

NCCT plans all-inclusive ethnic conference in mid-May

YANGON, 10 May — The Nationwide Cease-fire Coordination Team (NCCT) is planning an all-inclusive ethnic conference on or around 20 May, its deputy leader told the Myanmar News Agency at a seminar on peace and national reconciliation held in Inya Lake Hotel on 9 May.

Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said the move is to discuss the potential signing of the nationwide ceasefire accord, whose draft text was agreed in principle between NCCT and the Union Peacemaking Working Committee (UPWC) at the Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon on 31 March.

“Invitations will be sent to all ethnic groups, both members and non-members of NCCT, a



President U Thein Sein attends signing of draft nationwide ceasefire agreement between NCCT and UPWC on 31 March 2015.—PHOTO: PO HTAUNG

group which represents 16 ethnic armed groups,” he said.

When asked about the

venue of the conference, he said, “Pangsan, Mongla and Lawkhilar have initially been chosen for the con-

ference.”

NCCT is planning to call a meeting prior to the conference, according the

Arakan Liberation Party (ALP).

Ye Khaung Nyunt and Myat Thanda Maung

Some companies express interests in establishing public bus service company

YANGON, 10 May — Some companies are eager to invest in the Yangon Region Government’s first public bus service company, according Dr Maung Aung, the adviser to Commerce Ministry.

The project is divided into phases, with the capital for the first phase set at K25 billion and the government

to inject K10 billion during the first phase and invite the public to invest in the business by buying shares.

The Yangon Region Government disclosed its plan for establishing a public bus service company last Monday to operate a modern bus service along main routes in Yangon, retaining a 40 per cent share of the com-

pany while offering 60 per cent to the public.

Authorized capital of the first public bus service company in Myanmar is set at K100 billion, and the business would be established with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT Lite) system through the Public, Private, Partnership (PPP) system, said U Myint Swe, the Yangon

Region Chief Minister, at a ceremony to invite shareholders for establishing the company.

Each unit of the shares is priced at K100,000, he added.

The first phase would start with around 100 2010-model buses and the company will buy the buses through the tender system, said Dr Maung Aung, an adviser to the Ministry of Commerce.. The first phase is tentatively targeted to launch within five months, and the government has already begun to build stations for the bus line, said Dr Maung Aung.

Foreign investment is

not allowed during the first phase of the project, he added.—GNLM

Volunteer programme aims to assist rural villagers

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 10 May — A local non-profit organization is inviting youth volunteers to join a programme aimed at providing much-needed education and hands-on assistance to rural villagers.

The Volunteer Internship Program (VIP) and its partners plan to launch the national volunteer work camp in central dry regions around August, the organization’s Environment Project Manager U Tint Zaw Hein said Thursday.

In addition to nurturing the youth volunteers, the roughly two-week programme will support villagers by spreading information on hygiene and environmental conservation. The organizers plan to select two villages with at least 150-200 households in the targeted townships—Pakokko and Myaing, U Tint Zaw Hein told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

As the selected regions are home to many farmers, volunteers will help them in their daily work and carry out sanitation

tasks, he added.

“We, VIP, plan to pick up about 20 volunteers for the programme one and a half months ahead of the schedule,” U Tint Zaw Hein said, adding those who want to participate in the program are to carry out the voluntary activities with their own funds. “According to the rough estimation, it would cost between K40,000 and 50,000 per head,” he said.

This is the third time VIP has organized the national volunteer work camps. More than 200 children were educated through its national volunteer work camps—the first in late 2014 in Shan State and the second in earlier 2015 in Ayeyawady Region.

Plans are under way to organize two work camps per year, U Tint Zaw Hein said.

Established in 2010, VIP is also planning to offer scholarships to needy outstanding students across the nation. It is currently providing financial assistance to two university students.—GNLM



Just more than 3,000 buses of All Bus-Line Control Service can operate daily due to the scarcity of drivers and conductors and the difficulty in securing a license for running bus services.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Myanmar educationist U Than Oo to receive Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Hawaii University

YANGON, 10 May — The University of Hawaii will confer Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters, highest award of the university, upon Myanmar educationist U Than Oo,

88, at its 104th Annual Commencement Exercises on 16 May for his lifelong efforts for education reform in Myanmar.

U Than Oo, who received M.Ed. from the same

university in 1963, will leave for Hawaii on 14 May.

The Ministry of Education of Myanmar conferred Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) on him in 2015 at the special convocation of Yan-

gon University.

He serves as patron (1) of the academic advisory board of Myanmar Education Promotion Implementation Committee.

MNA

Squall fells trees, tears billboards, reduces temperature



MANDALAY, 10 May — A powerful wind hit along Strand Road in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, at 11.30 p.m. on 8 May.

The squall pulled down large trees on 84th street and Mandalay-Sagaing Road, causing traffic congestions in

the morning of 9 May. The powerful wind broke branches of some trees and tore billboards in Myitnge in Amarapura Township.

Workers of Sanitation Department under Mandalay City Development Committee and local residents cleared debris on the

roads and residences.

Due to showers of squall, some parts of Mandalay Region got 0.40 inch of rainfall in midnight of 8 May, reducing temperature from 42 to 38 degree centigrade on 9 May.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)

Police lecture abuse of chemical precursors

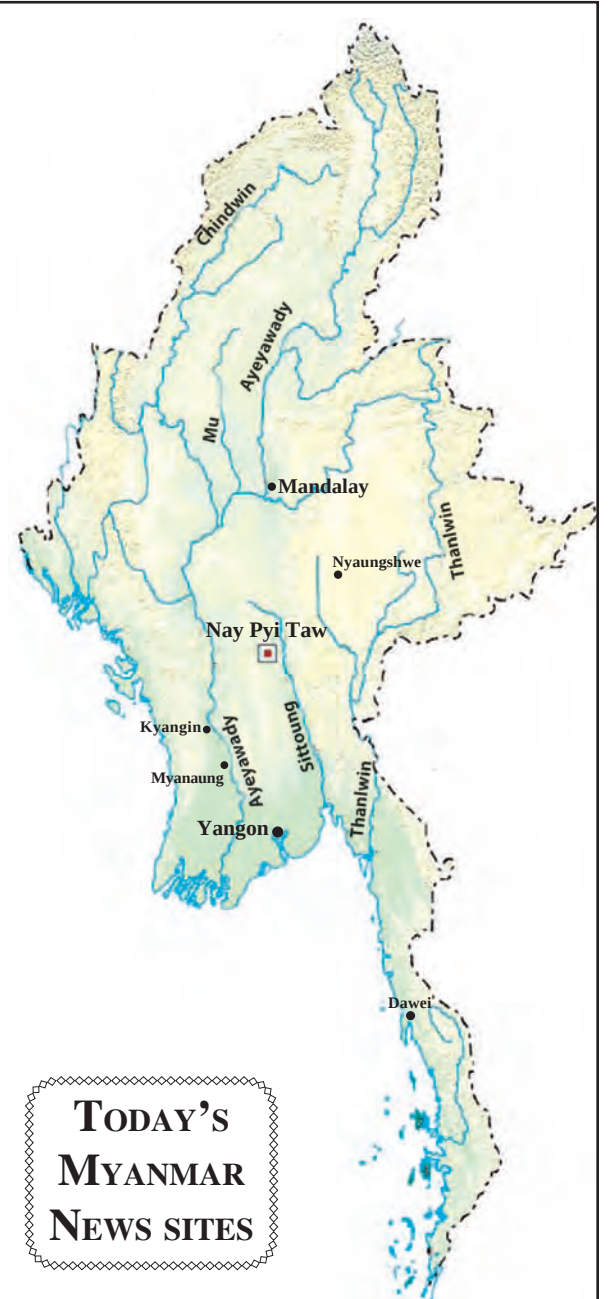
MANDALAY, 10 May — Mandalay Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control organized a talk on abuse of chemical precursors at the hall of Commander of Mandalay Region Police Force on 8 May.

Secretary of Mandalay Region DAC Deputy Commander of Mandalay Region Police Force Police Col Thet Naing spoke on the occasion.

Police Major DD Yaw Han of Anti-Drug Squad spoke about trading, storage, distribution and possession of chemical precursor, systematic use of ammonia nitrate fertilizer and sulphuric acid.

The deputy commander and officials replied to queries raised by entrepreneurs and representatives of factories.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)



Outstanding students recount experiences at recreation camps



MYANAUNG, 10 May — Three-time outstanding award winner Maung Paik

Thet Htoo Aung, double award winners Maung Hein Thuta and Ma Zin May

Theint from Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, arrived back at

Myanaung Railway Station by train on 9 May afternoon.

They were welcomed back by Township Education Officer U Win Myint and teachers together with their relatives.

At Myanaung Basic Education High School, Township Education Officer U Win Myint and Headmistress Daw Nu Nu Kyi praised the outstanding students for their utmost efforts in academic and other fields.

The students recounted their experiences in Bagan, Inlay and Ngwehsaung recreation camps where they took relaxation and scout training.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Htin Zaw Win accepts K20 million donated by Vice President of the federation U Kyaw Naing Oo (Chairman of Naing Group Co Ltd) for the fund of Myanmar hockey team on 7 May.

REPORTER THAN SWE (PABEDAN)

Strong wind destroys 20 buildings, leaving 58 residents homeless

KYANGIN, 10 May — A strong wind destroyed two monasteries, one school, one church and 16 houses worth more than K2,326,000 in Khongyi village-tract in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region on 8 May night.

Township officials accom-

modated 58 storm victims at their relatives' houses. Township Administrator U Phyo Min Htaik and officials together with police cleared debris from roads and residences.

On 9 May morning, township officials provided bags of rice to the victims.—Ayeya U Thar



Pyithu Hluttaw speaker inspects regional development tasks in Pyu



NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann
converses with
medical officers and
staff at construction
site of Kanyutkwin
People's Hospital.

MNA

Shwe Mann, together with Chairman U Thein Swe of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee and officials, left Yangon for Kanyutkwin in Bago Region on Sunday morning.

First, the speaker visited the paddy field irrigated under Kun Creek Water Pumping Project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Kanyutkwin in Pyu Township.

Then, the speaker visited the site for construction of the town hall before greeting doctors and nurses at Kanyutkwin

People's Hospital.

Afterwards, the speaker inspected the site for construction of a prayer hall in Kanyutkwin and attended to the needs.

The speaker later inspected the construction of expansion wards in Pyu and the town hall and heard reports on construction tasks.

The speaker urged officials to make efforts for timely completion of the buildings with set standards. Then, the speaker left Pyu for Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leaves Pakistan for Serbia

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Lok Virsa National Heritage Museum in Islamabad on Saturday afternoon.

The museum is the largest cultural museum in Pakistan and displays

diverse lifestyles in Pakistan, earthenwares, music and textiles, tapestry, jewelry, religious images, mural paintings and so on.

In the evening, the senior general and party left for Belgrade, Serbia, and arrived at Nikola Tesla Airport on Sunday morning.

The senior general and party were greeted at the airport by State Secretary Mr Zoran Dordevic and Brig-Gen S Joksimovic of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia and Myanmar Ambassador to Serbia U Zaw Tun and officials.

Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round paintings at Lok Virsa National Heritage Museum in Islamabad.—MYAWADY

Performing Arts Competition continues for fourth day

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — The higher education level (men's) and the basic education level (aged 10-15) women's dancing contest and amateur level (second class) men's and women's puppet contest took place at the golden jubilee hall of University of Veterinary Science on Sunday.

The amateur level (second class) women's and the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' singing contests were held

at the lecture hall of University of Agriculture. The amateur level (second class) men's and the basic education level (aged 10-15) women's classic song contests were held at the assembly hall of the University of Agriculture.

The amateur level (second class) men's and women's, the basic education level (aged 10-15) men's and women's violin contests were organized at Agricultural Research Department.

Orchestra solo event took place at Forest Research Department, amateur level (first class) women's and basic education level (aged 10-15) men's xylophone events at the hall of University of Agriculture and the amateur level (second class) men's and women's, higher education and basic education level men's and women's mandolin event at the convocation hall of Forest Department.—Khin Khin Thet/Phyo Sanda Myint

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker attends launching of power supply in rural area of Yamethin Tsp



Speaker U Khin Aung Myint meets local residents at launching of electricity supply in rural area of Yamethin Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — As supply of electricity contributes to development of industries by creating job opportunities for local residents, it needs to efficiently use electricity in their works, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint told the ceremony to launch electrification on a self-reliant basis in Kyanbin Village, Yamethin Township, on Sunday.

Abbot of Kyinbin Monastery Bhaddanta Vimala, Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Bo Ni and trans-

former donor U Maung Aung formally opened the signboard of self-reliant electrification.

In implementing the whole Yamethin Township power supply project, the local authorities arranged to supply electricity to 158 villages of 246 in the township. Power lines were installed from the power grid to 53 villages.

The speaker also unveiled the signboard of supplying electricity in Htantaw and Chaunggwa villages.

While in Yamethin,

the speaker visited the examination of Buddhist cultural course at Technological University (Yamethin) and Sasana Beikman held on 9 and 10 May.

A total of 4,969 students took the Buddhist cultural exam at primary level while 1,422 students took the exam at middle school level.

The speaker presented K300,000 for three prize winners at the primary level and K450,000 for three winners at the middle school level.

MNA

Nurturing technicians and skilled labourers discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — A coordination meeting on nurturing technicians and skilled labourers needed in various sectors of the country was held at the Technical and Vocational Education Department in Yangon on Sunday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union

Minister at the President's Office U Tin Naing Thein quoted President U Thein Sein as saying that technicians and skilled labourers are required in various sectors of the country and one of the causes for unemployment is the lack of technology and skills.

Then, the minister

urged the officials to nurture technicians and skilled labourers.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and officials of the ministry explained arrangements for establishing polytechnic institutes and schools.

MNA

Thai king leaves hospital after seven months, returns to seaside palace

BANGKOK, 10 May — Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, left hospital on Sunday after seven months spent convalescing following surgery last year, to the joy of many in Thailand where Bhumibol is widely revered.

Tearful crowds shouted "Long live the king!" as King Bhumibol, wearing a red shirt, and Queen Sirikit passed by in a convoy en route to their Klai Kangwon palace in the seaside town of Hua Hin, televised coverage of the departure showed.

The monarch made a rare public appearance last week when he attended a ceremony marking his official coronation in 1950 at the



Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej sits in a vehicle as he leaves Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand on 10 May, 2015.—REUTERS

glittering Grand Palace in the heart of Bangkok's historic quarter.

Bhumibol is revered by many as the arbiter of Thailand's decades-long,

sometimes violent, political divisions.

Most Thais have only known King Bhumibol on the throne, and many are nervous about what a royal

succession might bring.

His son and presumed heir, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, has yet to command his father's level of popular support.

Bhumibol, 87, was admitted to Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital in October where he underwent surgery to remove his gallbladder.

The king has in the past intervened during Thailand's often messy political showdowns. In 2006, he called on judges to resolve a pending constitutional crisis.

Months later, populist Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted in a September coup by the army. Thailand has been broadly split along north-south political lines since Thaksin's

ouster. A bastion of the conservative, pro-establishment Democrat Party, southern Thailand historically hosts much of the country's wealth and tourism.

The poorer, agrarian north and northeast, where Thaksin's populist policies won him legions of supporters, remain Shinawatra strongholds. Thaksin is loathed by the royalist elite who accuse him of undermining the monarchy and of graft, accusations he denies.

Thaksin's younger sister, former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, was removed from office last May, days before the army staged the coup aimed at restoring order after months of street protests.—Reuters

Super typhoon nears Philippines, officials warn of landslides

MANILA, 10 May — A powerful storm strengthened to a "super typhoon" on Sunday hours before it was set to slap the northeastern tip of the Philippines, prompting officials to warn of landslides and call on residents along the coast to evacuate to safer ground. Typhoon Noul is now a category five storm, packing winds of up to 185 kph (115 mph) near the centre, with gusts of up to 220 kph (137 mph), as it approaches the rice-producing province of Cagayan about 400 km (250 miles) north of the capital, Manila.

It was moving faster at 20 kph as it neared the Philippines' northeastern coast, where it was expected to make landfall later on Sunday, and was estimated at 100 km east of Tuguegarao

City in Cagayan Province.

"We strongly advise pre-emptive evacuation while we still have time, and we expect there will be a confluence of events—a high tide, heavy rainfall in the mountains, the possibility of a storm surge and strong winds," Alexander Pama, head of the national disaster agency, told a news briefing. The typhoon was expected to trigger landslides, flashfloods, and storm surges of up to 2 metres in parts of the Cagayan Valley, the weather bureau said, adding that heavy to intense rainfall was likely within the typhoon's 150 km diameter.

The weather bureau said Noul was likely to hit land somewhere around the town of Santa Ana, in Cagayan Valley province, and

may damage houses and topple trees. The disaster agency said there could be landslides in at least 21 areas of Santa Ana and nearby Gonzalo town.

But British-based Tropical Storm Risk forecast the super typhoon would just miss Philippine provinces and veer north over the East China Sea towards Japan. More than 5,000 passengers and about 100 vessels were stranded in various ports in the country as of Saturday, mostly along its eastern seaboard. Airline Cebu Pacific cancelled at least six domestic flights to the northern Philippines. Officials in northern Philippine provinces have alerted rescue units and positioned relief goods. The government readied trucks to ferry people away



Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines help out volunteers repacking food rations for victims of Typhoon Noul at the Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) headquarters in Pasay city, south of Manila on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

from low-lying and flood-prone areas.

An average of 20 typhoons cross the Philippines each year, with the storms becoming fiercer in recent years. More than 8,000 peo-

ple died or went missing and about a million were made homeless by Haiyan, a category 5 typhoon that struck the central Philippines in 2013, bringing 5-metre high storm surges.—Reuters

Thousands of people in Cambodia cycle to celebrate Europe Day

PHNOM PENH, 10 May — Thousands of people in Cambodia cycled on Sunday to mark the Europe Day and to raise awareness of green environment.

The event was organized by the European Union (EU) in Cambodia in cooperation with the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the

Phnom Penh Municipality.

Jean-Francois Cautain, Ambassador of the EU to Cambodia, said it was the third edition that the EU hosted such an

event in Phnom Penh in order to raise awareness of the EU and its activities in Cambodia.

"The event under the theme 'Cycle for the Climate' is also to raise awareness about the importance of fighting climate change," he said, estimating that between 4,000 and 5,000 cyclists, mostly young Cambodians, took part in the event.

Departing from the Olympic Stadium, the par-

ticipants cycled past all embassies of the European member states in Phnom Penh.

"The event is not only to raise awareness about the EU, but also to promote affection for sports and environment," said Cambodian Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Hang Chuon Naron, who was one of the cyclists. The cycling was part of a series of the EU Week events in Cambodia, starting from 4 to 10 May to celebrate the Europe Day.

Europe Day, 9 May, is celebrated every year in Europe and throughout the world in remembrance of the historical speech of Minister Robert Schuman in 1950, which triggered the European Union's construction.—Xinhua



People ride bicycles through streets in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 10 May, 2015. Thousands of people in Cambodia cycled on Sunday to mark the Europe Day and to raise awareness of green environment.—XINHUA

Indonesian president lifts foreign media restrictions in Papua



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo

JAKARTA, 10 May — Indonesia's president said on Sunday that foreign journalists no longer need special permission to travel to the politically-sensitive Papua province, lifting decades-old restrictions imposed due to a long simmering secessionist movement.

The announcement comes a day after President Joko Widodo pardoned five political prisoners in Papua, home to a small insurgency that has clashed with the military and police over the past decades.

"Starting today, foreign journalists will be allowed and are free to come to Papua, as they are to other parts of Indonesia," Cabinet Secretary Andi Widjanto quoted President Joko Widodo as saying during a trip to the remote province.

Foreign journalists previously needed government clearance to visit Papua, which is known for its abundant copper and gold mines operated by US mining giant Freeport-McMurray Inc.

Last year, two French journalists were convicted of misusing their tourist visas to work as journalists in Papua and spent 11 weeks in detention before being sent back to France.

Widodo, who is visiting Papua with a delegation that included a small group of Jakarta-based foreign journalists, on Saturday pardoned five political prisoners convicted over a 2003 raid on an Indonesian military weapons arsenal, local media said. The convicts were serving sentences ranging from 19 years to life. Human Rights Watch urged the president to release dozens of other political prisoners.

Papua was incorporated into Indonesia under a widely criticized UN-backed vote in 1969, after Jakarta took over the area in 1963 at the end of Dutch colonial rule.—Reuters

Dud WWII bomb defused in central Osaka



After defusing it, Ground Self-Defence Force personnel on 9 May, 2015, lift a dud bomb believed to have been dropped on Osaka during World War II by the US military. Areas within a radius of about 300 metres from the site in central Osaka were designated off-limits and some 2,200 people in the neighbourhood were asked to evacuate for the two-hour disposal work.—KYODO NEWS

OSAKA, 10 May — A dud bomb believed to have been dropped on Osaka during World War II by the US military was defused on Saturday.

The disposal of the 1-ton bomb measuring 1.8 metres long and 60 centimetres in diameter, found on 16 March at a construction site in central Naniwa Ward, was carried out in the morning by Ground Self-Defence Force per-

sonnel after some 2,200 people in the neighbourhood were asked to evacuate.

Areas within a radius of about 300 metres from the site were designated off-limits during the two-hour disposal work.

Railway operations in surrounding areas were also suspended during the work, affecting about 48,000 people.

Kyodo News

Battle of Okinawa survivor recalls fear and hunger during bombardment

NAHA, (Japan), 10 May — Eiki Ishikawa was terrified of the heavy US artillery fire whenever he went out to dig for potatoes during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.

Then in ninth grade, Ishikawa, now 85, was one of the male students aged 14 to 19 mobilized by the Imperial Japanese Army as members of the Tekketsu Kinnotai (Iron and Blood Imperial Corps) after US forces landed on the main island of Okinawa on 1 April, 1945. He was assigned to a kitchen detail.

On the night of 12 April, the detail had its first casualties as two students were killed by a shell that directly hit the unit's two-story wooden dormitory in Naha. Looking at their bodies, Ishikawa thought, "We will all be like them sooner or later."

Under the US bombardment, the Japanese army retreated to the southern part of the island. "I thought of nothing but whether I could survive each day," Ishikawa recalled, adding that he never conjured up images of his family. "I could do no more than protect myself."

Students and teachers had

only salted cabbages and sugar cane to ease their hunger, and even drank dirty water from the ground. Without extra clothes, lice grew on their heads, eyebrows and necks.

Shelling continued day and night except for about an hour at lunchtime, and people slept in sitting positions in packed underground bunkers at night.

"I wished for three things before falling asleep — to drink a glass of clean water before death, to spread out on a tatami mat to sleep, and to die painlessly," Ishikawa said.

Hiding under a tree in Mabuni, Itoman, in the far south of the island where the last severe fight occurred in the Battle of Okinawa, Ishikawa saw US soldiers capture Japanese civilians and servicemen. He then threw aside two grenades, including one reserved for committing suicide, and surrendered into captivity.

While 1,464 students were drafted for the Tekketsu Kinnotai and other corps, an estimated 816 of them were killed in the Battle of Okinawa. "When war occurs, a city with a military base becomes a victim," Ishikawa said.



Eiki Ishikawa speaks about misery he experienced during the Battle of Okinawa in the closing days of World War II in which he narrowly survived shelling from US warships, as seen in this photo taken on 17 Feb, 2015, at his home in Uruma in the southernmost Japanese prefecture.

KYODO NEWS

With Okinawa hosting more than 70 percent of the US military bases in Japan, Ishikawa is resolved to continue telling young people about his war experiences for as long as he can.

Kyodo News

Search for bodies in Nepal village suspended due to avalanches

KATHMANDU, 10 May — The search for missing trekkers, guides and residents feared buried in Nepal village by a massive landslide and avalanche triggered by last month's magnitude 7.8 earthquake has been suspended due to bad weather, officials said on Sunday.

The suspension of the search in Langtang underscores the challenging conditions facing rescuers, soldiers and aid workers two weeks after the 25 April quake struck, killing at least 7,913 people and injuring more than 17,800.

"Fresh avalanches are hitting the area continuously," Gautam Rimal, a district official, told *Reuters*. "Rescuers who were searching for bodies have now moved to safe places."

Twenty bodies were recovered on Friday, bringing the total number of confirmed deaths in Langtang to 120. Two of the bodies, however,



A girl spreading her arms asks soldiers for food near a makeshift shelter after the 25 April earthquake in Kathmandu on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

were almost immediately buried again in a new avalanche, Rimal said.

Large swaths of remote, hard-to-access locations such as Langtang, 60 km (35 miles) north of the capital Kathmandu, were devastated in the earthquake, and aid agencies say many places have yet to be reached to assess the damage or deliver relief supplies.

Officials remained unsure how many people were in Langtang village, in the heart of a popular trekking and climbing area,

when the earthquake and landslide struck. Residents have said that as many as 180 people may still be buried under the snow.

Rimal said the search in Langtang would resume once the weather cleared and daily avalanches stop.

The bodies of nine foreigners killed in Langtang have been sent to Kathmandu, and bodies of residents have been handed over to relatives.

Reuters

Transformer fire causes shut-down of nuclear reactor north of New York City

NEW YORK / WASHINGTON, 10 May — A nuclear power reactor 40 miles (65 km) north of New York City was shut down on Saturday after a transformer fire, but officials said the Indian Point plant was stable and there was no threat to residents nearby.

People in the area reported an explosion and smoke coming from the plant at Buchanan in New York state. But the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the fire had been quickly extinguished.

"These events happen occasionally. They are not unheard of and the plant responded as designed," NRC spokesman Eliot Brenner said in a statement. He added the fire occurred at 5:50 pm (2150 GMT) and was put out 25 minutes later.

The NRC designated the incident an "unusual event," which is the lowest of four categories the agency gives to potential safety or security threats at nuclear plants.

Entergy Corp, which runs the facility and is one of the largest US nuclear

power operators, also said the plant was stable and there was no danger to the public or to employees.

Several police units responded to the plant after receiving emergency calls from people who heard an explosion and saw smoke over the facility, which is on the east bank of the Hudson River, said New York State police spokesman Kenneth Bozier. No

other Unit 2 reactor continued to operate, spokesman Jerry Nappi said.

He said there was no information yet as to what caused the transformer failure. On Friday, Entergy returned the 1,031-megawatt Unit 3 back to service after shutting it down the previous day to repair a steam leak on the non-nuclear side of the plant.

The fire was put out



Smoke is seen over the Indian Point nuclear power plant in New York, in this handout photo provided by Gustavus Gricius taken on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

injuries were reported. The transformer fire, which triggered the closure of the plant's Unit 3 reactor, was extinguished with no damage to the unit, an Entergy spokesman said. The

by the sprinkler system at the transformer and on-site personnel, he said. The transformers are located around 300-400 feet (90-120 metres) away from the reactor.—*Reuters*

‘Winner takes all’ vote system exaggerates Britain’s divisions



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha arrive at Westminster Abbey for a thanksgiving service on the final day of 70th anniversary Victory in Europe (VE) day commemorations in central London on 10 May, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 10 May — David Cameron can thank Britain's winner-takes-all voting system for handing him an outright majority in parliament on just 37 percent of the vote. But by boosting the power of Scottish nationalists, it has also intensified one of his biggest headaches.

The results of Thursday's election highlight more starkly than ever the anomalies of a system

that allocates seats not according to the parties' total number of nationwide votes but on the basis of 650 local 'first-past-the-post' contests.

Conservative leader Cameron earned a second term as prime minister with 11.3 million votes and 331 of the 650 seats. But only one of those seats was in Scotland, where the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) won

1.45 million votes, half of those cast, and took 56 of the 59 Scottish seats.

The resulting electoral map portrays a starkly divided Britain.

In England, it is dominated by Conservative blue except for the red strongholds of the opposition Labour party in London and the big cities of the north and midlands. In Scotland, it turns bright nationalist yellow, an outcome that

former SNP leader Alex Salmond called a 'staging post' on the way to independence.

Those complaining loudest are the anti-European Union UK Independence Party and the Greens. Nationwide, they took 12.6 percent and 3.8 percent of the vote respectively, but their support was too thinly spread to win more than one member of parliament each.

"The fact that over 5 million people between them have voted UKIP and Green, and they have two MPs, strikes us as utterly absurd and a tragic denial of people's democratic wishes," said Will Brett, head of campaigns for the Electoral Reform Society which advocates a switch to proportional representation (PR).

By Sunday morning, 100,000 people had signed a petition launched by the society and another campaign group, Unlock Democracy, that states: "The 2015 general election has shown once and for all that our voting system is broken beyond repair." It urges politicians of all parties to embrace reform.

Reuters

Polish President Komorowski front-runner in election

WARSAW, 10 May — Poland voted in the first round of a presidential election on Sunday that opinion polls show will send front-runner and incumbent Bronislaw Komorowski into a runoff against a conservative opposition challenger.

A comfortable re-election for Komorowski would give a confidence boost to his allies in the centre-right Polish government, who face what will be a tightly fought race for another term later this year.

Komorowski, 62, has campaigned on a platform that he is a safe pair of hands on national security. That message has played well with voters nervous that after Russia's intervention in Ukraine, Poland could become the next target.

Barbara Gajewska, a 75-year-old pensioner at a polling station in Wegrow, 100 km (60 miles) east of the Polish capital, said she had voted for Komorowski.

"For me he is a moderate, balanced and in a way he has already been tested, whereas it's hard for me to believe in all the promises of the other candidates,"

she said.

In Poland, eastern Europe's biggest economy, the prime minister has the most powers, but the president wields clout as head of the armed forces, has a say in foreign policy and the power to veto legislation.

Polls give Komorowski around 40 percent support. His closest rival, Andrzej Duda, who is backed by the conservative opposition Law and Justice party, has about 30 percent, after closing the gap on Komorowski in the past few weeks. Duda, 42, has campaigned on a promise to lower the retirement age and has warned that if Poland adopts the euro currency, something Komorowski has said he wants eventually to happen, the prices of goods in shops will go up.

The third-placed candidate, on about 15 percent, is Pawel Kukiz, a former rock musician who has picked up support from Poles who are disenchanted with mainstream politics. Polling stations are open until 9 pm (1900 GMT). The first official results are not expected before late Monday.

Reuters

Raul Castro meets pope ahead of pontiff's Cuba trip



Pope Francis meets Cuban President Raul Castro during a private audience at the Vatican on 10 May, 2015.—REUTERS

VATICAN CITY, 10 May — Pope Francis, who helped broker a historic thaw between the United States and Cuba, held talks with Cuban President Raul Castro on Sunday ahead of the pontiff's trip to both countries in September.

The brother of Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel arrived for a meeting that the Vatican has said was strictly private and not a state visit.

On his way back to

Cuba from Moscow, Castro stopped in Rome to meet the pope to thank him for the Vatican's mediation between the United States and Cuba, Cuban officials said.

Castro was also due to meet Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi later on Sunday before leaving Rome.

The first Latin American pope leveraged the Vatican's ties to both countries, writing letters

to Castro and President Barack Obama, to help foster December's historic announcement of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the former foes after more than half a century of antagonism.

The pope's US trip had been planned for some time before the Vatican announced last month that Francis would stop in Cuba on his way to Washington.

Francis is expected to stay in Cuba at least two days, Vatican sources said.

It will be the Argentine pope's first visit to both countries as pontiff. Both his predecessors, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, visited Cuba and met Fidel Castro.

This year, the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics is also due to make trips to Bosnia in June, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay in July, and several African countries towards the end of the year.

Reuters

Swiss gunman kills self, four others in domestic shooting

AARAU, (Switzerland), 10 May — A gunman killed three relatives and a neighbour in a late-night rampage in a Swiss village before turning his weapon on himself, local police said on Sunday.

The presumed killer, a 36-year-old Swiss national who was separated from his wife and the couple's three children, shot dead his fa-

ther-in-law, mother-in-law and brother-in-law, police told a news conference.

The killings took place late on Saturday in and around a residential building in Wuerenlingen, a community of some 4,500 people north-west of Zurich.

Police said the gunman lived in another part of Switzerland and was

known to police for violent behaviour. The murder weapon was unregistered, they said.

A neighbour, who was not identified, told Swiss newspaper *Blick* she heard four shots in succession fired very quickly, then two further shots after a pause. She had heard no screams, the tabloid reported.

Reuters



TV crews prepare for a statement in front of a house in Wuerenlingen, Switzerland on 10 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Houthis accept five-day truce in Yemen proposed by Saudi Arabia

CAIRO, 10 May — Iranian-allied Houthi fighters in Yemen accepted on Sunday a five-day humanitarian ceasefire proposed by adversary Saudi Arabia but warned they would respond to any violations.

Neighbouring Saudi Arabia had said on Friday that the ceasefire could begin on Tuesday if the Houthi militia agreed to the pause.

Supported by the United States, a Saudi-led coalition began air strikes against the Houthis and army units loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh on 26 March with the aim of restoring the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The Houthis say their campaign is aimed at fight-

ing al-Qaeda militants and to combat corruption.

“Any military violation of the ceasefire from al-Qaeda and those who stand with it and support it and fund it will be responded to by the army and security and the popular committees,” Colonel Sharaf Luqman, spokesperson for the Houthi-allied army, said in a statement published by *Saba* news agency.

A Houthi statement issued late on Saturday said they would deal “positively” with any efforts to lift the suffering of the Yemeni people, a sign that they would accept the ceasefire.

Houthis also asked for a political dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations to resume in order

to resolve the conflict.

The ceasefire, which was set to allow time for donors to coordinate aid supplies, is due to come into force at 11 pm (2000 GMT) on Tuesday.

International concern about the humanitarian situation has grown as the strikes have killed more than 1,300 people, sent locals fleeing from their homes and destroyed infrastructure - leading to shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

The Houthis’ acceptance of a truce follows intensified coalition bombing of Houthi strongholds in Yemen’s north since Friday night, when Riyadh called on civilians to evacuate the province of Saada, a northern city where support for

Houthi rebels is strongest.

Three airstrikes targeted ex-president Saleh’s

residence in the capital Sanaa at dawn on Sunday, but Yemeni news agen-

cy Khabar said the former president and his family were unhurt.—Reuters



Tribesmen gather to show support to fighters of the anti-Houthi Popular Resistance Committee near Yemen’s southwestern city of Taiz on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Gunfire, explosions in Macedonia as police battle ‘armed group’

KUMANOVO, (Macedonia), 10 May — Five police officers died and dozens were wounded in a daylong gun battle in an ethnic Albanian suburb of northern Macedonia on Saturday, adding the threat of armed conflict to a deep political crisis rocking the ex-Yugoslav republic.

The Balkan country’s interior ministry said an unspecified number of gunmen were also killed, but that it had no information on civilian casualties during clashes that began before dawn and stretched into the evening.

Police said that acting on information about an “armed group” they had launched an operation in an ethnic Albanian district of the northern town of Kumanovo 40 km (25 miles) north of the capital Skopje. The region saw heavy fighting during an ethnic Albanian insurgency in 2001.

Units of special police in armoured vehicles locked down the neighbourhood and helicopters circled overhead. A Reuters photographer reported

hearing heavy automatic gunfire and loud explosions. Black smoke rose over the town and residents were seen leaving the area carrying belongings.

The events will deepen concern in the West over stability in Macedonia, where the government is on the ropes over allegations by the main opposition, the Social Democrats, of illegal wire-tapping and widespread abuse of office.

Protesters demanding the resignation of conservative Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski clashed with police this week and the

opposition is threatening to rally thousands on 17 May.

Observers fear political leaders on either side may try to stoke ethnic tensions as leverage.

“The situation on the ground remains highly critical,” Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska told a news conference. She said some gunmen had surrendered, without saying how many.

“The action will continue until every last terrorist is caught,” Jankulovska said.

A ministry spokesman, Ivo Kotevski, said the



People are evacuated with an armoured vehicle near a police checkpoint in Kumanovo, Macedonia on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

group was planning “terrorist acts” and had “infiltrated” the country from a neighboring state, without saying which.

Macedonia’s neighbours are Albania, Greece, Kosovo, Serbia and Bulgaria, and Macedonia has previously identified armed men in the country as coming from Kosovo.

Opposition leader Zoran Zaev, who has been releasing damaging wire-taps he says were recorded by the government and leaked to him by a whistleblower, appeared to suggest Saturday’s operation was carried out to create a diversion. “I call on Nikola Gruevski to immediately ... explain who wants to destabilize Macedonia, why and with what purpose,” he said in a statement.

“This dark scenario will not work. The citizens see who has an interest in such a scenario.”

An estimated 30 percent of Macedonia’s 2 million people are ethnic Albanians. Guerrillas took up arms in 2001, clashing with security forces before the West brokered a peace deal offering the Albanian minority greater rights and representation and the insurgents entered government.—Reuters

Saudi-led forces target former Yemeni president’s house in Sanaa

CAIRO, 10 May — Saudi-led forces conducted air raids at dawn on Sunday in the Yemeni capital Sanaa targeting former President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s house, sources in his political party and residents said.

Three loud explosions were heard and plumes of smoke were seen rising from the area where Saleh’s residence is located in the capital.—Reuters

Int’l aid bodies leave S Sudan’s northern state due to heavy fighting

KHARTOUM, 10 May — International aid bodies said on Saturday they pulled their staff out of South Sudan’s northern Unity State owing to the escalating clashes between government forces and the rebels.

In a statement on Saturday, the Medicine Sans Frontiers (MSF) said “it has been forced to withdraw its international staff and halt all medical services at Leer hospital due to heavy fighting in Unity State.”

“We withdraw again with a heavy heart, because we know how civilians will suffer when they are cut off from critical, life-saving medical care,” said Paul Critchley, MSF mission head in South Sudan, in the statement.

Also on Saturday, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced a similar decision to pull out of the country.

The ICRC expressed concerns over the safety of thousands of the civilians fleeing the fighting in the Unity State.

According to the United Nations, around 100,000 people have been uprooted last week due to renewed clashes in South Sudan.

South Sudan, which only became independent in 2011, plunged into violence in December 2013, when fighting erupted between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and defectors head by his former deputy Riek Machar.

The conflict soon turned into an all-out war, with the violence taking on an ethnic dimension that pitted the president’s Dinka tribe against Machar’s Nuer ethnic group.

The clashes have left thousands of South Sudanese dead and forced around 1.9 million people to flee their homes.

Xinhua

51 militants killed in Afghanistan in 24 hours

KABUL, 10 May — Afghan police backed by the army have killed 51 militants during a series of operations across the conflict-ridden country over the past 24 hours, Ministry of Interior said in a statement released here Sunday.

“Units of police have conducted several anti-terrorism joint operations with the national army and national directorate for security in Kunar, Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Faryab, Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Jowzjan, Kandahar,

Zabul, Uruzgan, Logar, Ghazni, Paktiya, Herat and Badghis provinces over the past 24 hours during which 51 armed insurgents have been killed, 15 wounded and one was arrested,” the statement contended.

The statement didn’t

say if there were casualties on security personnel.

Taliban militants who have sped up activities, launching their so-called annual spring offensive on 24 April are yet to make comment.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 11 May, 2015

A decent minimum wage must be a living wage

By Kyaw Thura

Labour relations have gone anomalous in some businesses in Myanmar, with some potential for further stalling the economic engine of the country. Labour disputes arising from a demand of higher minimum wage have become the talk of the day.

Most employers are found to be unwilling to raise minimum wage. Strange as it may

seem, they are all running large companies rather than small businesses. They might consider that the higher minimum wages, the lower their profits. On the contrary, a great deal of research has suggested that businesses that offer higher wages are flourishing than expected. Clearly, a majority of low-wage workers are employed in the country's largest and most profitable companies.

It seems that there is no possible harmful impact of boosting pay in the low-wage jobs. Instead, the pay rise will keep employees out of poverty to some extent and encourage consumer spending crucial for economic growth. The more money in the hands of consumers, the higher the demand for goods and services.

These days, behind low-wage earners are families who have to eke out their living, even to make both ends meet. They have no alternative

but to spend that money immediately on their basic requirements of life, such as expenses of housing, food, clothing, health, transportation and education.

In the main, a minimum wage must be a living wage which is adequate enough to enjoy a decent standard of living. Nowhere in the world should life be a battle for survival.

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.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

The Internet and Facebook — the good and the bad

Hla Maung

The Internet is one of man's great inventions. It has enabled people throughout the world to become connected as never before and at very low cost. The world's collected knowledge and wisdom is available to all who can use a computer. Government agencies, private corporations, NGOs, magazines, newspapers, and even private individuals, are able to post news, views and information that people can view and download. Thousands of novels have been made available as ebooks. Universities and teachers offer free online courses. Online dictionaries and encyclopedias are available to all. If a person has a smart phone or mobile tablet, he or she can get on the Internet, and has no need to carry around a case full of books. Most of this news, information and knowledge is in English so that fluency in English gives a person a great advantage. However, people can also use their own language when using the internet.

A huge number of games is also available on

the Internet. One can play alone, or one can play with other people anywhere in the world. As many parents know, Internet Cafes were once filled with young students, using the Internet and the computer not to gather knowledge and study and learn, but to spend hours playing games against friends who may be in the same Internet Café or on computers halfway across the world. Nowadays, we no longer see Internet Cafes filled with young people sitting in front of computer screens tapping away at keyboards because, with the invention and widespread use of Smartphones, internet games have become mobile, and can be carried around in one's shirt pocket. So now, we see both youngsters and adults staring at little screens on smartphones and tapping away on tiny keyboards. People have stopped talking to one another it seems, and prefer the company of their smartphones.

"Social connectivity" is another incredible benefit made possible by the speed and limitless capacity of the Internet and computers. Using Facebook, which is a

hugely popular Internet-based service, people are able to keep connected with friends around the world. People can post family news, take photos on smart phones and send to friends, and comment on news and photos that they receive. Anything that is newsworthy can be photographed on the smartphone, posted and commented upon and re-posted. If a fire breaks out in a remote village, someone can take photos and post the news, and friends all over the world will know within seconds. All that is needed is a connection by phone or satellite link-up to the Internet. It is easy to open a Facebook account and to ask your friends to join your circle of friends. It is also easy to ask friends of friends and even strangers to become your Facebook friend. Soon, a person can have a wide circle of friends from all over the world if he or she wishes.

The problem for many people is that Facebook can

soon take up much of their time. They want to see news and photos of friends and receive news of what's happening around the country and around the world, and they want to make comments and voice their opinions, often getting into interesting discussions, or heated arguments as the case may be. Indeed, Facebook for many becomes an addiction. It is the first thing they turn to when they wake up; they tune in to Facebook every few minutes throughout the day; and it is the last thing they check before they sleep at night. As a young Facebook friend admitted, "I can no longer concentrate on my studies. I have become a Facebook victim!"

Whether the Internet and Facebook are good or bad therefore depends on your self-discipline. Do you control how and when you use the Internet, or is it controlling your life and proving too much of a distraction?

About the author: Hla Maung, Senior Geologist (retired, MOGE), graduated London's Imperial College 1966. Address: 99G2A U Aung Kain St, Thanlwin Rd, Yangon.

Myanmar's first KFC outlet to open in downtown Yangon

Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 10 May — Myanmar's first KFC outlet will open in downtown Yangon, with stores in several locations around the city set to follow, according to the local franchise partner of the global fast food chain.

In a press release, Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd said

it will open the KFC outlet across from Yangon's famed Bogyoke Market in Pabedan Township, without specifying a date.

"Our first restaurant in the heart of downtown Yangon will enable us to introduce KFC's famous Original Recipe Chicken to the di-

verse mix of people who live and work in the area," said JR Ching, Yoma Strategic's head of Business Development. The company said it will open several more KFC locations in Yangon before the end of this year.

KFC, part of Yum! Brands, has more than 19,400 restaurants in 120 countries. Its entry to Myan-

mar will make it the first American fast food chain to operate in the country.

According to the press release, Yum! Brands is focused on emerging markets such as Myanmar, with more than 15,000 restaurants in developing countries. The company opened more than 2,030 new restaurants outside the US in 2014, it said.

Letter to the editor

Those with a sense of duty are responsible

The following photo shows a beach near the Salon Island which lies about three miles west of Kawthoung Township and about five miles from the Thai-Myanmar boundary within Myanmar territory.

Resident Salon islanders have long abandoned these sandy beaches for various reasons. As many as fifty households settled down on these beaches of the Island in around 1956-57 according to an estimated census. Most of them lived onboard the rickety boats at sea. But now there is only one household living on the Salon Island where Myanmar man got married to a Salon woman.

Some unidentified local and foreign smugglers suck white sand from the scenic beaches and export it abroad as well as sell locally, destroying natural beauties of the Island.

In accordance with the Conservation of Water Resources and Rivers Law and Environmental Protection Law, we all are responsible for restoration of natural beauties across the Island, for Salon Islanders to come home to sandy beaches and natural beauties and traditional custom should be maintained.

Help and suggestions from responsible citizens should be addressed to Tel: 095010043 or Email: crocodilecookware@gmail.com.

An earthling



Two persons seen with bags of sand on beach of Salon Island in Kawthoung Township.

LOCAL NEWS



Local residents, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and of political parties led by Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials on 9 May collected plastic and other garbage along Pweyontan, Kyanigan, Kyaungtaikkyi and Kyeiktan roads in Ward 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Ale Ward and Letpan Ward and Shwebontha Pagoda.
WIN BO (TOWNSHIP IPRD)

90 percent complete in building concrete bridge in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 10 May — Local residents have contributed to construction of piers and concrete beams for Hlegu Bridge across Hteinbin Creek near Wad-awhle village in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Township Department of Rural Development continued construction of the bridge with concrete floor, railing, retaining walls and approach roads

with its fund. So far, the construction of the bridge has been completed by 90 percent.

Upon completion, the bridge will benefit local

farmers for transport of their agricultural produce from more than 400 farmlands.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



Agriculturists share knowledge about agricultural technology with farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Asia Development Bank (ADB) jointly conducted a two-day training course on agricultural technology to farmers at No 54 Basic Education Primary School in Koeywa Thabyegon Village in Pobbathiri Township on 7 May.

Assistant Director Dr Hla Hla Myint of Department of Agriculture gave lectures on agricultural technology for production

of quality crops, Assistant Director Daw Khin Htay Myint on ways to produce organic fertilizers and Staff Officer Daw Thin Thin Kyi on good patterns for cultivation of crops and production of organic crops.

The course was attended by 50 local farmers.

Similar courses were conducted in Shaukkon village in Tatkon Township, Kinmontan village in Pyinmana Township and Thegawgyi village in



Lewe Township.

A project has been

drawn for holding the 2014 to 2016.—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Police receive security knowledge for election

DAWEI, 10 May—Police members at different levels need to have an important role of security in successfully holding the 2015 election, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aye Kyaw told the opening ceremony of the security for election course at the hall of Dawei District Police Force in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 7 May.

Deputy Commander of the district Police Major Aung Tun gave lectures on security measures in the election, election laws and rules, tasks of police for equal rights of the people regardless of ethnics and religions.

Five police officers and 18 other ranks from police stations in the district attended the five-day course till 11 May.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Paddy seeds provided to farmers in Nyaungshwe Tsp



NYAUNGSHWE, 10 May — A ceremony to distribute seeds of Palethwe hybrid paddy to local farmers was held at Township General Administration Department in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, on 9 May, with the aim of enabling local farmers to grow paddy in the places

of poppy plantations.

Shan State Hlutaw MP Dr Tun Aung of Nyaungshwe Township and Township Administrator U Kyaw Zaw Hla spoke about drug elimination and cultivation of crops while Head of Township Department of Agriculture U Zaw Win

Tun explained purpose of distributing Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds.

Officials presented paddy seeds to farmers for 50 acres of farmlands in Banbyin Village-tract, 20 acres in Linlan village-tract and 10 acres in Saga village-tract.

Nay Myo Thurein

Nurse trainees receive caps and coats

MANDALAY, 10 May—Nurses Training School (Mandalay) under Medical Human Resources Development and Management Department held the 24th capping and coating ceremony for trainees at its school in Chanmyathazi Township on 6 May.

Rector of University of Nursing (Mandalay) Dr Thi-

da and Principal of the training school Daw San San Oo spoke on the occasion.

The rector and matrons of the general hospitals decorated the trainees with coats and caps. After the trainees took oaths, the rector and officials presented prizes to the outstanding trainees.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Liberia declared Ebola-free, but outbreak continues over border

MONROVIA, 10 May — Liberia was declared free from Ebola by the government and the World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday after 42 days without a new case of the virus, which killed more than 4,700 people there during a year-long epidemic.

However, celebrations were muted by thoughts for the dead and medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) urged vigilance until the worst outbreak of the disease ever recorded was also extinguished in neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone.

A total of 11,005 people have died from Ebola in the three West African neighbours since the outbreak began in December 2013, according to the WHO.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who toured Ebola treatment units in the capital Monrovia, said that, while Liberia could take pride in winning the battle against the disease, work was not finished.

“At times when you are at your worst, it is when you become your best. That was what

happened to us,” she said during a speech at the country’s incident management centre. “The task is not yet over ... The challenge is that we stay at zero.”

Monday has been decreed by the government as a day of thanksgiving. The country’s Christians have been asked to pray for the dead on Sunday, with Muslims to do the same on Friday.

Liberia was recording hundreds of new cases a week at the peak of the outbreak between August and October, causing international alarm.

The United States sent in hundreds of soldiers to help build treatment clinics in a country founded by freed US slaves, a move seen as a game changer in the battle to stem the disease, contracted through physical contact with sick people.

The White House welcomed the news as a milestone for Liberians but cautioned there was more work to be done in Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Also critical in Liberia was the government’s national aware-



Women from an evangelical Christian community locally referred to as ‘prayer warriors’ celebrate after the WHO declared the country Ebola-free in Monrovia, Liberia on 9 May, 2015.

REUTERS

ness campaign to educate Liberians on how to protect themselves from Ebola.

“It is a tribute to the government and people of Liberia that determination to defeat Ebola never wavered, courage never faltered,” Alex Gasasira, the WHO’s representative in Monrovia, said on Saturday.

MSF said that Liberia’s completion of the WHO’s benchmark for the end of an Ebola outbreak — 42 days without a new case, marking twice the maximum incubation period of the virus — should not lead to complacency.

“We can’t take our foot off the gas until all three countries record 42 days with no cases,”

Mariateresa Cacciapuoti, MSF’s head of mission in Liberia, said in a statement.

She urged Liberia to step up cross-border surveillance to prevent Ebola slipping back into the country.

The UN Special Envoy on Ebola, David Nabarro, said on Tuesday that, even though fewer than 20 new cases were reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone last week, it could take months to get to zero.

International aid organizations were forced to step in as the Ebola outbreak ravaged the region’s poorly equipped and understaffed healthcare systems.

According to the WHO, a total of 868 health workers have caught the virus in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since the start of the outbreak, of whom 507 died.

“We are not afraid,” health worker Nathaniel Dovillie said at the event with President Sirleaf. “We are also now in a preparatory stage to be able to meet up with this challenge just in case it comes back.”—Reuters

Algeria to rely on China firm to build most challenging mega highway project

ALGIERS, 10 May — Algeria has been increasingly relying on China’s expertise in infrastructure, especially highway construction.

The North African nation has decided to link its north and south with a super highway, the expects the road to be ready for traffic in 2025.

The CSCEC, China’s state-run construction and engineering giant, according to the contract, will be responsible for 53 km of the mega road, the most difficult section of the project.

Chen Daiguang, CSCEC project manager, told *Xinhua* that it is the most difficult project his company signed up to in Algeria, and it is also the most important part of the

whole programme.

The Chinese-sponsored section stands to be the most challenging and complicated is due to the mountainous characteristics of the site. To cope with the harsh geological conditions, the Chinese company has to build a total of 40 bridges and two tunnels, each one 2.4 km long.

Despite the difficulties, the company said it pays a great deal of attention to the environment, and intends to maintain the bio-diversity and protect the wildlife in the mountainous area.

The region is a home to a special kind of monkey, called “Barbary macaque,” which is an endangered species in Algeria.

“We have asked our employees to respect the environment, as we have

adopted some techniques to minimize the noise and dust, so as not to disturb the animals and the environment in general,” Chen added.

Tekal Abdellah, a CESCEC official in charge of local workers, said the project has been proceeding well.

The North-South highway is a dual three-lane way linking capital Algiers and the border town of In-Guezzam.

The first phase of the mega highway will run across five provinces, and covers a distance of 1,013 km, while the succeeding stage would prolong the road to the border region with Mali, adding the total length to more than 1300 km.

Xinhua

California may require warnings on products containing chemical BPA

SACRAMENTO, 10 May — Plastic drinking bottles, canned goods and other items containing the chemical bisphenol-A (BPA) distributed in California might soon be required to carry a label disclosing that the compound can cause reproductive harm to women.

Thursday’s decision by a board of scientific experts to include BPA on a list of chemicals known to cause harm is the latest in a years-long dispute between state experts and the chemical industry, which says the substance is safe.

The decision was welcomed by the Natural Resources Defence Council, an environmental group, which called it “an important step forward in protecting public health.”

A non-profit organization generally supportive of industry positions said the decision highlights the “sheer ridiculousness” of California’s law requiring disclosure of chemical compounds known to cause harm.

“Regulators are just stirring up more needless fear about safe products,” said Joseph Perrone, chief science officer for the non-profit Centre for Ac-



A worker picks up a plastic bottle before a news conference in Taipei on 4 Nov, 2009.—REUTERS

countability in Science.

That voter-passed law, Proposition 65, set up a system under which chemicals found to cause developmental or reproductive impairment would have to be disclosed, whether they are in consumer products, used in the construction of buildings or used in other ways.

A chemical industry group sued the state in 2013, when experts tried to require disclosure of BPA as causing developmental harm. The state won that case, but the industry appealed, and the chemical remains off the list while the litigation continues, said Sam Delson, a spokesman for California’s Office

of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

The product is used in plastic drinking bottles and in the lining of some canned food containers, among other purposes.

Even with Thursday’s decision that BPA belongs on the state’s list of harmful chemicals, disclosure will not be required for another year, if at all, Delson said. That depends on a second state process, under which experts must decide at what level the chemical is harmful to women’s reproductive systems.

If the amount in bottles or cans falls below that threshold, a warning would not be required, he said.

Reuters

Mitsubishi to recall over 130,000 vehicles in US

NEW YORK, 10 May — Mitsubishi Motors Corp is recalling in the United States 130,354 of its Outlander and other vehicles made between 2009 and 2011 due to possible malfunctions affecting head and tail lights, and windshield

wipers and defrosters, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Saturday.

Some 53,396 vehicles are being recalled due to a defective control unit for head and tail lights and windshield wipers. And a faulty blower that may af-

fect the windshield defroster has prompted the recall of another 76,958 vehicles, it said.

Mitsubishi Motors has filed for a recall of the models for the same reasons with Japan’s transport ministry.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Peking Man tooth reveals details of ancient humans



BEIJING, 10 May — Fossils of Peking Man are very rare, as most disappeared during World War II, so it is no surprise that scientists are excited by analysis published on a tooth from a 600,000 year old ancestor of modern man. The latest issue of “Acta Anthropologica Sinica”, featured the findings of Swedish and Chinese scientists. According to Liu Wu from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the tooth in question is an upper right canine from a Peking Man. The tooth was fully developed, indicating the individual was between 20 to 40 years old. Age is revealed by counting dentine incremental layers, Martin Kundrat from the Evolutionary Biology Centre at Uppsala University, Sweden, said.

The tooth has two large chips, extending from the biting edge down toward the base of the crown.

“One of these chips has been partly smoothed by wear, showing that it was formed long before the death of the individual,” he added. “It is possible that they were using their teeth as tools or they could bite some solid objects, such as nuts or animal bones.” Liu revealed that future research will see the extraction of residue from the tooth to identify the food the Peking Man ate.

The crown and root are smaller than other teeth found, Kundrat says, indicating Peking man could actually be a woman.

However, Liu said the tooth alone could not prove the gender of the individual.

For a long time after World War II, the only specimens of Peking Man fossils that survived the original excavation were three teeth at Uppsala University’s collection. It was not until 2011 that Kundrat and Jan Ove R Ebbestad, curator of the Museum of Evolution at the university, found the fourth tooth. Kundrat discovered the tooth while looking through almost-forgotten expedition crates. About 40 crates shipped from China to Uppsala almost a century ago held vertebrate fossils.

Swiss paleontologist Carl Wiman had been in charge of identifying and describing the fossils but after his death in 1944, the direction of research changed, leaving the 40 crates unopened and forgotten. On 21 March, 2011, Kundrat and Ebbestad opened a crate that bore the letters ZKD, the acronym for Zhoukoudian, the Peking Man fossil site to find tooth fragments.

He sensed the importance of the discovery and contacted Liu Wu and Tong Haowen, also from the Chinese institute, to help them identify the tooth.—Xinhua

Major El Nino event imminent, to lift global temperatures

CANBERRA, 10 May — Australian climate scientists have reportedly confirmed that a major El Nino event, which will lift global temperatures and lead to lower rainfall, is set to hit south-east Asia and Australia.

Fairfax Media reported on Friday that Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology will announce on Tuesday the imminent arrival of the latest round of El Nino.

El Nino is the warm phase of a major climate system that occurs in the South Pacific, which sees sea surface temperatures

anomalously warm or cold for long periods.

As warm waters spreads from the west Pacific to the east Pacific, it takes the rain with it, causing extensive drought in the western Pacific and rainfall in the normally dry eastern Pacific.

Australia’s threshold for an El Nino episode is sustained warmth of sea-surface temperatures 0.8 degrees Celsius above average.

“You can see a warming in the eastern Pacific, which looks to be a classic El Nino event,” Dr Agus

Santoso, an El Nino modeller at the University of New South Wales, told Fairfax Media on Friday.

Santoso said if the El Nino conditions continue rising through winter and peak in summer, “a big El Nino” could be the potential result.

Santoso said it was quite rare that the build up of unusual warmth in the eastern Pacific was happening so early in the year. Regular El Nino years begin in or after July.

El Nino causes global temperatures to rise as a warmer Pacific is less capa-

ble of absorbing heat from the atmosphere. Global temperatures typically rise by one or two tenths of a degree Celsius.

The climate event causes disastrous conditions in eastern and southern Australia. Droughts become deeper, agriculture yields smaller and bushfire seasons longer and more intense.

Inland Queensland, western Victoria and north-central New South Wales have already suffered serious or severe rainfall deficiency over the past 30 months.—Xinhua

Tesco set to put mobile unit for sale

LONDON, 10 May — Tesco Plc is in talks with bankers to put its mobile business up for sale in an effort to divest non-core assets, the *Financial Times* reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Tesco Mobile could fetch “hundreds of millions of pounds”, although the value of the company will in part be the brand itself, the *Financial Times* said.

TalkTalk, which acquired Tesco’s TV service Blinkbox last year, and O2 are said to be amongst the potential bidders, the *FT* said. Analysts expect the deal to be cleared by EU authorities, but only after its agreed upon to open the market to similar branded competitors, the paper said.

Tesco and O2 declined



A shopper passes a Tesco supermarket in London on 5 Oct, 2011.—REUTERS

to comment. TalkTalk could not be immediately reached for comment out-

side regular business hours.

Hutchison in January agreed to buy Telefonica’s

British mobile unit O2 for nearly \$15.4 billion (£9.95 billion).—Reuters

Alibaba sweeps up shares of retailer Zulily, now holds 9.2 percent stake



The logo of Alibaba Group is seen inside the company’s headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province early on 11 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 10 May — Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has reached a 9.2 percent stake in US online retailer Zulily Inc, after sweeping up shares at rock-bottom prices last week.

On Friday, Alibaba finished a three-day buying binge and now holds 11.5 million shares of Zulily, a site that hosts “flash” sales of clothing primarily for women and children, according to a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing posted late on Friday.

After spiking in February 2014 to \$73.50,

Zulily shares have fallen sharply, and closed on Friday at \$13.30. Shares hit a record low of \$9.09 on Wednesday, the first day of Alibaba’s acquisitions, as brokerages slashed price targets for the company on a disappointing first-quarter report.

Before the week’s buys, Alibaba held just under 7 million Zulily shares, the filing showed.

The *Wall Street Journal*, which first reported the investments, quoted a person familiar with the matter as saying Alibaba was not looking to acquire Zulily outright. Zulily’s chief

executive officer, Darrell Cavens, said his company had a lot of respect for Alibaba and welcomed it as a shareholder.

While Zulily goes head-to-head with other flash sales sites such as Rue La La, it has said it expects to compete increasingly with Alibaba and the other major shopping platform, Amazon.

The *Journal* said the drop in Zulily’s shares this year of more than 40 percent was largely because of reports of sharply decelerating sales growth and difficulty holding on to customers.—Reuters

Int'l zoo, aquarium body suspends Japan membership over dolphins

TOKYO, 10 May — The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has suspended its Japanese member on the grounds that Japanese aquariums have “violated the code of ethics” by using dolphins caught in drive hunt fisheries at Taiji in western Japan, which have drawn international criticism.

The recent decision, taken by unanimous vote at WAZA’s council meeting, may make it difficult for Japanese zoos and aquariums to seek overseas co-operation for breeding rare animals and other issues.

A whale museum in Taiji, which rears about 50 dolphins mostly acquired from the local drive fishery, criticized the decision, saying it is “emotional.”

The small fishery town in Wakayama Prefecture is known for its whaling culture and its dolphin hunting practices, which critics condemn as cruel.

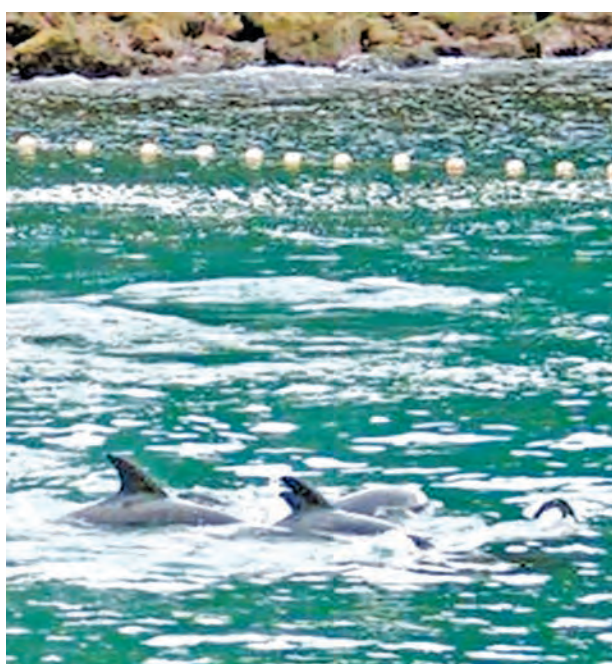
The statement on the WAZA website, dated 22 April, said, “The basis for the suspension is a determination that JAZA has violated the WAZA Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare.

Moreover, WAZA Council re-affirmed its position that members of WAZA must confirm that they will not acquire dolphins from the Taiji fishery.”

Last year, US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy expressed concern on Twitter about the dolphin hunting in Taiji. The town came into the spotlight through the Oscar-winning 2009 US documentary “The Cove” that showed the slaughter of dolphins during a hunt off the coast.

WAZA held talks with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums last year in Tokyo, but JAZA rejected a proposed two-year moratorium on taking animals from the drive hunts, the statement said.

The issue was discussed again in November at WAZA’s international conference, where the Japanese side failed to agree to restrict taking animals from such hunting practices, the statement said. “WAZA’s mission is to serve as the voice of a worldwide community of zoos and aquariums and a catalyst for their joint conservation action,” it said.



File photo taken in September 2006 shows dolphin hunting off the coast of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums suspended its Japanese member in April 2015 on the grounds that Japanese aquariums have “violated the code of ethics” by using dolphins caught during a hunt in Taiji, which has drawn international criticism.—KYODO NEWS

But Tetsuo Kirihata, deputy head of the Taiji whale museum that is using the dolphins in question, said WAZA made an “emotional decision.”

“Drive fishery may look shocking, but it is a good way to capture dol-

phins without overly hurting them,” Kirihata said. There is “nothing to be ashamed of” in taking dolphins caught in a method that is “approved by the Japanese government and Wakayama Prefecture.

Kyodo News

Air Canada plane makes emergency landing after baby born

CHIBA, (Japan), 10 May — An Air Canada Boeing 767 made an emergency landing at Narita airport east of Tokyo on Sunday after a passenger went into labour, airport officials said.

The 23-year-old Canadian mother and the baby were both in good health, the Japanese transport ministry’s Narita airport office said. The woman was taken to hospital after leaving the aircraft in a wheelchair along with a man holding the newborn.

The emergency was declared on Flight 9 from Calgary to Narita at about 12:50 pm around 565 kilometres northeast of the Japanese airport and the plane landed an hour later.—*Kyodo News*



A woman, who gave birth to a baby while flying over the Pacific Ocean aboard an Air Canada Boeing 767 bound for Japan’s Narita airport from Calgary in Canada, is carried by stretcher after arriving at Narita International Airport, near Tokyo, on 10 May, 2015. A man carrying the newborn can be seen to the right. The 23-year-old Canadian mother and baby are in good condition. —KYODO NEWS

Airbus A400M military transporter crashes on test flight, killing four

SEVILLE, (Spain), 10 May — An Airbus (AIR. PA) A400M military transport plane crashed outside Seville on Saturday, killing four test crew and prompting Britain and Germany to ground Europe’s new troop and cargo carrier.

The aircraft was due to be delivered to another NATO customer, Turkey,

and was on its maiden test flight when it crashed in a field one mile (1.6 km) north of Seville’s San Pablo airport. It was the first ever crash of an A400M.

Airbus said four Spanish employees had been killed and two surviving crew were in hospital in serious condition.

The newspaper *El*

Pais said the crew had detected a fault and asked permission to land, but hit an electricity pylon while attempting an emergency landing.

Tracking data from the Flightradar24 website indicated the plane had wheeled to the left before coming down.

An Airbus spokesman

declined to comment on possible causes. Airbus said it had sent a team to investigate.

The crash delivers a fresh blow to Europe’s largest defence project, which is still struggling to overcome delays and cost overruns that led to a bailout by European governments in 2010.

Britain and Germany said they were suspending A400M flights while they awaited more information on what caused the crash.

A plume of black smoke rose from the site, where hardly anything was left of the plane amid black, scorched earth.

Reuters



Photo taken on 10 May, 2015 shows the accident scene where a plane skidded off the runway at Changle International Airport in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China’s Fujian Province. A Joyair plane skidded off the runway while taxiing at Changle International Airport on Sunday, leaving five passengers slightly injured.—XINHUA

Five injured as plane skids off runway in SE China

FUZHOU, 10 May — Five passengers were slightly injured after a passenger plane skidded off a runway while taxiing in a southeast China airport on Sunday noon, local authorities said.

Joyair flight JR1529 careered off the runway when landing at Fuzhou Changle International Airport (FCIA) in Fuzhou City, capital of Fujian Province. A *Xinhua* journalist at the airport reported seeing smoke from the plane and passengers fleeing the cabin.

Pictures on microblog Sina Weibo show one of the wings to be broken. A tank can be seen dousing the plane with water.

There were 45 passengers and seven cabin crew on board when the accident happened. The accident forced the FCIA to close temporarily.

The aircraft, a China-built Modern Ark 60 (MA60), was flying on a connecting route between Fuzhou, the eastern city

of Yiwu in Zhejiang Province, and Hefei in east China’s Anhui Province. It departed from Yiwu at 10: 42 am and was scheduled to land in Fuzhou at 12:10 pm.

Joyair was jointly established by the Aviation Industry Corp of China and China Eastern Airlines with an investment of 1 billion yuan (161.1 million US dollars). The airline’s fleet consists of mainly domestic-made regional aircraft, including the MA and ARJ21 models.

Joyair reported multiple accidents last year. In February, an MA60 plane with 44 people aboard nose-dived during taxiing due to a landing gear fault in central China’s Zhengzhou City.

In December, another Joyair plane was forced to make an emergency landing in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province.

No casualties were reported in either case. Joyair issued an apology to the public on its official website following today’s accident.—*Xinhua*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Ministry of Energy Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Extension of the request for the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)
Joint Venture Project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested local and international investors for the request of the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) regarding the joint venture project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa) from 17.3.2015 to 23.3.2015 in the national newspaper and to be submitted not later than (12:00) noon at the date of 4.5.2015.

MPE hereby announces that the submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 4.6.2015 from 4.5.2015.

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (3/2015)

[TENDER NO. MPPE/ JET A1 / T / 1 (2015 — 2016)]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET A1 (282,000 bbl ± 10%)

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 26 - 5 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 26 - 5 - 2015, 13:00 Hrs

4. Delivery Time - 1st July 2015 to 31st October 2015

5. Tender documents and details are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 11 - 5 - 2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000.) per set.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise

Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

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067-411487/411486/411280

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY

(ANNOUNCEMENT)

INVITATION TO OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFSHORE SUPPLY BASE JOINT VENTURE

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (M.O.G.E), a state owned oil and gas company under Ministry of Energy, is responsible for upstream oil and gas industry, both onshore and offshore, in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. Currently, numerous international oil and gas companies are conducting petroleum exploration and production operations in Myanmar offshore and more new PSC blocks are being awarded by recent bidding round. To support those petroleum operations, Offshore Supply Bases are inevitably required.
3. Thus, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise would like to invite international and local developers who are interested to construct and operate an Offshore Supply Base and related facilities in Myanmar, jointly with MOGE.
4. The interested local and international companies are cordially invited to come and discuss with MOGE management during the period of 25th May 2015 to 12th June 2015 in office hours, at appropriate appointment.
5. The letter of request for the appointment shall be addressed to;

The Managing Director

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Complex 44, Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: 95-67 411055 / 411056

Fax: 95-67 411125 / 411178

6. For further inquiry for information, please contact the followings:-

(1) Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel: 95-67 411055 / 411056

Fax: 95-67411125/411178

email: -mogemd@energy.gov.mm

pamdooffice@gmail.com

(2) General Manager, Thaketa Offshore Base, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: 95-1 542732 / 450369

Fax: 95-1 450454

email: - mogegmtka@energy.gov.mm

kntun135@gmail.com

Cameron restores outspoken ally Gove to cabinet front line



Britain's Conservative Party's Chief Whip Michael Gove leaves 10 Downing Street in central London, on 18 March, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 10 May — Newly re-elected British Prime Minister David Cameron restored one of his most outspoken and combative allies to a leading cabinet role by naming Michael Gove as justice secretary on Sunday.

Gove was last year shunted into the role of chief whip, responsible for keeping party members in line, in what was seen as a demotion from his previous role as education secretary.

Cameron's Downing Street office confirmed Gove's appointment and also said Chris Grayling, the previous justice secretary, would now be leader of the House of Commons, a cabinet job that involves supervising the government's legislative agenda.

Nicky Morgan, Gove's successor as education secretary, remains in that role, Downing Street said.

One of the most radical figures in Cameron's Conservative party, Gove drove education reform by encouraging the creation of "free schools", directly funded by government but independent of local

councils unlike other state schools.

He is seen by the Conservative leadership as a brave and visionary reformer, but his education programme was far from universally popular. Many in the teaching profession objected, and his flagship free schools policy has drawn criticism that it diverted state funding to places that did not need it the most.

Gove's abrasive style also stirred controversy, and last year's reshuffle sparked speculation that he might have been seen as a liability in the run-up to an election.

Cameron's surprisingly clear victory in Thursday's vote has paved the way for him to make new ministerial appointments from Conservative ranks, as he is no longer reliant on his former Liberal Democrat coalition partners.

But so far the main signal has been one of continuity, with the reappointment on Friday of his finance, foreign, defence and interior ministers.

Reuters

One dead, another missing as boat capsizes in Sea of Japan

NIIGATA, (Japan), 10 May — A pleasure boat with three men aboard capsized off the Sea of Japan coast in central Japan on Sunday, leaving one of them dead and another missing, the local coast guard said.

In the accident off Itoigawa, Niigata Prefecture, Kazunobu Karasawa, 66, was confirmed dead after being found unconscious, according to the Ninth Regional Coast Guard Headquarters.

Of the three aboard, Kazushi Yoneyama, 42,

swam ashore and made an emergency call.

Karasawa and Yoneyama had been fishing on an offshore breakwater since Saturday evening and the three men were on their way back when the boat capsized.

The coast guard is searching for the missing man, who was steering the boat.

At the time of the accident, there were winds of up to 10 metres per second, according to the coast guard.

Kyodo News

Tornado kills one in north Texas, several twisters touch down in Colorado

COLORADO, 10 May — A tornado killed one person in a rural part of north Texas on Saturday and destroyed at least two houses, a local emergency official said, just days after a series of twisters tore through several Great Plains states.

The twister touched down about 5 miles (8 km) south of the town of Cisco, an area of farms and small ranches, where it traveled in a straight line and tore through several houses in its path, said Eastland County Judge Rex Fields, the local emergency management coordinator.

One person was killed by the twister, Fields said. He could not immediately provide more information on the victim.

At least two houses were destroyed in the area about 130 miles (210 km) west of Dallas, and other dwellings might have been damaged, Fields said.

Roads were partly flooded because of the storm, he said.

"We can't exactly tell what all we've got just yet," Fields said. "We don't even have everybody accounted for."

In eastern Colorado, three tornadoes touched down in rural areas on Saturday, said National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Kalina. There were no reports of injuries or property damage from the weak twisters, he said.

"These touched down on the Eastern Plains where there is a lot of open space," Kalina said.

Tornadoes also touched down on Saturday in western Kansas and on the border with Oklahoma and Texas, but no injuries were immediately reported, said meteorologist Liz Leitman of the weather service's Storm Prediction Centre.

Residents in parts of Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas had been bracing for severe thunderstorms that could spawn tornadoes, after the weather service issued a warning of an enhanced risk of twisters along with hail, strong winds and flash floods.

But the instability capable of generating strong supercell storms that produce major tornadoes did not materialize on Saturday afternoon, lessening the effects of the severe weather, Leitman said.

Another band of

storms was due over the same region on Sunday, but was not expected to be as severe, forecasters said.

On Wednesday, a weather system battered a region from Texas to Nebraska and produced dozens of reported tornadoes, including several that touched down in Oklahoma, causing one death, injuring 12 and flattening buildings.

Tornado season in the Southern Plains states normally lasts from May to early June.

Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Shan (Northern) and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

George Clooney praises his smart wife Amal Alamuddin



Hollywood star George Clooney & his wife Amal Alamuddin

LOS ANGELES, 10 May — Hollywood star George Clooney is all praise for his wife Amal Alamuddin's beauty, style and her high intelligence.

The 54-year-old kept gushing about his wife on several occasions while promoting his new film, "Tomorrowland", reported Ace Showbiz.

"She's an amazing human being. And she's caring. And she also happens to be one of the smartest people I've ever met. And she's got a great sense of humour," Clooney said.

Commenting on her being a fashion icon, the star said, "It's amazing, because she's always — since

the day I met her — she's always had this insanely ... it's eccentric but it's fun, sense of fashion."

The human rights attorney always looks stylish despite her abundant workload. "How she does it while she's got 11 cases she's working on, and she was teaching at Columbia, and she's still like, 'I want to wear that dress.' It's crazy. It has been sort of fascinating to watch, because she has such great taste," he added.—PTI

Harry Styles upset with Louis Tomlinson over fight with Zayn Malik?



Singer Harry Styles

LONDON, 10 May — Singer Harry Styles has reportedly been giving his One Direction bandmate Louis Tomlinson the cold shoulder after his Twitter spat with former member Zayn Malik.

Styles, 21, insists Tomlinson's actions in blasting Zayn, 22, and his producer friend Naughty Boy have damaged the band's reputation, causing a lot of tension between the pair, reported *Female First*.

"Harry is very aware of 1D's reputation and doesn't like getting into any public scrapes, especially with other members of the band.

"It's fair to say his relationship with Louis has been strained for some time and the last couple of weeks hasn't helped matters."

A band insider, however, has said the two have been able to put the spat behind them and they have continued to work side by

side on 1D's new album with Liam Payne and Niall Horan.

"Harry and Louis are working together in the studio in Los Angeles on 1D's next album. They're fine."

The row between Tomlinson and Malik took place on Wednesday night with the latter blasting his former bandmate for making "bitchy comments".

The spat between the long-time pals, who previously insisted they would remain close despite Zayn leaving the band, erupted after Louis mocked a picture filter Naughty Boy, whose real name is Shahid Khan, used on an image of him and Zayn in the recording studio.

Singer Liam Gallagher has asked his brother Noel to not interfere in One Direction matter after he slammed musician Zayn Malik for leaving the boy band.—PTI

Jennifer Love Hewitt quits 'Criminal Minds'



Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt

LOS ANGELES, 10 May — Pregnant actress Jennifer Love Hewitt has left the TV show "Criminal Minds" a season after she joined it.

The 36-year-old "Party of Five" star joined the CBS series at the start of season 10 and will not return for season 11 as of now. The Wednesday, 6 May episode was her last, reported E! Online.

Hewitt's character,

Kate, saw her daughter and friend kidnapped in the season 10 finale. The character, like Hewitt, was also expecting another child, and decided to take a step back to focus on her family.

Showrunner Erica Messer said that was not the original plan, but the writers worked it in.

The actress gave birth to her first child, Autumn, in November 2013.—PTI

22nd Beijing College Student Film Festival closes

Wu Jing receives award for the best new director during the closing ceremony of the 22nd Beijing College Student Film Festival in Beijing, capital of China on 9 May, 2015.

XINHUA



Newsman Thomas Roberts, TV host Kelly Ripa honoured by gay media group

NEW YORK, 10 May — MSNBC news anchor Thomas Roberts and talk show host Kelly Ripa were among honourees at GLAAD's annual media awards on Saturday, which recognize representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Roberts, 42, who came out as gay in 2006, accepted the group's Vito Russo Award for promoting equality in the gay community.

The award, named after the activist and film historian who was one of the founding member of media advocacy group GLAAD, was presented to him by Lynda Carter, best known as television's "Wonder Woman" in the 1970s.

"It was liberating, and frightening as hell," Roberts said, recalling the period when he became open about being gay.

"People like me were considered immoral at best, a joke," Roberts said, noting that while things had improved for gay people, "we have a long way to go."



Television personality Kelly Ripa arrives at the 85th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 24 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Past winners of the award include Suze Orman, Rosie O'Donnell, Elton John, Tom Ford and CNN newsman Anderson Cooper.

Accepting the Excellence in Media Award from Cooper in recognition of her advocacy for gay issues, Ripa, co-host of the daily "Live With Kelly and Michael" reflected that she

thought it a bit odd that "I should be celebrated for treating people like people."

In other awards handed out at the 26th annual ceremony, Sports Illustrated was cited for outstanding overall magazine coverage, with the honour accepted by groundbreaking gay athletes Jason Collins and Michael Sam.

"Lilting," about the relationship of a mother and her son's lover following the son's death, was named outstanding limited release film, while Showtime's "L Word Mississippi: Hate the Sin," about gay women living in the southern United States, won the documentary prize.

TV One's "R&B Divas: Atlanta" was named outstanding reality television show.

HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" won for outstanding talk show episode while MSNBC Live took the honour for best TV journalism segment, about anti-gay discrimination in the workplace. Nickelodeon's "Nick News" with Linda Ellerbee, the Salt Lake City Tribune, Time magazine and Fusion.net were among winners for broadcast, print and digital journalism.

GLAAD presented other awards in Los Angeles last month, honouring "The Imitation Game," "The Normal Heart" and filmmaker Roland Emmerich among others.

Reuters

GENERAL

Powell speeds to year's fastest 100 metres

KINGSTON, 10 May — Asafa Powell ran the fastest 100 metres in the world this year when he clocked a blazing 9.84 seconds at the Jamaica International Invitational in Kingston on Saturday.

The time was the former world record holder's fastest in five years as the 32-year-old beat American Ryan Bailey (9.93) and Jamaican Nesta Carter (9.98) in the first sub-10 seconds 100 of the year.

The meeting also produced four other 2015 leading marks.

US Olympic champion Sanya Richards-Ross delivered the first sub-50

seconds women's 400m, clocking 49.95, and Bahamian Shaunae Miller beat a high quality women's 200m field in 22.14.

Rapidly improving Jamin Stowers lowered her women's 100m hurdles leading time to 12.39 and fellow American Aleec Harris remained unbeaten in the men's 110m hurdles, running 13.16 to equal the year's top time.

Fast times also came from Jamaicans in the men's 200 and women's 100.

Diamond League champion Nickel Ashmeade ran 20.25 to win the 200, and Elaine Thompson, already the year's fastest,



Asafa Powell of Jamaica runs on his way to winning his 100m heat round 1 during the London 2012 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium on 4 Aug, 2012. —REUTERS

clocked 10.97 in the women's 100.

American Tyson Gay,

who had been scheduled to run the 200, did not compete.—Reuters

Nadal to face Murray in heavyweight Madrid final

MADRID, 10 May — Holder Rafa Nadal looked something close to his old masterful self on clay again as he crushed Czech Tomas Berdych 7-6(3), 6-1 on Saturday to set up a heavyweight Madrid Masters showdown against Andy Murray. Third seed Nadal, bidding for a third consecutive title in the Spanish capital but still searching for form and consistency, edged a tight first set before turning the screw in the second to exact revenge for a straight-sets defeat by Berdych in this year's Australian Open quarter-finals.

Nadal had won 17 consecutive matches against the Czech sixth seed before falling to him in Melbourne and restored his dominance with a solid display that included a series of trademark whipped forehand winners.

"I had to play at a very



Britain's Andy Murray

high level today to have any chance and I think it was without doubt one of the best matches I have played this year," a jubilant Nadal told Spanish television.

"This week was crucial for me and the fact that I am in the final cannot be improved on given my situation

coming into the tournament," added the 28-year-old.

The Mallorcan is favourite to claim the title after world number one Novak Djokovic decided to miss the event to rest and Roger Federer, who took over from the Serb as top seed, lost to Australian Nick Kyrgios in the second round. Murray, however, will pose a considerable threat in Sunday's final after a superb performance to overcome Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-4 in a high-quality contest.

The Briton, who claimed a first claycourt title in Munich last week, has followed up with a string of impressive displays to reach his first Masters Series claycourt final. After struggles with injury and illness, Nadal is attempting to rediscover his spark on his favoured surface before he makes a bid for a record-extending

10th French Open singles title in Paris starting at the end of the month.

Berdych saved both break points he faced in the opening set but faded badly in the tiebreak. Nadal punished a series of errors from the 2012 runner-up to open a 5-1 lead in the second and sealed victory on his first match point when Berdych sent a return sailing out.

Murray moved up a gear from 3-3 in the first set to claim the opener against Nishikori but was a break down early in the second before again producing some stunning tennis.

"Against Rafa it's going to be extremely difficult, especially playing here in Spain," Murray told a news conference. "Hopefully I can put in a good performance and make it tough for him and see what happens."—Reuters

Muay Thai kick competition held in Indonesia



Fighters perform during a Muay Thai kick competition in Jakarta, Indonesia on 10 May, 2015. —XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(11-5-2015 07:00 am ~ 12-5-2015 07:00 am)

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(11-5-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Documentary |
| 7:00 am | 3:30 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • Head Line News |
| 7:35 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Third Year (Economic) |
| 8:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| • News / International News | • News / Weather Report |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) | • Socio Economic Scenes |
| 9:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • News |
| 10:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • People's Talks | • Documentary |
| 11:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | 9:00 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:35 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • Tasty Trip | • TV Drama Series |
| 1:10 pm | |
| • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(11-5-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 9:10 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:15 am | 9:25 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:50 am | 9:45 am |
| • (21 th) Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition | • ASEAN China Cultural Show |
| 7:50 am | 10:10 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • ASEAN CULTURAL FAIR (2014) |
| 8:35 am | 10:30 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |

Thais beat Myanmar for AFF Women's Crown

HO CHI MINH CITY, 10 May — Rattikan Thongsombut nailed a late winner as Thailand lifted the AFF Women's Championship for two years in a row after beating Myanmar 3-2 in the final that was played here tonight at the Thong Nhat Stadium.

"It is fantastic to win of course," said Thai coach Nuengrutai Srathonvian afterwards. "It is just the right tonic ahead of our appearance at the FIFA World Cup next month."

Showing no let up

from their semi-final appearance, Thailand was pushing hard from the get-go as they fielded all their best players that included Sunisa Srangthaisong, Nisa Romyen and also Anotsara Maijarern.

But it was to be the hardworking Kanjana Sung Ngoen who caused the most damage to Myanmar's title aspiration with her hard running down the left flank.

As Myanmar absorbed the early pressure, they were finding it hard to break into the Thai box although Khin Marlar Tun

and also Yee Yee Oo did get a sniff of getting a shot in.

With chances far in between, it was Thailand who broke the deadlock in the 37th minute off an earlier attempt from Nisa that was blocked by Myanmar keeper May Phu Ngon, the waiting Kanjanam slammed in the ball from the far post.

Four minutes later, Nisa could have put the game beyond Myanmar's reach but with Phu Ngon beaten, she just could not fire the ball in from an acute angle.

Myanmar finished the first half with the best chance of the first half where off a lay up from Marlar Tun, striker Yee Oo



just could not place her header past Thai custodian Waraporn Boonsing.

A mad scramble inside the Thai box in the 56th minute allowed Khin Moe Wai to toe poke the equalizer as Myanmar

grew in confidence to push forward.

But the Thais were not to be outdone and in the 65th minute, a looping header from Nisa off a cross from Anotsara saw Thailand restoring their

lead. In the 71st minute, Win Theingi Tun once again put Myanmar on lever terms before Rattikan broke from the right to score with a stiff ground-er four minutes later.—aseanfootball.org

3rd and 4th placing
Australia U20 **4-3** Vietnam

Barca four points clear after Real held by Valencia



Barcelona's Neymar (L) celebrates his goal against Real Sociedad with teammate Marc Bartra during their Spanish first division soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

MADRID, 10 May — Real Madrid's hopes of overhauling La Liga leaders Barcelona suffered a stinging blow when they were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Valencia on Saturday to slip four points behind their arch rivals with two games left.

Treble-chasing Barca had earlier secured a nervous 2-0 victory at home to Real Sociedad and Real's stumble capped a superb week for the Catalan giants after Wednesday's 3-0 drubbing of Bayern Munich put them on the brink of a place in the Champions League

final. Real, by contrast, are facing the real possibility of elimination from Europe's elite club competition following the holders' 2-1 defeat at Juventus in their semi-final, first leg.

Barca, through to the King's Cup final against Athletic Bilbao at the end of the month, play their return match at Bayern on Tuesday and Real host Juve on Wednesday. Valencia raced into a surprise 2-0 lead at the Bernabeu through goals from Paco Alcacer and Javi Fuego before Real forward Cristiano Ronaldo had a penalty saved by goalkeeper

Diego Alves on the stroke of halftime. Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Javier Hernandez had earlier struck efforts against the frame of the goal and Real's Germany midfielder Toni Kroos had to be replaced by Asier Illarramendi because of a suspected muscle injury.

Pepe pulled a goal back for Real with a header from a corner 11 minutes into the second half and Isco levelled with a superb curling shot six minutes from time but Valencia held on in an action-packed finale.

"We didn't start the game well but we played a

great second half," Pepe told Spanish television.

"If we play like that against Juve we will get through," added the Portugal centre back. "The league is difficult now but you have to sweat for this shirt."

Barca have 90 points, with Real on 86 and champions Atletico Madrid 10 points further adrift in third ahead of their game at Levante on Sunday.

With Valencia three points behind them in fourth, a win would virtually assure Atletico of Spain's third automatic Champions League berth.—Reuters

Burnley down, Man United consolidate fourth spot

LONDON, 10 May — Burnley were relegated from the Premier League despite beating Hull City 1-0 on Saturday as results elsewhere sent them back to the Championship after one season in the top flight.

The humble Lancashire club needed to win their last three games to have any hope of avoiding the drop but there proved no escape after Sunderland, Leicester City and Aston Villa all won and Newcastle United drew.

Manchester United won 2-1 at Crystal Palace to consolidate fourth spot, a first win in four games for Louis van Gaal's side ensuring they need only one

point from two games to get back into the Champions League frame.

Sunderland's win over Everton sealed Burnley's fate but six other sides are still in trouble, including Queens Park Rangers and Hull who occupy the other places in the relegation zone.

QPR will be doomed if they fail to win at second-placed Manchester City on Sunday.

At the other end of the standings, United will join City, Arsenal and Chelsea in the Champions League next season if champions Chelsea beat Liverpool on Sunday.

United ended a run

of three consecutive defeats when they won 2-1 at Crystal Palace thanks to a 19th-minute Juan Mata penalty and a 78th-minute header from Marouane Fellaini either side of Jason Puncheon's 57th-minute deflected free kick.

United are seven points clear of Liverpool, who have three games remaining. Danny Ings capitalised on slack Hull defending to score Burnley's first goal in over 10 hours but it proved in vain.

Ings, whose displays this season have earned plenty of praise, spoke for his team when he told the BBC: "The lads showed unbelievable fight and spir-



Steve Harper of Hull City in action with Ashley Barnes of Burnley during their Barclays Premier League at The Kingston Communications Stadium on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

it today. "I thought we were phenomenal and were on top from start to finish — but it has come a little too late. "Now we are going

to play the last two games with pride and hope to finish strongly."

With bottom-placed QPR almost certain to join

Burnley in the Championship, the battle to avoid the third and final relegation place is still very much alive.—Reuters