

October 2015 still set for Myanmar's Yangon Stock Exchange launch



Old Central Bank building in which Myanmar's Securities and Exchange Commission's office is set to open.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

Myanmar's deputy minister of finance says the planned launch of Myanmar's stock exchange is on track for October next year.

"Myanmar's Yangon Stock Exchange plan is progressing on schedule," Dr Maung Maung Thein said, insisting there will be no delays and the target date will be met.

The deputy minister told a gathering of officials from government and private banks at a joint seminar on Preparation for a Securities Company in Yangon on Saturday that the three components—formation of a securities and exchange commission, launch of Myanmar's first stock exchange and preparation by companies to be listed—for emergence of a capital market are taking place simultaneously. He confirmed the commission will emerge very soon, certainly within a month.

The deputy minister repeated that the Yangon Stock Exchange will be operated by Myanmar Economic Bank in partnership with Japan's Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) and Daiwa

Securities Group, a Japanese securities company and the signing of a joint venture agreement will occur soon after the establishment and operation of a securities regulator. He approved the SEC will be headquartered on the first floor of old Central Bank building on Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township.

Regarding the preparation for the companies to be listing on the exchange, proposals from six companies with impressive business performances have been received and signings with two companies, including Asia Green Development Bank (AGD), have been completed. Arrangements for signed deals with the remaining four are going ahead.

He highlighted the importance of quality, saying only a small number of companies will be allowed to list on the stock exchange initially.

During the seminar hosted by the Ministry of Finance and Daiwa Institute of Research, which has been giving assistance in setting up Myanmar's capital market for around 20 years, Daiwa officials made presentations explaining roles of the

securities and requirements for establishing a securities company.

They also answered queries raised by those present.

At a Q and A session, Sumiyuki Kazama, DIR's senior executive managing director, told The New Light of Myanmar that personnel procurement before the launch of the stock market will be an inevitable difficulty because the planned stock market will be a new business for Myanmar.

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Central Bank of Myanmar, DIR and TSE on the implementation of a stock market in Myanmar that includes

assisting Myanmar's human resources development in 2012, Daiwa has held seminars and trained government officials.

Moreover, training courses are being conducted by a Daiwa-Myanmar foundation in cooperation with the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants, he added.

On the small number of companies to be listed when the exchange launches, he said more companies will be included later.

Myanmar enacted the Securities and Exchange Law in July, 2013 for the launch of the country's first stock exchange in more than 50 years.

Cancer leading death cause around the world

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Cancer is one of the leading death causes around the world. There were 14.1 million new cancer cases in



Dr Shun Weng Yoon, specialist at Mahakota Medical Centre in Malaysia.

Myanmar will not tolerate any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a press release on 31 May. The full text of the press release is as follows:-

On 28 May 2014, around (MST) 09:00 hour, the Myanmar troops opened fire on two suspected armed Bengalis in yellow camouflage uniform who entered into the Myanmar territory within 80 feet from the Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence between Boundary Pillars 51 and 52 in the Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State and the exchange of fire between the two sides followed. One person was caught dead with one M-22 automatic rifle, four magazines and 98 rounds. The remaining person withdrew into the Bangladesh territory.

With respect to this incident, the Bangladeshi side alleged that the Myanmar side started opening fire on a team of the Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) which was patrolling along the border, and captured corporal Md. Mizanur Rahman.

In this regard, the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Yangon sent a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar on 28 May 2014. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh also handed over a diplomatic note to U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh on the same day.

Another exchange of fire between Myanmar and Bangladesh border forces near the Boundary Pillar No 50 occurred on 30 May 2014 at (MST) 16:00 hour, and it lasted about 20 minutes. Again, the Bangladesh side alleged that the Myanmar troops started opening fire on a team of BGB which was waiting to retrieve the dead body captured by the Myanmar side on 28 May 2014.

As for the incident of the exchange of fire on 28 May 2014, there was no BGB team patrolling along the border between Boundary Pillars 51 and 52 on that day, as claimed by the Bangladesh side. The Myanmar troops just opened fire on two suspected armed Bengalis for security reason who were intruding into the Myanmar territory about 80 feet from the border line. The Myanmar troops neither opened fire on any BGB members nor captured a BGB corporal. It was found out that the outfit worn by the person caught dead did not match the BGB uniform.

Concerning the incident of the exchange of fire on 30 May 2014, the Myanmar side informed BGB to come and fetch the dead body at the Boundary Pillar 52 where the exchange of fire had occurred. The allegations by the Bangladesh side that a BGB team was waiting near the Boundary Pillar 50 to fetch the dead body was not relevant and that the Myanmar side started to fire was far from the reality.

(See page 3)

2012 worldwide. According to the WHO 2012 global cancer report, 8.2 million people died of cancer and 32.6 million people were living with cancer in 2012.

A survey said 60 per cent of cancer cases occurs in Africa, Asia, Central and South America yearly and 65 per cent of the cancer-related deaths occurs in less developed regions.

The most common types of cancer around the

world are lung, prostate, colo rectum, stomach, liver, breast and cervix uteri. Of them, lung, liver, colo rectum, stomach and breast are the main types of cancer leading to overall cancer mortality.

Lung cancer is the most common in men and breast cancer in women.

The WHO expects that cancer cases will rise annually from 14 million in 2012 (See page 3)

Water level declines at Mandalay moats



MANDALAY, 31 May—The inflow of water is blocked, while the bridge across Yeni drain that is a channel of flowing water into Mandalay moat

through the water filtering tank is under reconstruction.

In consequence, the water level at the moat is declining. Thus, the

submerged short stumps emerged in the moats. Some water pipelines are difficult to pump out the water from the moat.

Decline of water level

in the moat does not cause poor water supply system of Mandalay city for the dwellers.

*Htin Lin Maung
(Mandalay)*

YANGON, 31 May—The Myanmar Tour Guide Association held the annual general meeting for 2014 at the hall of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township on Friday.

The meeting focused on submission of executive committee report for 2012-14 fiscal year, financial statement and future tasks.

Responsible persons presented prizes to winning teams in the Futsal tournament. Next, the new executive committee was elected.—MTGA

MTGA elects new executive committee members



Internet users rely on telephone tower in Mohnyin



MOHNYIN, 31 May—As GSM/CDMA telephone lines are in poor service and connection in Kachin State, the interest of local

people declines.

Some Internet user youths go to the telephone tower, two miles from Mohnyin by car and mo-

Tube-wells, lakes sunk in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 31 May—The government is focusing on rural development and poverty alleviation with the collaboration of the ministries concerned, officials said Friday.

Mahlaing Township Rural Development Department has sunk tube-wells in 19 villages and maintained water tanks for people, spending K17.56 million in the 2013-14 fiscal year. So far, the sinking of tube-wells and lakes has been completed by 90 per cent in these villages, said the head of the department,

torcycle in the evening. They apply Internet and telephone there due to better connection nearby the tower.—NLM-001

adding that other development tasks are also underway.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Pony carts still useful in central Myanmar towns

NATOGYI, 31 May—Although trawker, tuk-tuk and other taxi vehicles are very useful in the transport sector, the pony cart cannot be left in the old age, said the pony cart drivers in the townships of central Myanmar.

Now, one horse is valued at K400,000 in minimum and the pony cart with licence, K1 million. Over 70 pony carts are rolling on the roads of Natogyi Township.

A pony cart can earn K8,000-K10,000 a day

through its transportation service in the urban area. The donation ceremonies and wedding ceremonies hired the pony carts at K10,000 to K15,000 per a day. In the central Myanmar townships, the pony carts are still useful in novitiation ceremonies. So, the pony cart drivers are so easy to earn incomes.

The passengers with commodities cannot use motorcycle taxis but they rely on transport of pony carts in Natogyi Township.—Htay Myint Maung

NATIONAL

Plan underway to conduct master's degree course to turn out specialists: vice president

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May —To fulfill requirement of hospitals to assign more specialists, arrangements are being made to conduct not only master's degree courses but diploma courses, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said at the Bago General Hospital on his inspection tour on Saturday.

He continued that Bago General Hospital provides health care services to about 300 patients daily although it is a 200-bed hospital. It is necessary to build the recreation hall for relatives of patients and staff quarters. He noted that the private sector needs to join hands with the government in public health care services.

In the morning, the

vice president paid homage to Shwemawdaw Pagoda and Shwethalyaung reclining Buddha image in Bago and visited Kanbawzathadi Palace.

The palace was built in 1556 AD by King Bayint Naung. The Archaeology Department excavated the palace as of 1990 and found various buildings of the palace.

MNA

**Vice President
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
comforts child patients
at Bago General
Hospital on his
inspection tour.**

MNA



Work coord meeting on Public Service Media bill held



A meeting to clarify Public Service Media bill in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — Union Minister U Aung Kyi made clarification on the Public Service Media bill at a work coordination

meeting on Saturday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, officials from Myanmar Press Council (Interim),

Chief Editor of the Mizima Daily U Soe Myint, U Nay Tun Naing from the Daily Eleven Newspaper and Staff Officer U Tin

Htwe from Lower House Office reported on their comments and suggestion over the bill to Union Minister U Aung Kyi.—MNA

Union Health Minister attends 67th World Health Assembly, 135th Meeting of Governing Body of WHO

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attended the 67th World Health Assembly and the 135th Meeting of Governing Body of World Health Organization at the UN in Geneva of Switzerland from 19 to 27 May.

At the opening ceremony of the assembly on 19 May, leaders of the delegates explained country statements on mutual impacts of environment on the health sector.

The Union minister also attended the health ministers meeting in Gene-

va on 18 May and explained maternal and child health care services and implementation of the millennium development goals for the health sector.

On 20 May, he discussed immunization programme and new vaccination at the ministerial

meeting for enhancement of vaccination in the Brussels of Belgium. The union minister met France's Health and Social Minister Mrs Marisol Touraine in Paris of France and focused on promotion of cooperation in health sector between the two countries.—MNA

Cancer leading...

(from page 1)

to 22 million within the next two decades.

Radiation therapy, including intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), can stop cancer

cells from dividing and growing, thus slowing or stopping tumor growth. In many cases, radiation therapy is capable of killing all of the cancer cells, Dr Shun Weng Yoon, specialist at Mahakota Medical Centre in Malaysia,

said at a health talk on Saturday in Yangon.

All data from medical studies indicate about 35 percent of cancer are related to nutritional factors. To help prevent cancer, people should eat a wide variety of foods rich in

nutrients that protect their body's cells from damage such as grapefruit, peanut and peanut butter, berries, sweet potatoes, wild salmon, ground flaxseed, tea, cruciferous vegetables, turmeric and pomegranates.

Union Minister says national development requires more qualified human resources

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — As qualified engineers, technicians and skilled workers play an essential part in national development, education policies that can meet international standard are being laid to ensure success in the long run, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein said in a meeting on management and quality assurance of technological universities that took place at the Technical and Vocational Education

Department in Yangon on Saturday.

He called on faculty members to prepare themselves for self-improvement and make arrangements as universities will have autonomy from ministerial control when the independent university law comes into effect.

Speaking of the systematic establishment of the national quality assurance system and the national qualification framework, he pointed out that much remains to be done in coor-

dination with international bodies.

Investment in education is vital and the education budget has reached around K600 billion, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane told an education seminar at Yangon University the same day. Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein stressed the importance of upgrading the university as a centre of excellence, improved quality for teachers and students, transfer of faculty members, and incentives to research.—MNA

Myanmar will not tolerate...

(from page 1)

The facts stated in these two diplomatic notes from the Bangladesh side are totally far from the real situation on the ground.

Therefore, Daw Maw Maw, Director-General of the Department of Training, Research and Foreign Languages, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, handed over the Aide-Memoire to Maj-Gen (Rtd) Anup Kumar Chakma, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 31 May 2014 at 1030 hours, categorically rejecting the claims mentioned by the Bangladesh side. U Kyaw Zeya, Deputy Director-General of the Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh were also present on the occasion.

Regarding the incidents on 28 May 2014 and 30 May 2014, Myanmar will not tolerate any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity; still, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will resort to diplomatic means to solve problems peacefully in view of existing bilateral friendly relations and good neighbourliness.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nay Pyi Taw
31 May 2014

New Indian government fights power cuts in Delhi, biggest state



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 31 May — India's new energy minister pulled an all-night work session to tackle power cuts caused by a dust storm in New Delhi on Friday and provide more electricity to the country's largest state that is suffering outages in sweltering summer heat.

The power crunch is a test of whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in power for less than a week, can live up to the reputation for reliable services he built during more than a decade as chief minister of Gujarat. Uttar Pradesh, where one in six Indians live, has been hit by black-outs of up to 12 hours a day as temperatures soared and were expected to reach 45 degrees Celsius (113 de-

grees Fahrenheit) in the state capital of Lucknow on Saturday.

Piyush Goyal, minister of state for power, coal, and new and renewable energy, said in a series of overnight tweets that he would ensure that a request from Uttar Pradesh for an extra 325 megawatts of power would be met by Saturday morning. Peak demand for power in Uttar Pradesh is around 12,700 MW, around 2,000 MW in excess of supply that has been available until now due to power station shutdowns and delays in buying coal stocks, the government says.

Goyal also said action was being taken to address power disruptions in the capital. Friday's sudden dust storm caused widespread damage, halted the city's metro and, according to news reports, killed at least nine people.

"We will do an all-nighter to monitor the situation & expedite restoration work. Ours is a 24x7 government," he wrote in a tweet.—Reuters

Japan, S Korea, US to jointly tackle missile threats from N Korea

SINGAPORE, 31 May — The defence chiefs of Japan, South Korea and the United States agreed on Saturday to jointly counter missile threats from North Korea, stressing the importance of sharing information within the three-party framework.

Meeting on the sidelines of the Asia Security Summit, Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera assured US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel and South Korean Defence Minister Kim Kwan Jin that Tokyo has not budged on its stance to pile pressure on North Korea to take concrete steps toward denuclearization.

"Japan places importance on resolving the abductions and the nuclear and missile development issues altogether," Onodera was quoted by a Japanese Defence Ministry official as saying. Tokyo and Pyongyang, which held the latest round of intergovernmental talks through Wednesday in Stockholm, announced on Thursday that North Korea will

launch a reinvestigation into the whereabouts of Japanese nationals abducted by the reclusive state in the 1970s and 1980s.

The three countries aim to form a joint front against North Korea, whose provocative actions continue to raise tensions in the Asia-Pacific region where China's military influence is also growing. The ministers agreed that North Korea should not be accepted as a nuclear state. As Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has prioritized resolving the abduction issue during his tenure, some experts say the agreement between Japan and North Korea could be a breakthrough, but trilateral cooperation may remain a stumbling block.

Japan is trying to rework its security framework with a review of legal restraints on exercising the right to collective self-defence, a move that has raised the hackles of South Korea, which suffered under Japanese colonial rule.

Kyodo News

Xi says China won't stir trouble in South China Sea

SHANGHAI, 31 May — Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed not to stir up trouble in the South China Sea but said China would react "in the necessary way" to provocations by other countries, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The comments come at a time of deep tension between China and Vietnam over Beijing's decision in early May to move an oil rig into disputed waters between the Paracel islands and the Vietnamese coast.

Days after China deployed the rig, the Philippines accused Beijing of reclaiming land on a disputed reef in the Spratlys to build what would be its first airstrip in the South China Sea. "We will never stir up trouble, but will react in the necessary way to the provocations of countries involved," Xinhua quoted Xi late on Friday as saying in a meeting with Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia,

which is also embroiled in a long-running maritime dispute with China.

Brunei and Taiwan also claim parts of the potentially oil- and gas-rich South China Sea. China has become increasingly willing and able to assert its claims over disputed waters, causing concern among the other parties to the disputes, analysts say.

The decision to deploy the oil rig enraged Vietnam and sparked anti-China rioting. Scores of Vietnamese and Chinese ships continue to square off around the rig and a Vietnamese boat sank this week after a collision that both sides blamed on the other.

Xi told Najib the situation in the South China Sea was "stable in general, but signs deserving our attention have also emerged".

China and Malaysia should "work together to strengthen dialogue and communication, advance maritime cooperation and



China's President Xi Jinping delivers a speech to the media during the fourth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit, in Shanghai on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

joint development to maintain peace and stability on the South China Sea", Xinhua quoted him as saying.

Southeast Asian nations with maritime claims have been slow to band together against China, but last week Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Philippine President Benigno Aquino made a rare joint denunciation of China.

To try to keep pressure on Beijing, diplomats

said Vietnam might host a meeting with Philippine and Malaysian officials at the end of the month to discuss how to respond to China. A senior Malaysian diplomatic source told Reuters two weeks ago that China's assertiveness had given momentum to the three-way talks and "brought us together", but he played down the discussions as little more than "chit chat" at this stage.

Reuters

Protesters to test Thai junta, no vote for over a year



Soldiers take position along roads blocked around the Victory Monument, where anti-coup protesters were gathering on previous days, in Bangkok on 30 May, 2014.

REUTERS

BANGKOK, 31 May — Protesters will test Thai coup leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha this weekend after he said there would be no elections in Thailand for more than a year to give the military time to engineer reforms.

Prayuth ousted the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on 22 May after months of sometimes violent protests. The general set out a plan for reconciliation and

reform late on Friday in a televised address to the nation. Reforms could only be implemented if there was peace and stability and would take about a year, he said. After that, elections would be held.

"All that I have outlined will not succeed if all sides do not cease demonstrating politically," he said. "This process will take approximately a year, depending on the situation."

Thailand has become polarised between supporters of Yingluck and her influential brother, deposed premier Thaksin Shinawatra, and the royalist establishment that sees Thaksin and his populist ways as a threat to the old order.

Thaksin's appeal among poorer voters, especially in the populous, rural northeast and north, has ensured that he or his allies have won every election

since 2001.

Prayuth justified his takeover and the tough measures he introduced afterwards, which have included the detention of about 250 people, censorship of the media and a ban on gatherings. Most of those detained have been freed.

"We cannot keep fighting each other just because we think differently," said Prayuth. "Every side must find a way to cooperate."

Despite martial law and a ban on gatherings, small protests against the military takeover have been held almost daily in Bangkok. There has been no serious violence.

For a second day on Friday, soldiers mounted a big operation at the central Victory Monument, sealing it off and preventing anyone from gathering. Sometimes rowdy crowds had faced off with soldiers and police at the Bangkok landmark earlier in the week. Activists, spreading word through social media, say they will hold a big show of opposition on the weekend, to press for the restoration of democracy.

Reuters

WORLD

Ukraine to push on with army offensive, row grows over Russian fighters reports

KIEV/ DONETSK (Ukraine), 31 May — Ukraine's government vowed on Friday to press ahead with a military offensive against separatists, despite a deadly attack on an army helicopter, amid increasing reports that fighters from Russia have been involved in rebellions in the east.

President-elect Petro Poroshenko, who scored an overwhelming first-round victory in a poll on 25 May, swore to punish those responsible for the shooting down on Thursday of the helicopter near Slaviansk, which killed 14 servicemen including a general.

Acting Defence Minister Mykhilo Koval, repeating charges that Russia was carrying out "special operations" in the east



A Ukrainian helicopter Mi-24 gunship fires its cannons against rebels at the main terminal building of Donetsk international airport, on 26 May, 2014.—REUTERS

of Ukraine, said on Friday that Ukrainian forces would continue with military operations in border areas "until these regions

begin to live normally, until there is peace".

Elsewhere in Ukraine's troubled eastern regions, a separatist group detained

a second four-person team of monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Vienna-based OSCE said.

Last Monday separatists in another area detained a four-man OSCE team and have not yet released them.

Ukrainian authorities have long alleged that the rebellions have been fomented by Moscow among the largely Russian-speaking population, which is especially vulnerable to cross-border propaganda hostile to Kiev's "Euro-Maidan" revolution that overthrew Moscow-backed President Viktor Yanukovich in February. Reports by Ukrainian border authorities and journalists on the ground now appear to show increasing evidence of direct involvement by fighters from Russia in the rebellions that erupted two months ago in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Reuters

US-Russian relations remain strained amid ongoing Ukraine crisis

WASHINGTON, 31 May — The US-Russian relations remain strained amid the ongoing Ukraine crisis, with no apparent signs of easing tensions on the horizon, US experts said.

The United States and Russia have been at odds in recent months over the surprise deployment of Russian troops into Crimea, Ukraine. Washington blasted the Russian move for violating international law and slapped sanctions on Russia as punishment, though Moscow defended it as simply protecting the region's Russian-speaking population.

The development has caused a rift between the White House and the Kremlin, although experts said any military conflict between the two countries is highly unlikely.

Still, there is no US ambassador in Moscow three months into the Ukraine crisis after former Ambassador Michael McFaul left the Russian capital a day before Russia's surprise troop deployment.

The spat has given way to much sabre rattling, with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week publicly mocking his US counterpart Barack Obama.

"Who is he to judge, seriously? If he wants to judge people, why doesn't he get a job in court somewhere?" Putin said in an interview with the CNBC, reflecting his view that the United States should not interfere with events in Ukraine.

"I think Putin ... made an assessment of Obama and decided that (Obama) is weaker than Putin. And therefore that Putin can push Obama on a number of issues," Ariel Cohen, senior research fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies at the Heritage Foundation, told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Russia to build national payment system after Japanese, Chinese models

Moscow, 31 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia is going to create its national payment system (NPS) based on the experience of the Japan Credit Bureau and China's Union-Pay.

"We must bear in mind that in future it (the NPS) will sign corresponding agreements with its foreign partners, so it could gradually move to the international market," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted Putin as saying.

He told head of Russia's VTB bank Andrei

Kostin that the prospective Russian NPS should learn from national payment systems which already work in Japan and China.

Kostin informed the president that 300 Russian banks have currently been united into a single electronic payment processing system.

"This could be a prototype of the NPS," Kostin said. The Russian financial system ought to expand operations in currencies other than the US dollar, first of all in rubles and Chinese yuan, Kostin added.

Xinhua

Norway pledges support to Lebanon over refugee crisis

BEIRUT, 31 May — Visiting Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister said on Friday that his country will continue supporting the Lebanese state in dealing with the Syrian refugees crisis, hoping to find a quick solution to the conflict in Syria to end the "humanitarian crisis."

Brende said following meeting with his Lebanese counterpart Gebran Bassil that "Norway was the first state which financed the fund established by the World Bank to help Lebanon during the International Support Group meeting that was held in Paris", stressing that his country would continue to support the fund.

He said "we will not only partake in the next conference of donors in Germany, but we will also continue to support Lebanon as it is our partner."

He added "we are committed until the end to offer the Lebanese government the needed support to bear this crisis," Brende said, voicing hope that the conflict in Syria would be resolved as soon as possible. The top diplomat revealed that his country will participate in the Rome conference that aims at fortifying the capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces and easing the Syrian refugees' crisis.—Xinhua

IMF to double funding for Bosnia over flooding

SARAJEVO, 31 May — The International Monetary Fund is ready to double funding for Bosnia under its standby loan deal to help it cope with the effects of the worst flooding in living memory, an IMF official told Reuters on Friday.

The lender completed a 10-day visit to Bosnia on Friday to discuss its 380 million euro standby arrangement, which was frozen in February after economic reforms stalled, as well as the damage inflicted by the recent flooding.

"We reached agreements with the authorities on a set of policies that would allow us to complete combined sixth and

seventh reviews (under the deal)," Ron van Rooden, the head of the IMF visiting mission, said in an interview.

The mission will propose that next month the IMF Executive Board increase the funding for Bosnia from the originally planned 95 million euros to a total of 190 million euro (\$260 million), Van Rooden said. He expected the national parliament to pass several outstanding laws next week that would allow the IMF to unfreeze its loan deal.

They include a law raising excise taxes on fine cut tobacco, a law against money laundering and sub-

sequent changes to a criminal code.

"Given the natural disaster that happened, the impact it will no doubt have on the economy and government finances, we want to help the governments to make sure they can continue to function ... and provide the governments with additional financing," Van Rooden said.

While Bosnia's economy was growing at around 2 percent before the floods, graft and 27.5 percent unemployment have stirred tensions. In February, these erupted in the worst unrest since the end of the 1990s war that broke up Yugoslavia.—Reuters



A man stands on the balcony after the first floor of his house was flooded in Topcic Polje on 21 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Kyrgyzstan national charged with hampering Boston bombing probe



Runners continue to run towards the finish line of the Boston Marathon as an explosion erupts near the finish line of the race in this photo exclusively licensed to Reuters by photographer Dan Lampariello after he took the photo in Boston, Massachusetts, on 15 April, 2013. — REUTERS

BOSTON, 31 May — US officials on Friday charged a Kyrgyzstan national who bought dinner for the accused Boston Marathon bombers the night of the attack with interfering with the investigation into the deadly bombing.

Khairullozhon Ma-

tanov, a 23-year-old taxi driver who lives in Quincy, Massachusetts, appeared in court to face one criminal count of destroying records and three counts of lying to officials in a terrorism investigation. Dressed in a white T-shirt and jeans, and unshaven, Matanov

told US Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler that he understood English and did not require the assistance of an interpreter, and that he had no family in the United States.

"I am a cab driver," he said, when asked his occupation. Prosecutors said in

court papers Matanov had been friends with accused bombers Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, spoke with both in the days after the blast but lied to police about the extent of his relationship with the pair.

Matanov, who had hiked a New Hampshire mountain with Tamerlan Tsarnaev to "train like, and praise, the 'mujahideen,'" deleted searches related to the attacks from his computer, tried to dispose of cell phones he had used, and denied knowing much about the pair in interviews with police, prosecutors said. Mujahideen refers to Islamic guerilla fighters.

Bowler ordered him held until next Wednesday, when a hearing will take place to determine if he may be released on bail.

Matanov was not accused of playing a role in the 15 April, 2013, bombing, which killed three people and injured 264.

Reuters

Obama to meet Ukraine's president-elect in Poland

WASHINGTON, 31 May — US President Barack Obama will meet Ukrainian President-elect Petro Poroshenko in Poland next week, a US official said on Friday.

The leaders will meet on Wednesday during Obama's upcoming trip to Europe, which will also include stops in Belgium and France, Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters in a telephone conference.

Obama will begin his four-day trip with a celebration in Warsaw to mark the 25th anniversary of Poland's first elections after communist rule. He will later meet leaders of G7 countries in Brussels before going to France for the 70th anniversary commemorations of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

US State Secretary John Kerry will accompany Obama during his visit to Poland and France, the State Department said in a statement on Friday.

At a regular Press briefing on Friday, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Russian troops are withdrawing from the Ukraine border. "There continue to be indications of activity on the border, including a number of units that appear to have withdrawn," Carney said. "We do not have confirmation that this represents a full withdrawal yet."

Over two-thirds of Russian troops have now pulled back from the border and several thousand troops still remain in the vicinity, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a press briefing on Friday.

Xinhua

Afghan gov't welcomes US forces pullout, MPs warn of negative impact

KABUL, 31 May — As the Afghan Arg, or Presidential Palace, has welcomed the US decision to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by 2016, some parliamentarians have warned of severe economic crisis in the wake of the complete pullout.

US President Barack Obama announced plan on Tuesday to keep nearly 9,800 troops in Afghanistan after 2014 but virtually withdrawing all by the end of 2016.

The Presidential Palace in a statement released on Wednesday expressed support to the White House decision to withdraw troops.

"The United States government announced that, within a schedule, it will reduce to zero the number of its combat troops in Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomes this decision by the United States," the Presidential Palace statement said.

"The government of Afghanistan is grateful to the international community for its assistance and remains confident that the Afghan forces will, as they did throughout history,

protect their people and territorial integrity with courage and valor," it added.

However, a member of Wolesi Jirga or Lower House of Afghan parliament, argued, "If the NATO-led forces withdrew, the Afghan government would not be able to pay its security forces even for a single year." The lawmaker, Shukria Barezai, also opined that President Obama's decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan would encourage the Taliban and their foreign supporters, the *Daily Outlook* newspaper reported on Friday. "In the prevailing circumstances, maintaining good relations with America is inevitable for Afghanistan," said another lawmaker Kamal Nasir Osuli, quoted by the *Daily Afghanistan* newspaper.

The *Daily Afghanistan* in its editorial advocated the presence of US-led troops in Afghanistan, saying "the military presence of the US and allied nations in Afghanistan would disappoint the Taliban militants and their foreign supporters to intervene into Afghanistan affairs."

Xinhua

Venezuelan gov't slams opposition over assassination plot

CARACAS, 31 May — The Venezuelan government on Friday slammed the opposition's "irresponsible and foolish" attitude toward an abortive assassination and coup plot against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

At a Press conference, top Socialist leader and Mayor of Caracas Jorge Rodriguez criticized Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, secretary of the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), who on Thursday called the plot a "smoke curtain" designed to distract the attention of Venezuelans from a "severe economic and social crisis."

"The most serious thing a politician would have done is to request an investigation," Rodriguez said. Venezuelan authorities on Wednesday said they foiled a plot by opposition leaders, international financiers and officials backed by the US State Department to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro and take over the country. The government also accused former right-wing deputy Maria Corina Machado of being behind the schemes, saying several e-mails linked her directly to actions aimed at fomenting a violent regime change in Venezuela. — Xinhua

Residents take part in a national earthquake and tsunami drill, organized by the National Institute of Civil Defence, in Lima city, capital of Peru, on 30 May, 2014. XINHUA



Brazil's Justice Minister: Abuse in protests will not be tolerated

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 May — Brazil's Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo said on Friday that no abuse, either from authorities or protesters, will be tolerated in any protests which might occur during the FIFA World Cup.

Minister Cardozo commented on a Ministry handbook which aims to guide policemen's actions in protests, and said that the Brazilian government is working to ensure excellent security during the tournament. "I can assure that the concentrated efforts of all organs, the Justice and Defence Ministries and the police forces, for everything to work out, left great results," the Minister

said. "We will work hard to ensure excellent security for the Cup, to the best of our capacity."

Last June, amid the FIFA Confederations Cup, Brazil was taken over by massive protests which took millions of citizens to the streets, protesting against poor public services, such as education, healthcare and urban transportation.

In many of those protests, there were violent conflicts between protesters and the police. Authorities accused protesters of vandalism, but the police was accused several times of using excessive force against peaceful protesters. — Xinhua

WORLD

Rwandan rebels begin to surrender, but demand talks with Kigali

BULEUSA, (Democratic Republic of Congo), 31 May — Rwandan rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo began what they claimed was the first step in disarming their fighters on Friday, but warned that continuing the process would depend on the government in Kigali agreeing to talks.

The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) said last month that they would “lay down their weaponry and consecrate themselves to political struggle.” About 100 fighters surrendered during a ceremony in North Kivu Province, handing in weapons including some heavy artillery, according to a *Reuters* witness.

“With this act of good faith the international community is called to assume its responsibility to obtain a political dialogue among Rwandans,” said FDLR president, General



United Nations peace keepers record details of weapons recovered from the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militants after their surrender in Kateku, a small town in eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on 30 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Victor Byiringiro.

Authorities in Rwanda have repeatedly rejected the possibility of negotiations with the FDLR, which Kigali considers a terrorist organization that espouses a genocidal ideology.

Composed in part of former soldiers and

Hutu militia who fled into Congo after massacring around 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus during Rwanda’s 1994 genocide, the FDLR has since sought to topple the government of President Paul Kagame.

They are regularly accused of human rights

abuses, including civilian massacres. And this week FDLR fighters burned homes and schools in North Kivu’s Walikale district during clashes with a rival militia group, according to United Nations-sponsored radio.

Reuters

Israeli police foils suicide bomb attack in West Bank

JERUSALEM, 31 May — Israeli forces arrested a Palestinian would-be suicide bomber in the northern West Bank on Friday, thwarting an attack that would likely have had disastrous results, a senior police officer told *Xinhua*.

The Palestinian man approached a security checkpoint manned by Border Police troops at Tapuah Junction, south of Nablus, arousing suspicion due to the heavy coat he was wearing on a hot day and his “strange” acting, Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

Police officers aimed their rifles at the man and ordered him to halt, while the man said he was carrying a bomb.

He then removed his coat, revealing about a dozen iron pipes connected to electrical wires wrapped around his waist, only one

of which was later found having explosive material.

Border police sappers were called to the scene and disarmed the bomb, Rosenfeld said.

A military spokeswoman identified the bomber, in his 20s, as a resident of a refugee camp near the Palestinian city of Nablus, saying that he was taken into custody and handed over to the Shin Bet intelligence agency for questioning.

It was not immediately clear whether the suspect was affiliated with a militant group and what target he intended to attack.

Israeli daily *Ha’aretz* quoted an army officer as saying that details of the man’s intentions were scant. “It’s not clear that the target was the Tapuah Junction. He may have been waiting for someone to pick him up.”—*Xinhua*

13 killed in attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May — A total of 13 people were killed and 17 others wounded in separate bombings and shootings across Iraq on Friday, police sources said.

An employee who works for the Iraqi Oil Ministry was killed when a sticky bomb exploded in his car in western capital Baghdad’s Ghazaliya district, a police source told *Xinhua*.

A civilian was killed and six others were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a popular fruit market in the Tarmiyah area, 30 km north of Baghdad, the source added.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb was detonated near an army

patrol, leaving an Iraqi soldier killed and four others wounded in the Abu Gh-raib area, 25 km west of Baghdad.

In addition, a policeman was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb targeted their patrol near the town of Dujail, 60 km north of Baghdad.

Four militants of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant were killed in a clash with Iraqi army near the city of Fallujah.

In a raid by unidentified gunmen against a civilian vehicle, two soldiers and a civilian were killed and another soldier wounded, when they were traveling west of the city of Tikrit, 170 km north of Baghdad.—*Xinhua*

Syrians pin hope on upcoming presidential election

HOMS, (Syria), 31 May — Despite the destruction that has befallen its sprawling old quarters, people in the central city of Homs have welcomed the upcoming presidential election as a “new democratic experience.” “We are so pleased with presidential campaigns that are taking place, we are so pleased that we have multi candidates and that we would have a free and democratic opinion to express,” Asmahan Mulhim, a woman from Homs told *Xinhua*.

Homs, Syria’s third largest city, was one of the first areas to sympathize

with an anti-government movement in Syria. The rebels there took considerable swathes of land, but government troops have stripped them of their territory over the past year.

Recently, the rebels have evacuated the old quarters of Homs under a deal concluded with the Syrian government troops, leaving the old city in ruins due to the intensity of the clashes there that lasted over two years.

The old city is still empty of people, who have started trickling back to check their destroyed homes and take what’s

left of their belongings and only few campaigning posters of President Bashar al-Assad were seen in the battered area, incomparable with the intensive campaign in the other part of the city that hasn’t witnessed many battles.

Fully securing Homs was crucial for the administration of President Assad ahead of the 3 June presidential election, because of the strategic location of Homs in central Syria and on the international road that connects the capital Damascus with the central and northern regions.

“We are so happy that

Homs has returned back to us and the homeland and we are so happy in Homs,” Mulhim said.

The three candidates — incumbent President Assad, former minister Hassan al-Nouri and lawmaker Maher Hajjar — have put forth their electoral platforms, including how to rescue the collapsed economy. The election will be the first to be held in half a century, even though Assad is highly expected to win a third 7-year term in the office as the other two candidates are little known and have no real popularity on ground.—*Xinhua*

Egypt’s Sabahi contests presidential elections results

CAIRO, 31 May — The defeated candidate in Egypt’s presidential election, Hamdeen Sabahi, appealed on Friday against results that gave former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi victory, saying election rules had been broken.

Leftist politician Sabahi won 3 percent of votes in the election against more than 93 percent of votes cast for Sisi, judicial sources said. Official results have yet to be announced.

The election took place against the background of a crackdown against supporters of Mohamed Mursi,

deposed as president by the army last July, which has seen his Muslim Brotherhood outlawed, hundreds killed and thousands arrested.

On Thursday, Sabahi conceded defeat but said the official turnout figures were too high and were “an insult to the intelligence of Egyptians”.

Sabahi’s campaign said in a statement it had made a legal complaint to the elections committee objecting to “the existence of campaigning inside polling stations” by Sisi supporters, among other abuses.

It also appealed to the committee to nullify all votes cast on the third day of polling.

Authorities extended voting by one day at the last minute on Tuesday, an extraordinary measure that observer missions said raised questions about the integrity of the electoral process although it was not an illegal move.

Sisi led the overthrow of Mursi after mass protests against his rule. Sabahi came third in 2012 elections that brought Mursi to power as Egypt’s first freely elected leader.—*Reuters*



Presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi waits to cast his vote during the presidential election in Cairo, on 26 May, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 June, 2014

People-centred Government and People-centred Media

By Kyaw Thura

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

Former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson

It is safe to assume that democracy is incomplete without press freedom. This view is supported by former American president Thomas Jefferson by arguing that only with the exchange of information and opinion through the press

would the truth emerge.

The notion that the introduction of a free press propels democracy is not new. This precept is deeply embedded in democratic theory and practice. It is insufficient for a government to merely introduce infrastructural and institutional changes and then ignore the role the press and media can play in a transition to democracy.

Since media has been widely proclaimed as the 'Fourth Pillar', it is necessary for both the press and the government to start adopting a people-centred attitude. It is transparency that provides the best protection against tyranny and excesses of arbitrary rule. The press can help people in power to become aware of public discontent and seek ways out.

In both new and old democracies, media is recognized as a watchdog rather than a passive recorder of events. It is widely accepted that the watchdog press plays guardian of public interests, thereby warning people against who is doing harm to them.

Where information is stifled or censored, democracy cannot take shape. As claimed by the United Nations Development Programme, addressing poverty requires not only a transfer of economic resources to the needy, but also making information available to the poor so that they can participate more meaningfully in political and social activities.

Unless the media helps build peace and social harmony, democracy is threatened. Unless the media is poised to fight for the truth, democracy is threatened. Unless the media is free from the intervention of owners and the government, democracy is threatened.

It is incumbent on both the media and the government to steer the country to a democracy dreamed by the general public.

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.

Raise Taxes on Tobacco

Dr Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe

The above-mentioned theme is meant for World No Tobacco Day 2014 which falls on 31 May. World No Tobacco Day is celebrated all over the world every year on that day to raise awareness for tobacco control.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first evidence-based agreement negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization to combat the tobacco epidemic by such strategies as demand reduction, supply issues and so on. It represents a paradigm shift in developing a regulatory strategy to tobacco-based additive substance.

Globally, more than 5 million people die per year of tobacco-related cancer, stroke, lung pathologies, heart attack etc, major proportion of figure being preventable. This stimulates WHO to develop anti-tobacco campaigns in order to avoid annual death toll reaching 8 million deaths in 2030. Having killed 100 million people during 20th century, tobacco epidemic could kill 1 billion during 21st century, according to an estimate.

Moreover, additional 600,000 persons, among whom more than 25 percent are innocent children, die from exposure to second-hand smoke, i.e, tobacco smoke inhaled by a non-smoker or a child in near vicinity of a smoker. Nevertheless, third hand smoke is hazardous as well. A recent US study reveals.

When a cigarette burns, nicotine is released in the form of a vapor that collects and adheres on indoor surfaces such as walls, carpeting, drapes and furniture, where it can live for months. When this residual nicotine reacts with ambient nitrous acid it forms carcinogenic tobacco specific nitrosamines, or TSNAs, one of the most broadly acting and potent carcinogens present in unburned tobacco smoke. The most likely exposure to TSNAs is through either inhalation of dust or the contact of skin with carpets or clothes — making third-hand smoke particularly dangerous to infants and toddlers. Opening a window or turning on a fan, exhaust fan to air out a room, a cigarette burn does not eliminate the hazards of third-hand smoke. Smoking outdoor does not help much either, the study says.

More than 80 percent of the one billion smokers world-wide live in lower and middle income countries where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest. A variety of complex factors facilitates the globalization of tobacco epidemic viz foreign investments, trade, cross border inlets and outlets, global marketing, transnational tobacco advertising, promotion, sponsorship, the international movement of contraband and counterfeit cigarettes etc.

In July 1998, pre-existing tobacco-control endeavours of WHO was re-

organized within a new structure, viz, the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI). Without delay, Myanmar, a WHO member nation, also responded. The National Health Committee issued guidelines for preventive and control of tobacco-related diseases in September 1998. Moreover, National Programme on Tobacco Control was officially launched in January 2000 with drafting and approval of the National Policy on Tobacco Control and Plan of Action. The National Tobacco Control Committee was formed in March 2002, headed by the then minister for Health and included heads of related departments and several NGOs as members.

Since the year 2000, Ministry of Information prohibited advertisement of tobacco on television and radio and all electronic media, and later barred from the newspapers, journals and magazines in April 2003.

The control of smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law was adopted on 4 May 2006, which was a very significant milestone in the history of public health of Myanmar and was highly appreciated by the World Health Organization. A vast number of non-smoking areas such as hospital buildings, offices, medical treatment centres and indoor playing fields, universities, colleges, schools, markets, departmental stores, lifts, escalators, public transport vehicles,

aircrafts and so on were distinguished.

In May, 1999, the World Health Assembly, the body of the World Health Organization, adopted a resolution (WHA 52.18) in which paved the way for starting negotiation on the WHO FCTC and possible related protocols. Myanmar actively participated in the negotiating process of the WHO FCTC and strongly supported the conventions. Myanmar proudly hosted the 4th Inter-country Consultation Meeting of Framework Convention of Tobacco Control in August 2002, where the "Yangon Declaration" was issued by the countries of South East Asia Region of WHO. Myanmar became a signatory to the FCTC on the 23rd October 2003 which was followed by becoming the 11th country as a Party to the convention, on the 20th of April 2004. The WHO FCTC is aimed to fight the tobacco epidemic and people around the world to claim their right to health, healthy living and to protect future generations.

As we grow old, we pensioners face so many challenges of ageing process, including cancers, cardiovascular events, strokes, osteoporosis, falls and fractures. Along with hearing defects, impaired vision is also a factor lowering the Quality of Life (QOL) of elders. Among so many causes of their usual disturbances, Macular Degeneration is one. Smoking continues to increase one's

risk for age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of blindness in Americans over 65, according to a new study. Analysis of 1,958 women who underwent retinal photographs at five-year intervals, starting with a baseline exam at age 78, four percent, or 75 of the women smoked. In the study, researchers at University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) compared the retinal images at ages 78 and 83 to check for the appearance of AMD and found that overall women who smoked had 11 percent higher rates of AMD than other women of their same age. In women over 80,

High yield paddy seeds distributed for alternative development

NAMSANG, 31 May—A ceremony to distribute crops seeds for alternative development was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Namsang of Loilem District in Shan State (North) on Friday.

Chairman of Township Committee for Drug Abuse Control Township Administrator U Min Thura, Deputy Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Soe Myint

however, those who smoked were 5.5 times more likely to develop AMD than women of their age who did not smoke, said lead author Dr Anne Coleman, Professor of Ophthalmology at Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.

Raising taxes on tobacco, as we hope, may result in a rise of tobacco product price causing unaffordability to consumers, leading to decrease in tobacco use and discouragement to tobacco industry and hence a positive effect on public health.

(Dr Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe is a retired State Medical Superintendent holding SaMa 2351 living in Tamway, Yangon.)

and Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Nang Saw Mya explained short- and long-term plans for implementation of drug elimination, penalties and punishment for drug cases and laws, and purpose of delivering crops seeds for alternative development.

The township administrator handed over the high yield paddy seeds to local farmers through village administrators.

Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (31-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K648,100 per tical: Selling K648,600

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K647,800 per tical: Selling K648,300

FE RATE

USD Buying K964 - Selling K969

SGD Buying K764 - Selling K773

Euro Buying K1313 - Selling K1325

LOCAL NEWS

MPF Chief meets UNAIDS official

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win who is Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, received Country Director Mr Eamonn Murphy and

party of Yangon-based UNAIDS, at the MPF Office on Friday afternoon.

They discussed HIV infection and its menace, impacts on public health, reduction of danger for the police force and other or-

ganizations that are undertaking prevalence of law and order and enhancement of police capacity. The UNAIDS will hold a seminar on reduction of HIV infection in Nay Pyi Taw in June.—*Police Information*

School enrollment activities launched at BEMS in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 31 May—The 2014-15 academic year school enrollment day for

was held at Basic Education Middle School in Shaukkon Village of Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 29 May.

Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Phone Zaw Han and U Myint Shwe presented school textbooks, exercise books and cash assistance K1,000 each to high school, middle school and primary students respectively through the school heads.

They also viewed enrollment of students at the school.—*Tint Tint Khaing*



Wetlet Township gets earthen inter-village road

WETLET, 31 May—The Wetlet-Paukkan-Htangyi earthen road has been completed in Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region, spending the rural development fund in 2013-14 fiscal year.

As a result, over 18,000 local people from 18 villages have easy ac-

cess to other regions and Wetlet to do education, health, economic and social affairs.

“In the past, we were difficult to go to Wetlet. We used a pavement beside the railroad by motorcycle. But, it was danger to dodge the train. In the rainy sea-

son, we could not use the pavement totally. So, we relied on rail transportation. Now, we can use the road all the year round,” said a local of Htangyi Village.

The road is 14 miles and two furlongs long and 12 feet wide. The Rural Development Department spent K479.832 million on construction of the road.

Nan Myint (IPRD)

Ambulance donated to funeral service association

MANDALAY, 31 May — ambulance to the Bithuka Funeral Service Association.



tion on Mingyi Yan Naung Road in Pyigyidagun Township was held at the association on Thursday morning.

U Maung Gyi, wife Daw Hla and family donated an ambulance to Chairman U Mya Thein and executives of the association.

The association was formed in 2004. It gives services to the people in funeral matters, providing healthcare, donating water and refreshments and carrying out sanitation at the platform of Maha Muni Buddha Image.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Pig breeders enjoy benefits in Kyunhla Tsp

KYUNHLA, 31 May—With the aim of alleviating the poverty rate and increasing the meat production, the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary in Kyunhla Township of

Sagaing Region distributed CP pigs to local people in 2013. Now, they enjoy benefits from the pig breeding.

“I bought 22 CP pigs in the six-month installment. At that time,

one pit was valued at K70,000-K90,000 each. Now, I have sold 19 pigs and paid back the values of the pigs to the department. Moreover, I have 30 piglets born of three pigs. So, I have a plan to extend my pig breeding,” said a pig breeder.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla IPRD)



Duty of projects assigned to departmental officials in Kunhing Tsp

KUNHING, 31 May—A ceremony to assign duties of projects for 2014-15 fiscal year was held at the Planning Department of Kunhing Township, Shan State (South) on 26 May.

After delivering an address, the township administrator assigned duties to the township level officials in respective sectors.

The staff officer of the Township Planning Department reported on accom-

plishment in implementing the projects in 2013-14 fiscal year and plans for the 2014-15 FY.

Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

New school building handed over in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 31 May — A ceremony to hand over new school building was held at Basic Education Primary School in Pinle Village of Myingyan Township on Thursday.

U Khin Maung Gyi-Daw Myint Myint of La Pyaw Tun motorcycle trading on 83rd street between 40th and 41st streets in Mandalay donated construction of a brick noggin building for the school, spending K30 million.



The wellwisher handed over documents related to the building to the Ministry of Education.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Free medical treatment provided to rural people in Pinlebu Tsp

PINLEBU, 31 May—Former members of University/College/Institute 3-Rs teams (1964-84) and regional development group made trips to villages in Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region, from 25 to 28 May.

During the trips, they gave educative talks to

the local people, provided books and publications and delivered health care services.

“We make trips to the villages yearly for focusing on their development. We have plans to do so in the future,” chairman the team U Myo Thant.

The team visited Mantaw village on 25 May, Taungtaw village on 26 May and Kinpan village on 27 May and nearby villages. On 28 May, the team gave medical treatment free of charge to the local people in Pinlebu.

Township IPRD



Valeant boosts \$53.8 billion Allergan bid as Ackman opts for stock

LAVAL (Quebec), 31 May—Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc said on Friday it would boost its takeover bid for Botox-maker Allergan Inc for the second time this week, contingent on the two sides negotiating.

Laval, Quebec-based Valeant said it would pay \$72 in cash - up from \$58.30 on Wednesday — and 0.83 share of Valeant stock for each Allergan share. The revised, unsolicited offer was triggered by Pershing Square, the hedge fund controlled by Bill Ackman that is Allergan's biggest shareholder, agreeing to take only stock in Valeant for its Allergan shares. The offer is worth \$53.8 billion, up from Wednesday's \$49.9 billion bid. Allergan shares closed 5.7 percent higher at \$167.46 while Valeant

shares ended 1.5 percent higher at \$131.21. BMO analyst David Maris said the revised offer will fall short, adding it seemed "odd and erratic" that Valeant would raise the bid two days after its chief executive, Mike Pearson, promised not to negotiate against himself.

"It makes investors scratch their heads when a new bid comes in before the ink is dry on the previous one," Maris said. But analyst Ronny Gal of Bernstein Research said the offer increases pressure on Allergan to take action to raise the company's value and also to negotiate with Valeant. "The offer now appears credible," he said. "We do not think this is a 'done deal' by a long shot, but obviously the likelihood of success is higher now."

Allergan said in a state-

ment that it plans to consider Valeant's latest proposal once it receives it. It is best known for its Botox medicine, which is injected into muscles to smooth wrinkles. Ackman said he called Pearson on Friday morning and offered to take stock for his Allergan shares if Pearson increased the cash offer to other shareholders. "We believe that our gesture to the other Allergan owners makes an extraordinarily strong statement about our belief in the long-term value of this highly strategic business combination," Ackman said in a statement.

The deal value is based on Allergan's 303.5 million diluted shares outstanding as of 31 March, 2014, and Ackman's holding of 28,878,638 shares. Along with cash and shares, it also includes



The head offices of Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc are seen in Laval, Quebec on 20 May, 2014.—REUTERS

the possibility of additional payments worth up to \$7.6 billion related to future sales of an experimental eye drug.

Valeant on Wednesday raised the cash component of its bid for Allergan, but the offer disappointed

and both stocks dropped. Buying Allergan would push Valeant closer to its goal of becoming a top-five pharmaceutical company by market cap before the end of 2016, although Pearson also mused on Wednesday

about potentially breaking up the company. Allergan has criticized the sustainability of Valeant's rapid growth through acquisitions, which included contact lens maker Bausch + Lomb last year.

Reuters



Second-hand smoke risks in the spotlight

CHANGCHUN, 31 May—Chinese are becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of second-hand smoke for children, and the issue is set to gain extra prominence with World No-Tobacco Day coming up on Saturday.

Since her pregnancy, Liu Ying has been warning her family members and relatives in Xi'an of northwest China's Shaanxi Province of the dangers of smoking around babies.

"Please guard our little angel and stay away from tobacco," read stickers that Liu has distributed around her family.

Over the past year, a number of friends and relatives who frequent her family have quit smoking. "They told me they would not continue smoking at the risk of our next generation's health," she says.

In Changchun, some 2,400 km from Xi'an, Gan Quan has been busy telling the public about the harmful effect of tobacco smoke on fetuses. "Second-hand smoke may cause insufficient fetal growth, likely leading to an early abortion," says

Gan, director of the Chinese office of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

He explains that long-time exposure to second-hand smoke will increase children's health hazards and some may consequently suffer from asthma. A surge in such diseases as tympanitis, brain cancer, lymph cancer and leukaemia among children in recent years is partly related to insufficient tobacco control, Gan notes.

According to a report released by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention ahead of World No-Tobacco Day, 6.9 percent of Chinese junior school students smoke, and over 80 percent have tried smoking before the age of 13. China still faces a tough situation in controlling tobacco consumption, despite the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control taking effect in the country eight years ago, says Yu Xiuyan, a Chinese legal consultant for non-governmental organization the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.—Xinhua

TOKYO, 31 May—Hackers stole nearly \$2 million from the online bank accounts of Japanese businesses in April, a surge in theft that has prompted some banks to curtail online services and rethink compensation policies, executives and regulators say. In April there were 50 cases of theft from online accounts held by Japanese businesses with nearly 200 million yen stolen, according to a person with knowledge of the industry-wide tally, which has not been made public. That was more than the entire previous year.

Japanese businesses reported 34 cases of online banking theft for the year ended March with a total of 182 million yen (\$1.8 million) stolen, according to data released by the Japanese Bankers Association.

Earlier this month,

a senior official with Japan's Financial Services Agency told regional bank executives that regulators were concerned that online theft could cause a chain of small business failures and bankruptcies, according to participants who attended the closed-door meeting.

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and Mizuho Financial Group said their corporate customers had been hit by online thefts. Top regional lenders such as Fukuoka Financial Group and Bank of Yokohama also said their clients had also experienced losses.

Corporate users of online banking in Japan tend to be small businesses and family-owned firms. In a typical theft, hackers trick owners into surrendering passwords or gain control of poorly protected computer systems to make transfers out of their accounts, industry

officials and security experts said.

"This has become a serious problem," Masaaki Tani, president of Fukuoka Financial Group, the largest regional bank, said earlier this month.

It was not clear why cases of such theft had increased so rapidly although bankers elsewhere have warned of a growing threat from hackers. "Cybersecurity attacks are becoming increasingly complex and more dangerous," JPMorgan Chase & Co Chief Executive Jamie Dimon said in a letter to shareholders in April.

Japan's banks are divided on how to respond. Promising compensation might remove an incentive for businesses to tighten security, some executives say. At the same time, tightening security too much could kill the convenience of online banking.

In April, many regional banks suspended a service which allowed clients to transfer money on the spot to accounts that were not pre-registered. Chiba Bank reduced its online transfer limit to 10 million yen, from just under 100 million yen.

Until now, the question of whether to compensate businesses for online theft has been left to each bank. Most offer fewer protections than they do for individual accounts.

Reuters



A magnifying glass is held in front of a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Exposure to smoke in cars may worsen asthma

NEW YORK, 31 May—People with asthma may face increased risk from secondhand smoke exposure while riding in the close quarters of a vehicle, according to US researchers. In a survey covering four southern states, people exposed to secondhand smoke in vehicles were twice as likely to have asthma compared to those who were not exposed.

The study team cannot prove the smoke exposure caused asthma in the people interviewed, but they warn that smoke can seriously aggravate asthma symptoms and suggest drivers and passengers voluntarily ban smoking in their cars.

"It's problematic from a public health perspective," said Brian King, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and a co-author of the study. "Secondhand smoke is a lethal cocktail of carcinogens and toxins. You have a dangerous exposure in a very confined environment."

Asthma is a chronic disorder of the lungs and airways that causes them to swell, an inflammatory response that can be fatal. In 2007, asthma was linked to more than 3,400 US deaths, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. About 25 million Americans have been diagnosed with the condition.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Intel TV creator leaves Verizon months after deal

SAN FRANCISCO/NEW YORK, 31 May— Erik Huggers is leaving Verizon Communications Inc (VZ.N) just five months after joining the company via the acquisition of the Intel Corp (INTC.O) “On-Cue” streaming service he developed, signaling the communications giant’s waning interest in providing an Internet-delivered TV service.

The former BBC executive, who told *Reuters* on Friday he is departing the company, had worked on OnCue for Intel for more than two years before Verizon bought it in January to accelerate a push into video services, including TV channels delivered over the Internet, known as an “over the top”, or OTT, service.

While other companies have been talking up their plans to deliver such a service, a source familiar with the matter said that Verizon was now moving away from

the OTT strategy and that the departure of Huggers, who was a proponent of an Internet-only service, reflected that.

A Verizon spokesman confirmed Huggers’ departure and in regards to its strategy said, “We obtained a strong combination of technological and personnel assets from Intel Media. We intend to strategically utilize the OnCue technology and talent going forward to grow our business. That has not

changed.”

Verizon had previously said OnCue would help it offer video over its Fios fiber-optic infrastructure as well.

Seen by some as a bold attempt to revolutionize TV and others as a distraction from Intel’s chip business, Intel CEO Brian Krzanich pulled the plug and put the unit up for sale before it was launched.

Intel’s retreat from streaming TV was a disap-

pointment to people in Silicon Valley who hoped the technology company could break open a market tightly controlled by a handful of cable and entertainment conglomerates.

With the acquisition, Huggers and many of his employees moved over to Verizon, where he hoped to launch the service to consumers. But he told *Reuters* he advised his staff on Thursday that he was leaving the company.

Huggers said in an interview he had worked well with his immediate boss at Verizon, Marni Walden, recently appointed to head product development, as well as Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam.

“There were no conflicts at all. The technology is great, the team is great, the future is secure, the dream lives on. It’s time to hand the baby over to someone else,” he said.

Reuters



A Verizon logo is seen during the International CTIA WIRELESS Conference & Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana on 9 May, 2012.—REUTERS



A lionfish swims in a fish tank at a pet shop in Caracas on 7 Sept, 2010.—REUTERS

Florida turns to smart phone app to track invasive lionfish

ORLANDO (FLA), 31 May—Florida has a new phone app to help cull the invasion of its waters by the spiked lionfish, a venomous species that is devouring other fish and harming reef ecosystems.

The state is home to more than 500 non-native species, but few as rampant in the wild as the marauding lionfish, which is fast-reproducing and has a voracious appetite. It preys on native fish such as yellowtail snapper, Nassau grouper and banded coral shrimp, and other crustaceans.

“The lionfish has no known natural predators in the Atlantic ... and the ability to spawn year-round,” according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. With zebra-like stripes of red, brown and cream, they are native to the tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans. Since their first sighting off Florida’s Atlantic coast 25 years ago, the banded lionfish population has increased rapidly, according to the wildlife agency.

Popular aquarium fish, they have spread from Florida to Cape Hatteras, North

Carolina, and to the Bahamas.

The Report Florida Lionfish app is designed to help the state collect data and raise awareness of the danger of invasive species, while encouraging people to report sightings so the fish can be removed from the state’s waterways, says Amanda Nalley of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The first 250 successful users of the app will get a free Lionfish Control Team T-shirt with an inter-active logo which, via the free Aurasma app, can display a lionfish video.

Those who have no smart devices can report lionfish at MyFWC.com/fishing. Officials warn the lionfish spikes can deliver a painful, though non-fatal, sting to humans.

State wildlife officials have also invited public participation in the fight against other invasive species. A state-sponsored Myanmar python hunt in the Florida Everglades in January 2013 helped collect data, raise awareness and remove some of the giant snakes there.

Reuters

Google in quandary over how to uphold EU privacy ruling

BRUSSELS, 31 May—Google and other Internet companies find themselves in a quandary over how to strike a balance between privacy and freedom of information as the top world search engine took a first step towards upholding an EU privacy ruling.

Google moved overnight to put up an online form that will allow European citizens to request that links to obsolete information be taken down — its

first response to the ruling by Europe’s top court on “the right to be forgotten”.

The ruling on 13 May upheld a 1995 European law on data protection and ordered Google to remove links to a 1998 newspaper article about the repossession of a Spanish man’s home.

That puts Google and other internet companies in the position of having to interpret the court’s broad criteria for information that

is “inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant” as well as developing criteria for distinguishing public figures from private individuals.

After putting up the online form in the early hours of Friday, Google received 12,000 requests across Europe, sometimes averaging 20 per minute, by late in the day, the company said.

“The court’s ruling requires Google to make difficult judgements about an individual’s right to be

forgotten and the public’s right to know,” a Google spokesman said.

Next week representatives from the EU’s 28 data protection authorities are due to discuss the implications of the ruling at a two-day meeting.

Digital rights campaigners say the EU authorities need to agree on a common approach to guide the search engine companies.

Reuters

SpaceX unveils sleek spaceship to fly US astronauts

CAPE CANAVERAL (FLA), 31 May—Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, on Thursday unveiled an upgraded passenger version of the *Dragon* cargo ship NASA buys for resupply runs to the *International Space Station*.

Rather than parachuting down into the ocean, the new capsule is outfitted with beefed up motors and landing legs to make precision touchdowns on land, said SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk, a billionaire technology

entrepreneur who also runs the Tesla Motors Inc electric car company.

“You’ll be able to land anywhere on Earth with the accuracy of a helicopter ... That is how a 21st century spaceship should land,” Musk said before

a jam-packed audience at SpaceX’s Hawthorne, California, headquarters.

More than 32,500 people also watched the *Dragon* unveiling on a live SpaceX webcast.

Lifting the vehicle’s hatch, Musk settled into a reclined gold-and-black pilot’s seat and pulled down a sleek, rounded glass control panel. The cabin, designed to fly a crew of seven, looked more like a Star Trek movie set than the flight deck of NASA’s now-retired space shuttle.

Dragon, which launches on a SpaceX *Falcon 9* rocket, is one of three privately owned space taxis vying for NASA development funds and launch contracts.

The US space agency turned over space station cargo runs and crew ferry flights after retiring its fleet of shuttles in 2011. SpaceX already has a \$1.6 billion contract for 12 station resupply missions. Orbital Sciences Corp has a separate, \$1.9 billion contract for eight cargo flights.

NASA also has been working with SpaceX, Boeing Co and privately owned Sierra Nevada Corp on a related commercial program to develop spaceships to fly astronauts, with the goal of breaking Russia’s monopoly on station crew transports before the end of 2017.

The United States currently pays Russia more than \$60 million per person for round-trip flights on the

Russian Soyuz capsule. The price climbs to more than \$70 million in 2016 and to \$76 million in 2017.

Musk hopes to bring down the cost of flying in space by reusing both the *Falcon 9* rockets and *Dragon* spaceships.

“So long as we continue to throw away rockets and spacecraft we will never have true access to space. It’ll always be incredibly expensive. If aircraft were thrown away with each flight, nobody would be able to fly ... or very few,” Musk said.

NASA is expected to select one or two space taxi designs this summer for final development and test flights.

Reuters



The cabin of the *Dragon V2* spacecraft is pictured after it was unveiled in Hawthorne, California on 29 May, 2014.

REUTERS

In Damascus, reminders of lurking war on the dinner table

DAMASCUS, 31 May — As Syria approaches a surreal presidential election in the midst of civil war, the capital has avoided the worst of the conflict but reminders are increasingly coming out the water taps and appearing on the dinner table, to the dismay of Damascenes.

Before the war, the government of President Bashar al-Assad maintained tight control on food prices and quality. Distracted by war, its grip has slackened and shady business practices have flourished to the detriment of water and food supplies.

Rushing to the kitchen sink the other day to fill up a container with water, Mayada, a Damascene, wanted to store as much water as possible. “I must hurry, because sometimes the water cuts off in an hour,” she said. “And look at all this sand. We can’t drink the water anymore without filtering it first.”

US soldiers rest in peace in France before old comrades’ last D-Day tribute

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, (France) 31 May — Little disturbs the peace at the Normandy American Cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer, with just the sound of the waves of Omaha Beach, the chirp of birds and an occasional lawnmower breaking the silence.

Here, under perfectly spaced white marble headstones, lie 9,387 US soldiers who fell 70 years ago during the Normandy campaign, that audacious test of grit and human sacrifice that began as history’s largest amphibious assault and ended with the crushing of German defences, ultimately hastening the end of World War Two. Next week, when US President Barack Obama and a crowd of 10,000 guests descend on the American cemetery for D-Day commemorations, the living will outnumber the dead. Wreaths will be laid and eulogies read to the fallen. But Daniel Neese, who has run the cemetery for over 25 years, prefers the peace to the ceremony.

“In early morning, and late evening, what I do is go all the way back, to the back of the cemetery, because behind the chapel those soldiers are rarely ever seen,” Neese told *Reuters*.

Reuters



A boy looks up at his friends while digging a well in Arbeen, in the eastern Damascus suburb of Ghouta, on 6 May, 2014.—REUTERS

She pointed to black and brown grains sinking to the bottom of her freshly filled water jug. “And God knows what else is floating in there that I can’t see.”

Residents say the qual-

ity of food is also deteriorating, coupled with price rises, especially fast food favorites like shawarma and falafel as well as “farouj”, or roast chicken.

“Taste the falafel

and you’ll know they add bread crumbs to it to save on chickpeas,” said Issam, a restaurateur in central Damascus, referring to the main ingredient in falafel. “You can easily tell the

difference. Today’s ‘fake’ falafel is greasier and darker and just looks wrong all around. People eat it because it’s cheap, but everyone is complaining.”

Shawarma, cut from a giant rotating hulk of meat, is also under scrutiny. “Only God knows what meat they’re using these days. Is it even beef? All I know is it doesn’t taste the same as before,” said Lamia, 32. As for poultry, the birds look either skinnier than usual or unusually plump but without taste, prompting many Damascenes to wonder what poultry farmers might be feeding the chickens.

“Is it hormones? Animals protein? Garbage? Sewage? We cannot know,” said Marwan, who considers himself an amateur nutritionist. “Back in the good days, poultry farmers got away with dubious practices. Now? I hate to even think about it.”

Reuters

Singapore lifts ban on food imports from Fukushima

SINGAPORE, 31 May — Singapore has decided to lift a ban on food imports from Japan’s Fukushima Prefecture, which hosts the crisis-hit nuclear plant, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Saturday at a meeting with his visiting Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.

In response, Abe expressed his gratitude to Lee and said, “It gives Fukushima great courage,” Japanese government officials said.

Singapore stopped importing Fukushima-made food products after the massive earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 triggered one of the world’s worst nuclear disasters at the Fukushima Daiichi complex in northeastern Japan. Abe and Lee, meeting on the sidelines of an Asia security conference in the city state, agreed on the need to resolve international disputes peacefully amid China’s territorial claims against neighbouring countries in the South China Sea.

The two prime ministers also confirmed a plan to revise a bilateral economic partnership agreement that took effect in 2002 with the aim of further promoting trade and investment between the two nations.

Abe announced the EPA review plan at a joint press conference with Lee, following their summit talks.—*Kyodo News*

New Delhi seeks report on grisly rape, hanging of teens



Protesters hold placards and shout slogans during a protest against the recent killings of two girls, in New Delhi on 30 May, 2014.—REUTERS

LUCKNOW, (India), 31 May — India’s new home minister weighed in on

Friday in a grisly case in which two teenage girls were raped and hanged

from a tree this week, as public anger and political controversy over the attack gain momentum.

The case is one of the first challenges for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his four-day-old government. It highlights the ongoing struggle to stem sexual violence in India, where a string of high-profile rapes has sparked nationwide protests and international criticism. Home Minister Rajnath Singh asked the state government of Uttar Pradesh to submit a report on the attack, a ministry spokesman said.

Modi, a prolific Twitter

user, has not yet commented on the killings in Uttar Pradesh, India’s most populous state and a key political battleground. Modi’s Hindu nationalist party swept 73 of the state’s 80 parliamentary seats in its landslide general election victory.

The two cousins, from a low-caste community and aged 14 and 15, went missing from their home in a village in Uttar Pradesh’s Budaun district on Tuesday evening when they went out to go to the toilet. The next morning, villagers found their bodies hanging from a mango tree in a nearby orchard.—*Reuters*

Flights cancelled in Darwin due to volcanic eruption in Indonesia

CANBERRA, 31 May — A volcanic eruption in Indonesia has caused the cancellations of the majority of flights in and out of northern Australian city of Darwin on Saturday.

The Sangeang Api volcano, which is located off the north east coast of Sumbawa island, erupted Friday evening.

A spokesperson for Darwin Airport told Australian Broadcast Corporation (ABC) that all international and domestic Jetstar services, and all domestic Virgin and Qantas flights have been cancelled.

Deputy Prime Minister

Warren Truss said flights across Australia could be affected for days. “Depending on wind and other weather conditions, the ash has the potential to affect flights to and from other airports, including Brisbane, during coming days,” said Truss. “This is currently being fully assessed.”

Airservices Australia, the nation’s air navigation authority, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) are all investigating the cloud, Truss said. The BoM said the eruption has caused a volcanic ash cloud that is moving in a

south-easterly direction. A spokesperson for the Darwin Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre said the ash is moving further south and dispersing. “As it begins to move away from the volcano, it begins to dissipate so we see less and less of a signatory in the satellite imagery,” the spokesperson told ABC.

“We expect over the next 24 hours it should gradually fade out so it’s no longer a significant threat to the area.” Major airliners including Qantas and Virgin Australia are all monitoring weather conditions closely.—*Xinhua*



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1436)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1436) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (387)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (387) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Remains of airmen recovered in west Canada 71 years after their plane vanished

VANCOUVER, 31 May — The remains of four missing airmen have been recovered in British Columbia in west Canada after they vanished on board an aircraft 71 years ago during a Second World War training flight, the CBC News reported on Friday.

The Avro Anson aircraft went missing on 30 Oct, 1942, after it left a air force base at Patricia Bay in Sidney on a navigational training flight, the report said, adding that the four airmen on board the aircraft were members of the Royal Canadian Air Force 32 Operational Training Unit, including one Canadian and three British.

The wreckage of the aircraft were not found until October of last year when a logging crew discovered it on a remote mountainside on the west coast of Vancouver Island, the report said.

The Department of National Defence (DND) surveyed the site and discovered the remains of the

crew, but bad weather at the time made it too difficult to recover them, the report said. This month, specialists from the British Columbia Coroners Service returned to the site with the DND and were able to recover and eventually identify the remains, it added.

The National Minister of Defence Rob Nicholson said in a statement on Friday that officials were working with their counterparts in the Britain to provide a final resting place for the men's remains in a Commonwealth war graves plot.

"Our government makes every effort to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, irrespective of the length of time that has passed. This recovery, and subsequent burial, will provide closure to the families and give these fallen service members the dignity and respect they deserve," said Nicholson.

Xinhua

Kenya plans tobacco tax hike to curb use

NAIROBI, 31 May — Kenya has plans to increase taxes that are levied on tobacco products in order to reduce its use, a senior government official said on Friday. Health Cabinet Secretary James Macharia told journalists in Nairobi that the move will help to deter use of tobacco and is not primarily a revenue raising measure.

"Our estimates indicate that health and socio-economic costs of tobacco is three times what the industry generates for the country," Macharia said during commemorations to mark the World No Tobacco Day. The day has been set aside globally to highlight the devastating effects of tobacco use as well as exposure to second-hand smoke.

"We therefore can't equate the negative consequences of tobacco to earnings by the industry," he said. He noted that studies have indicated that a ten percent increase in the price of tobacco results in an eight percent reduction in their consumption.

"In addition the tax increase will generate revenue for Kenya which should be allocated for tobacco control," Macharia said. The cabinet secretary said that tobacco taxes are less than 50 percent of the retail price.

"We want to achieve a 70 percent rate in the next five years," he said. He added that tobacco should be made unaffordable and inaccessible to youth and the poor who are the most vulnerable population.

Xinhua



Japanese nurse Tomoko Iwamoto takes the blood pressure of a patient in Dobo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 28 May, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Gale ruins 3 planes at airport in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 31 May — Three planes were damaged and 21 flights diverted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here due to sudden rain and storm that came down in the Indian capital on Friday evening, said local media.

Among the flights that were diverted included four international flights, the Indo-Asian News Service quoted airport officials as saying. The Indian capital, nearby states of Punjab and Haryana and several other parts of northern India were subject to strong winds and rains, causing traffic standstill in Delhi and a number of other cities.

No injuries or other damages of properties have been reported so far.—Xinhua

Italy seizes 30,000 bottles of wrongly labelled wine, most destined for foreign markets

ROME 31 May — Italian police this week seized more than 30,000 bottles of wines falsely labelled as some of the most prestigious types of wine made in central Italy, most of it destined for foreign markets.

Authorities in Tuscany confiscated the wine, which included at least 10,000 bottles of high-value Brunello di Montalcino, along with others reportedly labeled as Tuscan wines Chianti and Chianti Classico and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, and Sagrentino di Montefalco, which comes from nearby

Umbria.

With many wines of those types selling for as much as 50 euro (70 US dollars) per bottle or more, the bust likely had a street value of far more than 1 million euros.

The bust, which took place on Thursday, was the culmination of three months of detective work after knowledgeable consumers noted that the wine served did not have the same taste characteristics as the wine advertised in grocery stores, bars, and restaurants.

Xinhua



Boxes of wine are piled up in Tripoli harbour on 30 May, 2014, in Tripoli, Libya. Libya's coast guards on Friday showed a batch of alcohol seized during their patrol off coast. Alcohol prohibition is enforced in the Islamic state of Libya.

XINHUA

Brad Pitt's Ukrainian attacker pleads no contest to battery

LOS ANGELES, 31 May — The Ukrainian prankster who struck actor Brad Pitt in the face at the Los Angeles premiere of the movie "Maleficent" was ordered to stay away from celebrity events as he pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor battery charge on Friday.

Vitalii Sediuk, a 25-year-old Ukrainian TV personality infamous for pulling pranks on celebrities at events, was charged with four misdemeanor counts of battery, assault, unlawful activity and interference at a theatrical event.

He pleaded no contest to battery and unlawful activity, and the rest of the counts were dismissed as part of his plea deal.

Sediuk was sentenced to 20 days of community service and 36 months on probation. He was ordered to stay 500 yards (about 460 meters) away from all celebrity events including awards shows and premieres, and to stay away



Actor Brad Pitt attends the premiere of "Maleficent" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 28 May, 2014. — REUTERS

from Pitt and his partner Angelina Jolie, Los Angeles City Attorney spokesman Rob Wilson said.

He was also ordered to 52 sessions of psychological counselling. He is due back in court for a hearing

on 8 July.

Sediuk jumped across a fence and onto the red carpet at Wednesday's

"Maleficent" premiere in Hollywood, where Pitt had joined Jolie, the film's star, to sign autographs for fans.

Police said Sediuk struck Pitt in the face, and was arrested immediately.

Pitt was not seriously hurt and continued to sign autographs for fans after the incident, but was issued a restraining order against Sediuk.

In previous exploits, Sediuk tried to climb under actress America Ferrera's dress as she posed for photographers at the Cannes Film Festival, stormed the stage during singer Adele's Grammy acceptance speech, and was slapped by Will Smith after kissing the actor at a Moscow premiere.—Reuters

Rani Mukerji: Mardaani is quite different from my image

MUMBAI, 31 May — Actress Rani Mukerji says her role in upcoming film Mardaani is quite opposite of her image.

Rani will play a police officer in Mardaani for the first time. The film is



Rani Mukerji

directed by Pradeep Sarkar, who last directed her in Laaga Chunari Mein Daag (2007).

"It (film) is quite contrasting to my image right now. I am excited about the film. I saw the first poster myself today. I was not aware it will be out today. It was a surprise for me as I was shooting. I have no clue when the trailer will be out," the actress said at an event here last night.

Mardaani, produced by Yash Raj Films, will hit the screens on 22 August. This would be Rani's first release post her marriage to director-producer Aditya Chopra.

"I am happy to be with my mother-in-law and I am looking forward to receive all guests and help her," said the actress while launching the Divani store here last night.

PTI

PTI



Tom Cruise in a still from Top Gun.

LOS ANGELES, 31 May — Actor Tom Cruise says that he narrowly escaped a serious injury during his

Tom Cruise escaped serious injury in childhood bike stunt

childhood when he tried to emulate a stunt by Evel Knievel.

The 51-year-old was a big fan of the stuntman and decided to recreate one of Evel's famous canyon jumps, reports contactmusic.com

"I saw Evel Knievel jumping off a canyon and I lived on a steep hill so set up boards and trash cans to

copy him. I was about eight years old and my sisters begged me not to do it, as I had been to the hospital a few times by this point," said Tom Cruise.

Tom Cruise set up ramps so he could leap over several trash cans on his pushbike, but his speedy descent down a steep hill and ended in disaster. When he careered into the bins and

was left covered in blood on the sidewalk.

"I realized halfway down the hill that I couldn't stop and it was too late to bail — I was committed and I thought I'm going to go so far and so high but of course the boards split and I ended up just pile-driving through the cans. It was violent and there was blood everywhere," he added.—PTI

Suraj Pancholi, Tiger Shroff share mutual admiration

MUMBAI, 31 May — There's no room for rivalry between young acting talents Suraj Pancholi and Tiger Shroff even though they are being pitched against one another as the two next best things on the Bollywood block. In fact, they share mutual admiration.

So, it didn't take Suraj much persuasion to rush to see Tiger's debut film Heropanti at a suburban theatre with a bunch of friends the first day he got off from the shooting of his own debut film Hero.

Suraj said, "First of all, Tiger and I are bonded because our fathers were contemporaries.

So we know one another since childhood. Secondly, I'm doing a remake of Tiger's father Jackie Shroff's film Hero. A lot of

Tiger's dad's fans feel Tiger should've done the Hero remake." Suraj says he loved Tiger's performance.

"I don't think I can ever dance and fight like Tiger. In those departments he is way ahead of me. As for us being arch-rivals, where and how is Tiger in opposition to me at the box office?

"His debut film has already released whereas mine is going to be released next year. So if anyone, my closest competitor for the debut awards would be Harshvardhan Kapoor (Anil Kapoor's son)." Tiger says he can't wait to see what Suraj has done in Hero. "I am so glad Suraj is doing the remake of my dad's Hero. I would've never been able to do it. I am too much in awe of my dad's stardom. Hero was way too close to home for me attempt



Young acting talents Sooraj Pancholi and Tiger Shroff cannot stop praising each other.—PTI

it." He too feels there is no room for rivalry with Suraj.

"We are contemporaries. But we'll have our own individual image.

I was so touched by Suraj's father Aditya Pancholi's enthusiasm.

At our preview of Heropanti, Aditya uncle whis-

tled and cheered the loudest. My dad and I will be there to cheer Suraj when Hero is released."

PTI

GENERAL

Sturridge goal unlocked game, says England boss Hodgson

LONDON, 31 May — England manager Roy Hodgson praised Daniel Sturridge for the striker's sensational goal that set England on their way to a comfortable 3-0 win over Peru in a World Cup warm-up on Friday.

On a night when England said adieus to an optimistic Wembley crowd, Hodgson's men, operating a 4-2-3-1 formation, looked rusty in the opening period until Sturridge blew away some of the cobwebs with a superb left-footed strike on 32 minutes.

Everton left back Leighton Baines set up defenders Gary Cahill and Phil Jagielka to score from two devilish second half corners as England eased to victory against a Peru side

that failed to qualify for the tournament in Brazil.

"It didn't look like it was going to be that comfortable in the first half when they got men behind the ball and defended well," Hodgson told reporters.

"But as soon as Daniel came up with that fantastic goal I don't think the game was in great doubt. "It was really good tonight that Daniel could score that goal and this one was particularly important because it unlocked the game." Despite relying on two set pieces to down sorry-looking Peru, Hodgson said he was happy with his striking options and is yet to decide on the team that will face the Italy in England's Group D opener in Manaus on



England's manager Roy Hodgson reacts during their international friendly soccer match against Peru at Wembley Stadium in London on 30 May, 2014.

REUTERS

14 June.

"I've said all along I think I've got a good squad of players here," said the former Liverpool manager, whose side also meet Uruguay and Costa Rica in the group stage.

"I think there are many

talented players, many exciting players. "I am very satisfied with the options I've got in my strike force. I have got two weeks of training now to decide the line up for the team that will play Italy."

Hodgson, who will confirm his final 23-man squad on Monday before England travel to Miami to play friendlies against fellow World Cup qualifiers Ecuador and Honduras, believes Peru provided the perfect warm-up for what is to come in Brazil.

"Peru gave me exactly the type of test I wanted tonight," he said. "If we do well in Brazil then many games will be of this nature because teams, not just from South America, are getting men behind the ball and make it hard for you to find a clear way through. "If you are not careful they will hit you on the counter-attack and abuse the fact that you are taking the initiative in the game."

Reuters

MYANMAR TV (1-6-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:45 am
- * Documentary
- 7:00 am
- * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- * MRTV'S Youth Programme
- 8:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- * Amazing World
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:15 am
- * Documentary
- 11:00 am
- * Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 12:00 pm
- * News / International News / Weather Report
- 2:10 pm
- * Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:25 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 5:15 pm
- * Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- * News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- * Cartoon Series
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:20 pm
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:45 pm
- * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- * New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-6-14 07:00am~
2-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquareware Making
- * World News
- * Independent Film maker
- * Local News
- * On the River
- * World News
- * Creations of a Designer
- * Local News
- * Cruising to Precious Islands (Part-1)
- * World News
- * A Short Trip to Sagaing (Short Cuts)
- * Local News
- * Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon—The Architectural Heritage
- * World News
- * Snake Dancer
- * Local News
- * A Novitation Ceremony in a Rural Township
- * World News
- * Amazing— Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung
- * Local News
- * The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay Region)
- * World News
- * Food Trip
- * Local News
- * A Memorable Visit to Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds



England's Daniel Sturridge (not seen) scores a goal past Peru's goalkeeper Raul Fernandez (R) during their international friendly soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 30 May, 2014. — REUTERS

It could take 2 years to secure troubled US nuke dump

HOUSTON, 31 May — It could take two years or more to seal vaults at a US nuclear waste dump where containers linked to a major radiation leak are stored, the Department of Energy said on Friday.

The federal department has been asked by New Mexico state authorities to detail when and how to secure the more than 350 waste containers stored at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), an underground nuclear waste dump in southeastern New Mexico, after investigators found the containers may be the source of a radiation leak at the facility.

The department re-

sponded on Friday in a filing that it could take a minimum of about 100 weeks — and possibly twice that long — to seal off the suspect vaults. The filing, however, did not give much detail, saying the investigation wasn't complete and this could affect the work.

The suspect containers were shipped from Los Alamos National Laboratory, a leading nuclear weapons manufacturer in New Mexico. Investigators suspect a kind of kitty litter the lab used in the containers to absorb liquid in nuclear waste may have triggered a chemical reaction in at least one container stored at WIPP and led to the

radiation leak.

The leak, discovered on 14 February, has kept the facility shuttered for months and exposed 22 workers to low levels of radiation. Officials said previously it could be up to three years before full operations resume.

The dump stores "transuranic waste" leftover from nuclear weapons research and testing from the nation's past defence activities, according to the Energy Department's website. The waste includes clothing, tools, rags and other debris contaminated with radioactive elements, largely plutonium.

Xinhua



Staffers work at an accessible supermarket during its soft operation in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 30 May, 2014. The market with barrier-free designs including Braille tags, blind tracks and free loans of wheelchairs, will officially open in June. All employees of the market are disabled people.

XINHUA

Federer, Djokovic struggle as Sharapova blazes through in Paris



Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland

PARIS, 31 May — Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic were both put to the test to reach the fourth round of the French Open on Friday while Maria Sharapova continued to blaze through a thinning women's draw.

Polish third seed Agnieszka Radwanska was knocked out 6-4, 6-4 by Croatian Ajla Tomljanovic, becoming the latest victim of a new generation of talent sweeping through the women's draw.

But seventh seed Sharapova inflicted the first double bagel of the tournament to remain the overwhelming favourite.

Seventeen-times grand slam champion Federer saw off Russian Dmitry Tursunov 7-5,

6-7(7), 6-2, 6-4 and Serbian second seed Djokovic, chasing the only grand slam title to elude him, beat Croatian Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-4.

"I am relieved and happy to be through to the next round," said fourth seed Federer, who wasted 17 break points.

Tursunov, the 31st seed, played boldly but needed treatment on a sore groin in the third set and Federer triumphed to set up a meeting with Latvia's Ernests Gulbis, who is rediscovering his best form after a freefall in the rankings.

Djokovic, one of three men to have beaten eight-times Roland Garros champion Rafa Nadal on clay this season, showed signs of frustration against Cilic.

He seemed in complete control when his 25th-seeded opponent forced a tiebreak that the six-times grand slam winner lost 7-2. Djokovic regained control, however, and sealed victory when Cilic double-faulted.

"Physically I had to work very hard, because he was very aggressive, and I could expect that," said Djokovic.

"In important moments I held my nerve and, you know, I'm very happy that I went through."

His next opponent will be local favourite Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 13th seed, who defeated Polish 22nd seed Jerzy Janowicz 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

There was no joy for the other Frenchman on course as Gilles Simon,



Maria Sharapova of Russia

the 29th seed, lost 4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 to eighth seed Milos Raonic, who became the first Canadian man to reach the round of 16 at Roland Garros.

Sixth seed Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic needed four sets to progress, beating Spanish 27th seed Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-2, 6-7(4), 6-4.

SENT PACKING

In the women's draw, the top three seeds have all been sent packing following the first-round exit of Chinese Li Na and the second-round elimination of defending champion and world No1 Serena Williams.

It was the first time since tennis turned professional in 1968 that the top three seeds in the women's draw have failed to qualify for the fourth round of a grand slam.

"After seeing the two first seeds go out, you kind of feel you can do this too," said the 21-year-old Tomljanovic, who will next meet Spanish 14th seed Carla Suarez Navarro who ended the run of American teenager Taylor Townsend with a 6-2, 6-2 win.

"I grew up with these girls who are beating them. I went into the stadium for the first time, and she (Radwanska) kind of feels like home there, because she's been there a lot more than



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a backhand to Marin Cilic of Croatia during their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 30 May, 2014.

REUTERS

I have," said Tomljanovic.

"I went out there and inside I really thought I could win. I think that showed and it is why I won."

Radwanska's defeat was another boost for 2012 champion and last year's runner-up Sharapova, who beat Argentine Paula Ormaechea 6-0, 6-0 in less than an hour on court Philippe Chatrier after rain briefly interrupted the match during the first game when the Russian had to save three break points.

"The first game was a little bit tough, I felt a bit nervous at the beginning but I felt really good throughout, especially at

the end," Sharapova said.

Tomljanovic was joined in the fourth round by former finalist Samantha Stosur of Australia, who beat Slovakian ninth seed Dominika Cibulkova 6-4, 6-4.

Spain's Garbine Muguruza, who knocked out Serena, backed up her achievement with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Anna Schmiedlova, the Slovak who eliminated Williams's sister Venus.

Eighth seed Angelique Kerber of Germany advanced into the fourth round with a 7-5, 6-3 defeat of Slovakian 31st seed Daniela Hantuchova.

Reuters

Leeds part company with manager McDermott



Reading's manager Brian McDermott (L) rubs his face as he watches from the touchline during their FA Cup soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 18 Feb, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

LONDON, 31 May — Leeds United have parted company with manager Brian McDermott by mutual consent as new Italian owner Massimo Cellino begins to restructure the cash-strapped English second-tier club. The businessman, who sold Italian club Cagliari earlier this week, bought a 75 percent stake in Leeds in April after the former English champions made losses of 9.5 million pounds in the 2012-13 season.

"He (Brian) has been a gentleman to deal with in our discussions and has been very understanding of my wish to implement a new structure," Cellino said in a statement on the club's official website (www.leedunited.com).

McDermott added: "...it is clear Massimo wishes to implement a new structure and feels he will work more successfully for Leeds with a coach rather than a manager.—Reuters

Architect calls new proposal for Tokyo 2020 stadium a 'sin'

TOKYO, 31 May — A revised plan for Japan's new stadium for the 2020 Olympics is still so wasteful and large for the site that it is a "sin"—one that also destroys the power of the original design, said a Tokyo architect running a petition drive against the structure. The spaceship-like stadium was designed by Zaha Hadid, who also designed the aquatics centre for the 2012 London Olympics, but the plans came under fire soon after Tokyo won the Games last year for ballooning cost estimates and a lack of harmony with the surrounding cityscape.

This week, the Japan Sports Council released a new design proposal reducing the size of the stadium by more than 20 percent and cutting costs from some 300 billion yen (£1.76 billion), more than twice the original bid estimate, to roughly 162 billion yen.

But Edward Suzuki, a Tokyo-based architect, says the new proposal is still flawed, especially given

Participants, made up the Olympic symbol, release the Olympic colours of balloons to celebrate and usher in success for the coming Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games during the final event to bid farewell to the National Olympic Stadium in Tokyo on 31 May, 2014.

REUTERS

the number of trees that will have to be cut in one of the city's rare green areas.

"I've never felt so emotional about any kind of architecture up until now," Suzuki told Reuters on Friday, a day before an event to bid the current National Stadium farewell ahead of its July demolition.

"But it's happening in my garden, in our garden ... We just can't let it happen. It's a sin, it's a crime."

The National Stadium was built for Tokyo's first Summer Olympics, in 1964. The new stadium, set to have 80,000 seats — up from 54,000 at present — will be completed in time for the Rugby World Cup in 2019. The new proposal shrinks the overall space of the stadium to about 222,600 square metres, including competitive spaces such as the pitch, from 290,000 square metres, mainly by downsizing areas used for things like media facilities and display rooms.

Reuters

