned by Sony (China), Shanghai Oriental Pearl said in the filing.

The other will have registered capital of 43.8 million yuan and will be 30 percent owned by Shanghai Oriental Pearl Culture Development Co and 70 percent owned by Sony (China). Sony's move comes one month after Microsoft Corp and its joint-venture partner BesTV New Media Co Ltd announced they would launch Microsoft's flagship Xbox One games console in China in September.

Reuters

Russia develops manned space programme to replace

SAINT PETERSBURG, 26 May—Russia is developing a national programme of manned space explorations which will replace the International Space Station (ISS) programme after 2020, the Russian Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos, said on Thursday.

"The development of the national strategy of manned spaceflight is underway now. Along with the Russian Academy of Sciences and the industrial sector we are preparing a certain concept beyond the ISS," Roscosmos Deputy Chief Sergei Savelyev told reporters at the 18th St Petersburg International Economic Forum. China and the European Space Agency, he added, were seen as the potential partners in the new strategy, but the key role will belong to Russia.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who is in charge of space and defence sectors, said earlier in the week that Moscow had no plans to extend the operation of the ISS beyond 2020, though the United States had proposed to extend ISS cooperation after that year.

Xinhua



Visitors interact with an intelligent robot playing chess at the Robot Experience in Chongqing, southwest China, on 23 May, 2014. The Robot Experience, showcasing nearly 100 models of robots, opened in Chongqing on Friday.—XINHUA

RRsat sees video distribution market shifting to outsourcing

ELLA VALLEY, 26 May—New technologies in digital media services and an industry shift towards outsourcing will bring strong growth opportunities in the coming years, said Avi Cohen, chief executive of Israel's RRsat Global Communications Network.

Video distribution is a \$9.4 billion market, Cohen said, and broadcasters and studios are increasingly handing the work over to external service providers, like RRsat. Currently about 30 percent is outsourced, but he sees that number growing. "Every junction—a change in technology, a need for investment—is a great reason for them to decide to move it out and stop doing things themselves," he said. "We are getting requests from

all of the big companies, allowing us to broaden our services, and this is a global trend." RRsat, which distributes 630 channels worldwide and handles all distribution of the National Football League outside the United States, reported record revenue of \$32.9 million for the first quarter, up 12.3 percent from 2013. Net income excluding one-time items was \$2.2 million, up from \$1.9 million.

According to Cohen, the company's main competitors in the global market—UK-based Arqiva, Orange subsidiary Globecast and US-based Encompass—are all larger, but have been less conservative in growing and are highly leveraged.

Reuters

AOL to invest in Israeli start-ups

JERUSALEM, 26 May—AOL Inc said on Sunday it is starting a programme in Israel to assist start-ups, and that it will invest at least \$100,000 in as many as 10 projects at a time. The Internet giant already has a development center in Israel, and its new project, called Nautilus, is meant to give "maximum freedom to entrepreneurs" and "grant them access to all the tools and connections of a global company", said Hanan Laschover, chief executive of AOL Israel.

AOL will escort each start-up, which will be chosen from a variety of fields that are connected to its global



The AOL logo is seen at the company's office in New York on 5 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

activities, for a period of a year, the company said.

The first investment will be in Take&Make, AOL said

in a statement, a start-up that has developed a platform for "do-it-yourself" videos.

Reuters

Apple supplier Hon Hai plans \$310 million GDR sale



The logo of Foxconn, the trading name of Hon Hai Precision Industry, is seen on top of the company's headquarters in Tucheng, New Taipei city, on 24 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

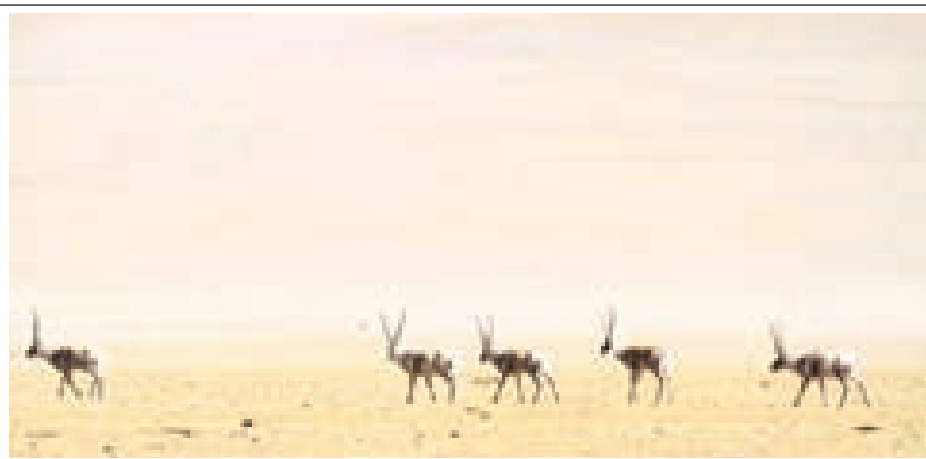
TAIPEI, 26 May—Hon Hai Precision, a major supplier of Apple Inc, is set to raise about T\$93 billion (\$310 million) via selling new shares to foreign investors for its expansion overseas and into Taiwan's developing 4G telecom market, a local paper reported on Monday.

Hon Hai is planning to ask shareholders at its AGM in June for approval of the share sale, with the company planning to sell up to 1 billion new shares via global deposit receipts (GDR), the Economic Daily News said.

Hon Hai shares closed at T\$93 on Friday.

Company officials were not immediately available for comment.—Reuters

Photo taken on 23 May, 2014 shows a flock of Tibetan antelopes in migration in the Nagqu areas of the Qiangtang natural reserve, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. More than 100,000 migratory Tibetan antelopes in the Nagqu areas will reach Servo Mountain and Tianshui River to give birth in late June. There are a total of 200,000 Tibetan antelopes in Tibet.—XINHUA



Big wins for French far right, Britain's UKIP rock EU elections

BRUSSELS, 26 May — Eurosceptic nationalists scored stunning victories in European Parliament elections in France and Britain on Sunday as critics of the European Union more than doubled their seats in a continent-wide protest vote against austerity and unemployment.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls called the breakthrough by Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration, anti-euro National Front in one of the EU's founding nations a political "earthquake".

Anti-establishment parties of the far right and hard left, their scores amplified by a low turnout, made gains in many countries although in Germany, the EU's biggest member state with the largest number of seats, and Italy, the pro-European center ground held firm.

In a vote that raised more doubts about Britain's long-term future in the EU, Nigel Farage's UK Independence Party, which advocates immediate withdrawal, led the opposition Labour party and Prime Minister David Cameron's

Conservatives comfortably with almost half the results declared.

A jubilant Le Pen, whose party beat President Francois Hollande's ruling Socialists into third place, told supporters: "The people have spoken loud and clear ... they no longer want to be led by those outside our borders, by EU commissioners and technocrats who are unelected."

"They want to be pro-

tected from globalization and take back the reins of their destiny."

With 80 percent of votes counted, the National Front had won 26 percent of the vote, comfortably ahead of the conservative opposition UMP on 20.6 percent, with the Socialists on 13.8, their second heavy defeat in two months after losing dozens of town halls in March.

First official results

from around the 28-nation bloc showed the pro-European center-left and center-right parties will keep control of around 70 percent of the 751-seat EU legislature, but the number of Eurosceptic members will more than double.

The center-right European People's Party, led by former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, was set to win 212 seats, preliminary results

issued by the parliament showed.

"As the EPP has a strong lead ... I am ready to accept the mandate of the European Commission president," Juncker told reporters in parliament. "We will have a clear pro-European majority in this house." The center-left Socialists, led by outgoing European Parliament President Martin Schulz of Germany, were in second place with 186 seats followed by the centrist liberals on 70 and the Greens on 55. Eurosceptic groups were expected to win about 141 seats, according to a *Reuters* estimate, the far left 43 and conservatives 44.

A glum looking Schulz would not concede defeat, telling reporters he would negotiate with other parties.

"It is a bad day for the European Union when a party with such a racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic programme gets 24-25 percent of the vote in France," he said. "But these voters aren't extremists, they have lost trust, they have lost hope."—*Reuters*



People watch a board displaying provisional results of the European Parliament election at the EU Parliament in Brussels on 25 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Mali says 50 soldiers killed in Kidal fighting

BAMAKO, 26 May — Fifty Malian soldiers died this week during a failed army attempt to seize the Tuareg separatist northern town of Kidal, the West African country's defence minister said on Sunday.

The fresh fighting on Wednesday, the worst since the government and separatist groups signed a preliminary peace agreement last year, threatened to sink struggling peace talks to end a long cycle of Tuareg uprisings.

"In terms of toll, we have recorded 50 deaths unfortunately," Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga said on Malian state television, adding that 40 others were wounded in the failed operation. Maiga had previously said that 20 soldiers were killed in the combat and 30 were wounded.— *Reuters*

Mexican rebel leader Marcos retires, says 'no longer exists'

MEXICO CITY, 26 May — Subcommandante Marcos, who led an indigenous uprising in southern Mexico and became one of Latin America's most iconic revolutionaries, on Sunday said he was stepping down as spokesman for the Zapatista rebels and would disappear. The ski-masked, pipe-smoking guerrilla leader became an idol of the anti-globalization movement after he led the 1994 Zapatista rebel-

lion in the southern state of Chiapas, but he had avoided public appearances in recent years.

"We have decided that today Marcos no longer exists," he wrote in a lengthy statement published on the Zapatista website that he said was his last message as the rebel leader.

Marcos denied rumors he had become ill, saying he was making way for a new generation to take over speaking for the re-

bels, who still hold a handful of communities deep in Chiapas.

Named for Mexican revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata, the Zapatista National Liberation Army launched a 12-day battle with the Mexican Army that claimed at least 140 lives, rising up on the day Mexico opened its borders to free trade.

Marcos became a hero to leftist activists and intellectuals by championing

the rights of Maya Indians who had been oppressed for centuries, but he was seen as a self-serving publicist to his critics on the right.

Marcos has not made any major appearance since 2006, when he traveled across Mexico to condemn the country's political class during a presidential election campaign. He banned media from a 20th anniversary celebration this year.

Reuters

Wives of jailed opposition mayors win Venezuela ballots

CARACAS, 26 May — The wives of two opposition mayors jailed over protests against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro won landslide victories in elections on Sunday for their spouses' vacant posts.

Though the women's victories were widely expected in cities that are hotbeds of opposition to Maduro, they still brought some cheer to a movement divided over the strategy of

protests and smarting from repeated defeats in national elections.

Patricia Ceballos, whose husband Daniel Ceballos was sacked in March and received a 12-month sentence for failing to remove protester barricades in the streets of San Cristobal, took the mayorship there with 74 percent of votes.

The western city near the border of Colombia was the birthplace of demon-



Patricia de Ceballos, opposition candidate and wife of jailed former mayor Daniel Ceballos, cast her vote during mayoral election in San Cristobal on 25 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Suspected Islamists kill 20 in Nigeria market attack

MAIDUGURI, 26 May — Suspected Islamist gunmen opened fire on a market in a Nigerian village on Sunday, killing 20 people in the latest violence against civilians in the northeast of Africa's top oil producer.

The assailants surrounded the village of Kamuyya, a military source based in the nearest town told *Reuters*. The militants shot people as they gathered to trade in its open air market. Villages in Borno state, the epicentre of Boko Haram's violent campaign to carve an Islamic caliphate out of religiously mixed Nigeria, have been under almost daily attack.

On Thursday, suspected Boko Haram gunmen rampaged through three villages in northern Nigeria, killing 28 people and burning houses to the ground.

Boko Haram made world headlines when it claimed the abduction of more than 200 school girls from the village of Chibok last month, prompting international outrage and persuading President Goodluck Jonathan to accept foreign help to try to free them, including a team of around 80 US troops deployed to neighbouring Chad, and surveillance drones.

Since the girls were snatched on 14 April, at least 470 civilians have been killed by the insurgents in various attacks, 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.

Reuters

strations that began in early February and quickly spread across Venezuela, causing the OPEC nation's worst unrest in a decade and leading to 42 deaths.

Rosa Scarano, whose husband Vicencio Scarano also lost his job and received a 10-month jail sentence in March for the same offence in central San Diego city, won an even larger 88 percent of votes to take the vacant mayorship there.

Reuters

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN-859)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RES-TU VOY NO (RJN-859) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO (05/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO (05/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

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Aung Naing Moe Advocate
May Phyo Kun J.H.G.P
For Altior Inc.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph:0973220023
Dated: 27 May 2014

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (2/2014)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars(CIF Yangon)

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/1	Toyota Towing Tractor (Brand-New) for Aviation Dispenser (2014-2015)	4 Nos.	Kyats
(2)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/2	Server, and Accessories (2014-2015)	11 Items	Kyats
(3)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/3	Projector, Copier, Printer, Fax and Scanner (2014-2015)	5 Items	Kyats
(4)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/4	Air Conditioner (2014-2015)	5 Sets	Kyats
(5)	MPPE/LP/MCY/T/1	Battery (2014-2015)	2 Items	Kyats
(6)	MPPE/LP/TTS/T/1	Tyre with Tube and Flap (2014-2015)	2 Items	Kyats
(7)	MPPE/LP/CHEM/T/1	Shell Water Detector Capsules (2014-2015)	890 Boxes	Kyats
(8)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/1	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) and 300 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven) (2014-2015)	2 Items	USD
(9)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/2	Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump with Trailer inductor (2014-2015)	2 Sets	USD
(10)	MPPE/MCY/T/1	Butterfly Valves, Swing Joints, Expansion Joints and Flexible Connectors (2014-2015)	8 Items	USD

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-6-2014, 12:00 Hrs.
3. Tender document are available at our office starting from 27-5-2014 at during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone 067-411487.

**Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw**

**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

UK finance ministry warns on Scottish independence costs

LONDON, 26 May— Britain's finance ministry stepped up its attack on the Scottish government's independence plans on Monday, saying it had not fully budgeted for setting up a new administration that could cost Scottish taxpayers over 1.5 billion pounds



Britatin's Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander leaves 10 Downing Street in London on 19 March, 2014.

REUTERS
(\$2.5 billion). People in Scotland vote on September 18 on whether to end a 307-year union with England and split from the rest of the United Kingdom. Britain's finance ministry has repeatedly argued that Scots would be financially worse off after independence.

On Monday, it said

setting up the new public bodies such as a Scottish tax authority, financial regulator and benefits system would cost each Scottish household a minimum of 600 pounds, and potentially much more.

"The Scottish government is trying to leave the UK, but it won't tell anyone how much the set-up surcharge is for an independent Scotland," deputy finance minister Danny Alexander said. He is due to present a more detailed breakdown of the Westminster government's estimates of the costs of Scottish independence and Scotland's budget deficit on Wednesday.

The Scottish government dismissed the report as "deeply flawed".

The British finance ministry said new institu-

tions would cost Scotland at least 1 percent of its annual economic output — or 1.5 billion pounds — based on estimates made when the Canadian province of Quebec voted on independence. The actual cost could be far higher.

New Zealand, which has a similarly sized population and economy to Scotland, was currently spending 750 million pounds on a new tax system alone, while a new Scottish benefits system would cost 400 million pounds, the finance ministry said. A bill of 2.7 billion pounds was possible if the Scottish government pressed ahead with plans for 180 new public bodies, the finance ministry said, based on a cost of 15 million pounds for each new policy department.

Reuters

Yingluck released by Thai military junta

BANGKOK, 26 May — Thai former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra, anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban and a number of other people under military detention have been released, local media reported on Monday.

Yingluck was allowed to return home on Sunday night from an army camp in Bangkok in an order issued by the National Council for Peace and Order, *Bangkok Post* quoted an army source as saying.

Suthep and four other protest co-leaders were also reportedly released and reported to the attorney-general on insurrection charges.

Xinhua

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Sofia Vergara Splits From Fiance Nick Loeb

LOS ANGELES, 26 May — Actress Sofia Vergara has called off her relationship with businessman Nick Loeb. The duo was unable to decide how to spend time together, she disclosed via a social networking medium.

She shared a screenshot of a note on her Who Say account on 23 May.

“Not that anyone should care, but in order to not give the press the chance to invent crazy and hurtful drama, I prefer to tell my fans personally that Nick and I have (decided) to be apart,” Vergara said in the note.

“We have (been) having too many problems with figuring out how to spend time together and (because) of my work and now his,

its been getting worse and worse, not fun anymore,” she added.

They will continue to be good friends.

“We are still very close but we (believe this) is the best thing for us right now,” added the 41-year-old.

In February, the actress was still deciding on plans for her dream wedding with Loeb, saying she was unsure about the exact details.

PTI



Actress Sofia Vergara

Akshay Kumar: Sonakshi Sinha should have won a National Award for Lootera

MUMBAI, 26 May — If actress Sonakshi Sinha felt that her 2013 release Lootera deserved to win awards, actor-producer Akshay Kumar seconds that.

The action star liked her performance in the period drama so much that he said it should have been appreciated with a National Award for it.

Akshay, who has acted with the 26-year-old in movies like Rowdy Rathore and Once Upon

Ay Time In Mumbai Dobara!, says she was brilliant in Lootera.

“It is a pleasure working with Sonakshi. She is wonderful and talented. The last movie of her I saw was Lootera. I think she was brilliant. She should’ve got a National Award (for it). It’s something wonderful that I saw,” Akshay, who will now be seen with her in the forthcoming film Holiday, told IANS.

The Vikramaditya



Sonakshi Sinha and Ranveer Singh played the lead roles in Vikramaditya Motwane’s Lootera. —PTI

Motwane film, which also featured Ranveer Singh in the lead, received a mixed response after it hit screens

in July last year. It also got a few nominations at this year’s awards

PTI

Kim wears Givenchy’s Riccardo Tisci wedding gown

LOS ANGELES, 26 May — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian wore a Givenchy haute couture gown for her walk down the aisle at the scenic Forte di Belvedere in Florence, Italy.

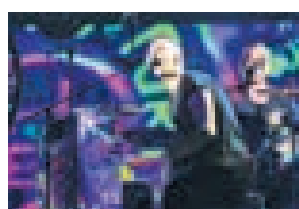
The designer’s representative has confirmed that apart from the 33-year-old socialite, Kim’s daughter North, 11 months, also wore a Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci dress, and West, 36, wore a Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci tux, reported Us magazine. Tisci, 39, is a close friend of the bride and groom. —PTI



TV star Kim Kardashian

Coldplay album ‘Ghost Stories’ tops British music charts

LONDON, 26 May — British band Coldplay’s new album “Ghost Stories” went straight to number one in the charts on Sunday, the Official Charts Company said, becoming the fastest-selling album of the year. The group’s sixth studio album and sixth successive British number one



Coldplay singer Chris Martin

album, it sold 168,000 copies since going on sale on

19 May, a figure the Charts Company called “staggering”.

“A new Coldplay album always makes a huge impact, and Ghost Stories is no exception,” Martin Talbot, chief executive of the Official Charts Company, said in a statement. “The boys have made it a

perfect six Number 1s out of six albums today. That is some achievement!”

Coldplay knocked last week’s number one album, “Xscape”, a collection of previously unreleased songs by the late US singer Michael Jackson, off the top perch into second place. —Reuters

GENERAL

Slasher attacks Japan pop girl group AKB48 at fan event

Tokyo, 26 May — A man wielding a saw slashed and injured two members of Japanese female pop group AKB48, rated by Guinness as the world's biggest such group, at a fan event in Japan, leaving the country stunned at the extremely rare violent crime.

The group, known for its perky routines, was shaking hands with fans at a meet-and-greet function on Sunday, when the man attacked them with a weapon described variously as a 50-cm (20-inch)-long saw or a hatchet, Japanese media said.

"This sort of thing is unimaginable," one fan told Japanese television. "I'm in shock."

Group members Rina Kawaei, 19, and Anna Iriyama, 18, received emergency surgery for cut and broken fingers, with Iriyama also suffering cuts to the face, media said.

"The surgery ended successfully and their condition is stable," their manager said. "They should be able to leave hospital tomorrow."

A male staff member received cuts to his hand.

Police arrested a



Staff members are seen at a fan event site where members of Japanese girls' pop group AKB48 were stabbed in Takizawa, Iwate prefecture, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 25 May, 2014. —REUTERS

24-year-old high school dropout for attempted murder after the event, in the northeastern city of Takizawa, was interrupted by screams of "Stop!" and "No!" There were no bag checks, and fans have said most of the group's events have only cursory checks at best, prompting newspapers to call for tighter security. The incident featured on several newspaper front pages and television shows. Security checks

tend to be light in Japan, which has stiff gun control laws, and violent crime involving weapons is rare.

AKB48, founded in 2005, is known for its high "kawaii," or cuteness, quotient, and all its members are in their teens or early 20s. Fans vote each year to determine 64 of the most popular girls from a 237-member pool, who then rotate in and out of four main troupes and several affiliated groups, based

on their popularity.

The "AKB" in the group's name is a reference to Akihabara, Tokyo's high-tech mecca, where it has a theater. They are also popular overseas, with a sister group based in Jakarta. Every year fans elect the most popular members of the group, obtaining a ballot by buying the group's latest CD. Some hard-core fans buy hundreds to give their favourite a boost.

Reuters

Mexico captures drug gang leader blamed for wave of violence



Gulf Cartel (CDG) drug kingpin Juan Manuel Rodriguez Garcia is being escorted by police during a presentation at the Attorney's General Office hangar in Mexico City on 25 May, 2014. — REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 26 May — Mexican authorities said on Sunday they had captured one of the top leaders of the Gulf drug cartel who was responsible for a recent wave of shoot outs and massacres in the northern state of Tamaulipas.

Juan Rodriguez Garcia was arrested in a wealthy suburb of the northern industrial city Monterrey, National Security Commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido told a news conference in Mexico City.

Rubido said Rodriguez's struggle to gain control of the Gulf cartel was behind a wave of violence that has hit Tamaulipas this year. Mexican security forces caught Mario Ramirez Trevino, the leader of the cocaine-trafficking Gulf cartel, in August last year, setting off a battle for control of the gang.

"The command of Rodriguez Garcia was not recognized by all the criminal factions of the group," Rubido said, adding that Garcia was one of the government's most wanted

criminals in the region.

The Gulf cartel has also been battling the Zetas gang over control of drug and migrant smuggling routes in Tamaulipas state, home to the biggest border crossing for trade

between the United States and Mexico.

Sixteen bodies had been found earlier this month at two different sites in the port town of Tampico in Tamaulipas.

Reuters

No centre court for Nadal at start of French Open defence

PARIS, 26 May — Rafa Nadal, looking to extend his French Open record to nine titles, starts his Roland Garros campaign with what is likely to be his only appearance on court Suzanne Lenglen on Monday.

The world No1 from Spain, who takes on American Robby Ginepri in the first round, has a possible second-round meeting with local favourite Paul-Henri Mathieu and organizers surely want the showdown to be held on the main Philippe Chatrier court.

They said that Nadal usually plays one match on Lenglen before staying on Chatrier for the remainder



of the tournament.

Maria Sharapova, the 2012 champion seeded seventh this year, opens proceedings on Chatrier against fellow Russian Ksenia Pervak before Novak

Djokovic, who has never won the French Open, plays Portuguese Joao Sousa. On Court Two, Frenchman Nicolas Mahut is up against Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin knowing a win

would send him to a second-round meeting with American John Isner - the man with whom he played the longest match in tennis history at Wimbledon in 2010. — Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(27-5-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:20 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. India Drama Series

9:00 am

7. News / International News

9:30 am

8. Documentary

10:20 am

9. TV Drama Series

11:10 am

10. Documentary

12:00 pm

11. News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

12. Myanmar Video

2:00 pm

13. Documentary

3:15 pm

14. Teleplay

4:20 pm

15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Zoology)

5:00 pm

16. News

5:30 pm

17. India Drama Series

6:00 pm

18. News / Weather Report

6:20 pm

19. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm

20. News

7:20 pm

21. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

22. News / International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

23. Documentary

9:00 pm

24. News - Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-5-14 07:00am~ 28-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Moe Ne' keeps its tradition alive
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: 3D
- * Local News
- * The Four Sacred Replica Tooth Relics In Pyay
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
- * Local News
- * Skilful Marionette Performance of New Generation Artists
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Youth Leader
- * Local News
- * Bago....Still steeped in Legend and History
- * World News
- * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- * 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

Russia crowned world champions again



Russia's players celebrate with the trophy after winning their men's ice hockey World Championship final game against Finland at Minsk Arena in Minsk on 25 May, 2014.—REUTERS

MINSK, 26 May — Russia claimed their fourth world ice hockey championship in seven years with a 5-2 win over Finland in the final in Minsk on Sunday to partly make up for their Sochi Olympic disappointment.

Finland dumped Russia out of the Games in February at the quarter-final stage and just as in the Olympics, the Finns found themselves a goal down early on when Sergei Shirokov gave Russia the lead on 10 minutes on the powerplay.

Roared on by a partisan crowd who were firmly behind the Russians, it took time for the Finns, who had only scrapped into the knockout stages, to find their form.

They tied up the game with only three seconds remaining in the first period through Iiro Pakarinen and six minutes into the second period Erkka Westerlund's side took the lead through Olli Palola.

Russia's reply was instant, however, with

Alexander Ovechkin tying up the game at 2-2 less than a minute later.

Russia were desperately looking for the all-important go-ahead goal and they had a great opportunity with a powerplay late in the second period, Evgeni Malkin sending a fine wrist shot past Pekka Rinne's stick side to put his side 3-2 in front.

Danis Zaripov helped ease home nerves with an excellently taken goal after good interplay with Shirokov to give Russia a two-goal lead with his 13th point of the competition.

With five minutes to go, the tournament's leading scorer Viktor Tikhonov added his eighth goal and 16th point overall with a strike on the powerplay as Russia cruised to victory.

Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko and Russian president Vladimir Putin both attended the final.

Sweden, the world champions, gained some consolation as they picked up the bronze medal after beating the Czech Republic 3-0.

It was Jaromir Jagr's last game for the Czechs but the 42-year-old did not end his international career on a high note as Joakim Lindstrom opened the scoring after four minutes from Simon Hjalmarsson.

Sweden wrapped up the victory midway through the third period, Erik Gustafsson orchestrating a lightning counter-attack and feeding Mikael Backlund who sent a wrist shot high into the net.—Reuters

Rosberg wins in Monaco to end Hamilton's run

MONACO, 26 May — Germany's Nico Rosberg won the showcase Monaco Grand Prix for the second year in a row on Sunday to snatch back the Formula One world championship lead from Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton.

Rosberg's second victory of the year, from a controversial pole position that had ratcheted up the tension between the two title rivals, took his points tally after six of 19 races to 122 with Hamilton on 118.

Hamilton, who complained 13 laps from the end that he had something in his eye and could not see properly, was second as dominant Mercedes chalked up a sixth win in a row and fifth successive

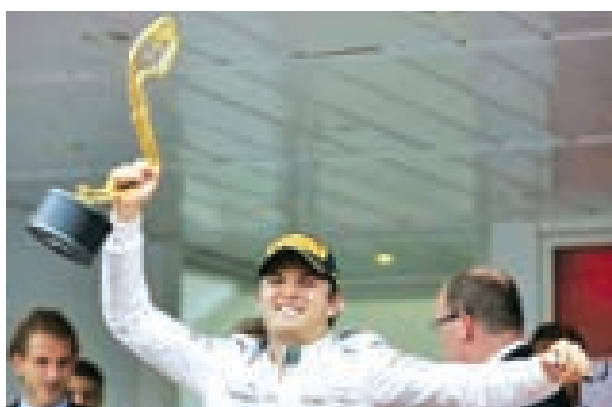
one-two finish.

"It's a special win, definitely," Rosberg told reporters of a fifth career victory that ended his team mate's run of four in a row and came on the streets he has known since boyhood.

"Lewis has had the momentum with the results and everything and I really needed to try to break that momentum...I managed to do that this weekend."

Australian Daniel Ricciardo took third after chasing Hamilton nose-to-tail to the finish while quadruple world champion team mate Sebastian Vettel, in his 100th race for Red Bull, retired after eight laps with a turbo problem.

After coping with two safety car interludes,



Mercedes Formula One driver Nico Rosberg of Germany holds his trophy after winning the Monaco Grand Prix in Monaco on 25 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Rosberg took the chequered flag 9.2 seconds ahead of Hamilton after the two had spent the first half of the race barely a second apart.

Hamilton, who had simmered on Saturday

when he suggested Rosberg might have deliberately brought out yellow warning flags in qualifying to slow the Briton and deny him pole, had a comparatively low-key afternoon.

Reuters

Federer celebrates Mother's Day with victory in Paris

PARIS, 26 May — Roger Federer spent as little time as possible on court on the opening day of the French Open on Sunday, beating Lukas Lacko 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 before returning to his parental duties on Mother's Day in Paris. Serena Williams, the No 1 seed and overwhelming favourite to retain the women's title, needed time to find her rhythm against France's Alize Lim before winning 6-2, 6-1. The American's older sister, Venus, also reached the second round in straight sets.

Watched by his wife Mirka and his twin girls, Federer moved gently through the gears against the shaggy-haired Slovakian under grey skies on the Philippe Chatrier show court. The former champion, who has returned to something close to his best form after a disappointing 2013, admitted a trace of fear before the year's second grand slam.

"I wasn't nervous going into the match," said Federer, 32. "It's more just like those hints of fear,



Roger Federer of Switzerland

maybe yesterday, maybe this morning at one point, just for like five seconds 'Oh, I really hope I don't have to pack my bags today', that kind of feeling."

But he had little to fear from Lacko and by mid-afternoon he was once again in a position to help Mirka look after their newly-born twin boys. "Everything is great," Federer said.

Serena, who warmed up for the match against her training partner wearing a blazer suit, committed 23 unforced errors in the first set. She allowed the local favourite two break points in the fifth game but the American always had too much power.—Reuters

Montgomery breaks American drought with Senior PGA win

CARY, (NC), 26 May — Colin Montgomery broke his long American drought in style when he won the Senior PGA Championship by four strokes in Michigan on Sunday.

Montgomery, who never won on the PGA Tour despite a decorated career in Europe, fended off a mid-round charge from Tom Watson to clinch the second major of the season on the over-50s Champions Tour.

The Scot carded 65 to finish at 13-under-par 271 and evergreen American Watson made four birdies in five holes from the turn to shoot 65 and claim second place.



Colin Montgomery

"It's been a long time," Montgomery told NBC TV. "I haven't won a 72-hole event in America until today. It's a very special moment for myself and my caddie. We've been trying, my god we've been trying."

"We've come close on a number of occasions. It's

great to come here as a senior and finally break that duck."

Montgomery, who turned 50 last year, has won 31 times on the European Tour, where he topped the order of merit a record eight times, including seven seasons in

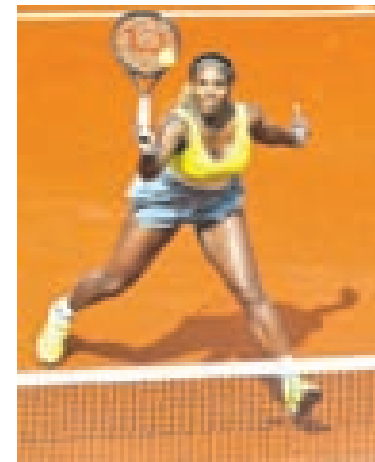
a row.

But his only previous victory in the United States was at the 1998 World Championship Match Play event, which at the time was unofficial.

Montgomery teed off with a one-stroke lead on Sunday and effectively clinched the title with six birdies in eight holes, starting at the eighth.

Any lingering doubts about the outcome disappeared when his second shot into the par-four 18th sailed long and left of the green, only to strike the grandstand and ricochet back onto the putting surface.

Reuters



Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball during her Women's Singles first round match against Alize Lim of France on day 1 of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on 25 May, 2014. Serena Williams won 6-2, 6-1. XINHUA