THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar seeks Dutch assistance for agricultural technologies

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — President U Thein Sein accepted Minister for Agriculture Mrs. Sharon Dijksma from the Netherlands on Tuesday at Presidential Palace, with discussion on cooperation in agriculture and livestock farming technologies.

The president and the Dutch minister discussed possible assistance for production of value-added items, fruits, vegetable, dairy produce and fishery products, quality control on the products of agricultural and livestock items to meet international norms and promotion of these exports.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Ohn Myint, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Ko Ko Oo and U Ye Htut, and Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan.

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President U Thein Sein cordially shakes hands with Minister for Agriculture Mrs. Sharon Dijksma from the Netherlands.
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Myanmar eyes 2 million tons of rice exports in 2015-16 FY

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 19 May — Myanmar's rice exports will hit roughly 2 million tons this fiscal year amid increasing demand from China, Africa and Europe, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Exporters are sending roughly 4,000 tons a day by road to China following a surge in demand from the neighbouring country, according to the state-run Kyemon Daily.

After three consecutive years of high export volume — 1.4 million tons in fiscal 2012-2013, 1.2 million tons in 2013-2014, and 1.8 million tons in 2014-2015 — Myanmar is looking to become one of the world's top three rice exporters in the next few years.

Myanmar's roughly 1.8 million tons of rice exports in 2014-2015 marked a 49-year high, while the 1.4 million tons exported in 2012-2013 was a 74-year high, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's fiscal year begins on April 1 and ends on May 31.

The agro-based economy has seen a dramatic increase in agricultural exports, earning some US $2.7 billion in fiscal 2014-2015, up from around US $1.8 billion the previous year.

According to Ministry of Commerce figures, Myanmar's corn exports have increased from some thousands of tons before fiscal 2012-13 to more than 1 million tons in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, respectively, and more than 1.8 million tons in the 2014-2015.

Meanwhile, export volumes of fruits, sesame, beans and pulses in fiscal 2014-2015 also increased.

Myanmar mostly exports agricultural produce, animal by-products and fishery products, as well as mine and forest products, while it imports consumer products, raw materials and investment goods.

The government is planning to implement the National Export Strategy, which focuses on seven sectors — rice, peas and pulses, fisheries products, textiles, timber and forest products, rubber, and tourism in an attempt to tackle the trade deficit, which stood at roughly US $5 billion in 2014-2015, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

(See page 2)

***Farmers start cultivation of monsoon paddy not only for local food sufficiency but for raising rice export.*—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Myanmar's view and efforts on Migrants and Boat People

1. Recently, there have been reports by the international media on migrants and boat people in the Andaman Sea and the Straits of Malacca. In this connection, Myanmar shares concerns expressed by the international community, and is closely following the news.
2. Myanmar deeply concerns with the sufferings and life-threatening fate of innocent people as the consequences of human smuggling and illegal migration in the region.
3. Against this backdrop, Myanmar is making serious efforts on the prevention of smuggling and illegal migration. One such activity is the regular patrolling in Myanmar territorial water by the Myanmar Navy and Air Force to deter any illegal trespassing in the territory and to provide safety for the trespassers, if any, in the sea. Myanmar stands ready to provide humanitarian assistance to anyone who suffered in the sea.
4. Preventive measures on human smuggling and illegal migration are being implemented throughout the nation. Likewise, the Rakhine State Government and concerned departments are endeavoring diligently to prevent illegal migration by sea. Measures are also in place to maintain rule of law and security for all individuals there.
5. Myanmar has been extending its full cooperation with countries in the region in regional mechanisms including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. Myanmar is fully prepared to work with the international community, on humanitarian ground, to alleviate the sufferings of the smuggled victims.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Contractors to be blacklisted for disqualified school buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — U Soe Aung of Thegon Constituency asked about allotment of land plots as a 6x120-foot-area each for new village including a warehouse for crops, a plot for winnowing, cattle farm and feedstuff pile at Tuesday's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister at the President Office U Aung Thein replied that as new village must be formed with areas of school, monastery, dispensary, market and rural roads, each land plot with 120 feet in length and 60 feet in width will be allotted to local residents in new village depending on the designated area.

U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency asked a question on ways to take action against construction companies for building disqualified foundations of schools. Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin said that action is being taken the construction companies for reconstruction of disqualified buildings, substitution those who offended the disciplines of the contract with new ones, announcement of a blacklist for construction entrepreneurs for disqualified structures.

With regard to question on construction of staff quarters for teachers at Basic Education High School in poor transport areas in Yesagyo Township and repairing of staff quarters raised by U Tin Htay Aung of Yesagyo Constituency, the deputy minister replied that a budget for K442.8 million has been earmarked to repair and construct 17 basic education schools in Yesagyo Township in 2015-16 fiscal year and there is no plan to construct staff quarters and school buildings. The Hluttaw invited MPs to discuss the bill amending Lower Myanmar Town and Village Lands Act.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Malaysian Ambassador

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann cordially shakes hands with Malaysian Ambassador Mr Mohd Haniff Abd Rahman.

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NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Malaysian Ambassador Mr Mohd Haniff Abd Rahman at the Pyithu Hluttaw hall, here, on Tuesday.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Three steps of reform plan clarified in Amyotha Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win explained the three steps of government's reform plan in response to the query of MP U Khet Htein Nan from Kachin state constituency 1 at Amyotha Hluttaw session on Tuesday.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win said since the government has taken office in 2011, it adopted the first phase of reform plan namely 'First Wave', and formed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw along with the Union Government and State/Region governments in accordance with 2008 Constitution.

Under the 'Second Wave', the government made political and economic reforms in 2011; development of management on public affairs in 2012; modification of private sector.

The 'Third Wave' initiated on 10 June 2014 includes laying a good foundation for the new democratic state and fulfilling the needs of people in social and economic sectors.

The deputy minister added plans were made to foster the earlier step by the following step.

Regarding company registration process suggested by U Hla Swe, MP of Magway Region constituency 12, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein said the Company Registration Office is liable for checking the needs of registration process, ,and that it is not possible to make a deep investigation on possible entrepreneurs for easy registration process.

She said complaints on embezzlement and misuse can be reported to the Ministry of Home Affairs for legal actions.

U Nein Khinn Paung, MP of Chin state constituency 7, asked for publication of newspapers in Zolai language, one of the Chin ethnic groups.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway said there are many other ethnic languages in Chin state, and permission for Zolai language newspaper is tantamount to negligence on other minorities in Chin state, adding that it will not be allowed for this newspaper.

Amyotha Hluttaw then approve the bill on amendment of Union Election Commission Law.

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing: Tatmadaw will keep an eye on stability of the State

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Vice Minister Mr Chen Fengxiang of the International Department of the Central Committee of China's Communist Party discussed border issues and promotion of ties between the two countries, as well as the role of Defence Services in the upcoming election.

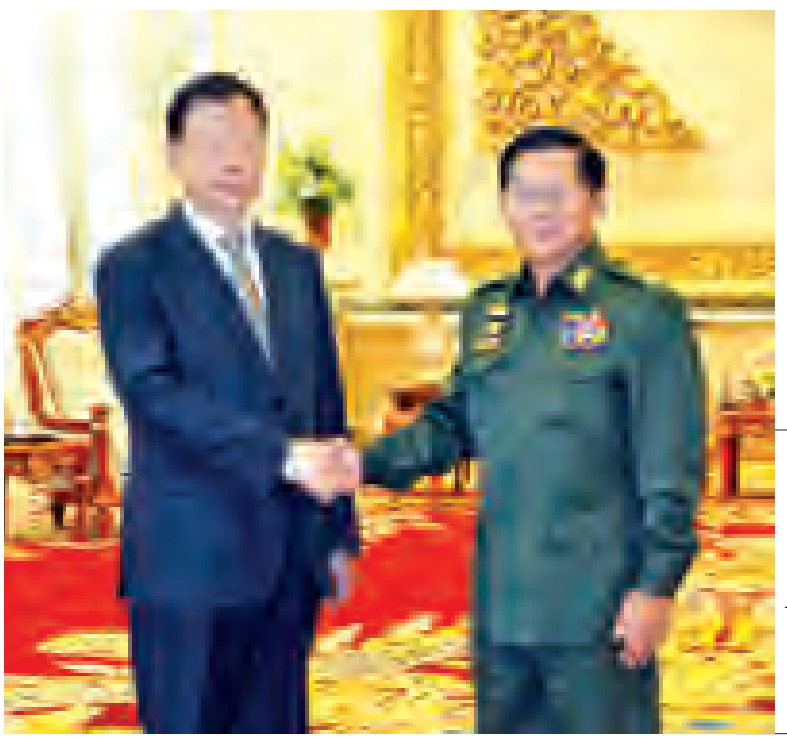
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said Tatmadaw will always focus on the stability and development of the State in line with 'Our Three Main National Causes, while it is taking over responsibilities of national politics.

He noted that political instability could hinder development of the country, calling for ethnic armed groups to abandon arm attacks and make peace with the government.

Mr Chen Fengxiang called for the contribution of Tatmadaw in promotion of bilateral ties between the two countries, saying that his visit is aimed to get knowledge about the existing situations of Tatmadaw, the government and other organization during the pre-election period of Myanmar.

The commander-in-chief also received Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mohd Haniff Abd Rahman in the morning to discuss promotion of military ties and trades between the two countries, exchange of visits and cooperation in trade between two armed forces.

Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets Mr Chen Fengxiang, Vice Minister of International Department of CPC Central Committee.

MYAWADY

Myanmar eyes 2 million tons . . .

(from page 1)

Implementing the NES is expected to cost $900 million over five years, said an official who participated in the workshop for its implementation in Yangon on 30 March.

The Ministry of Commerce will give priority to export sectors in an attempt to boost the country's economy, U Win Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, said in parliament recently.— *GNLM*

Myanmar, China to further strengthen existing Paukphaw relations

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Mr Chen Fengxiang, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday.

They discussed further strengthening of existing Paukphaw relationship between Myanmar and China, promoting development of political and economic sectors between the two countries and promotion of bilateral ties.

Also present at the call were deputy ministers Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt, Dr San Lwin, U Tin Ngwe and Dr Pwint Hsan, and officials.

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***Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with Mr Chen Fengxiang, Vice Minister of International Department of CPC Central Committee.*—MNA**

Myanmar launches ecotourism management strategy at international conference in Nay Pyi Taw

***Vice President U Nyan Tun addresses opening of International Conference on Ecotourism in Protected Areas.*—MNA**

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 19 May — Myanmar launched its Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy on Tuesday at the International Conference on Ecotourism in Protected Areas in Nay Pyi Taw.

The opening of the conference took place in conjunction with Myanmar Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2.

In his welcome address, Vice President U Nyan Tun said the conference provides opportunities to share ideas about environmental conservation and the formulation of a regulatory mechanism to develop the ecotourism sector.

Myanmar recognizes the potential for growth in the sector and is developing its tourism policies accordingly, the Vice President said, adding that ecotourism development is included in the government's strategy to develop a green economy.

The policy includes expanding the country's network of protected areas, and aims to establish a diversity of range of quality ecotourism products and services by 2020.

The Myanmar Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy, developed with technical collaboration from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and supported by the European Union and the GMS-Environment Operation Centre, has six strategic programmes for the development of the country's ecotourism sector.

They include the strengthening of institutional arrangements, research, and monitoring frameworks, marketing and interpretation, development of ecotourism management plans, investment in infrastructure and establishment of responsible business models.

With significant progress since 2012, Myanmar's tourism industry is growing at an impressive pace. The country received 3.081 million visitors in 2014, a 51 percent increase over the previous year, and welcomed 909,510 during the first three months of this year.

The three-day conference will run until 21 May.

GNLM

New Thakayta Bridge to link Mingala Taungnyunt and Dawbon townships

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of new Thakayta Bridge to link Mingala Taungnyunt and Dawbon townships was held at the project area on Tuesday.

Tokyu Construction Co Ltd, Toyo Construction Co Ltd and IHI Construction Service Co Ltd will build the bridge with the consultant Nippon Koei Co Ltd of Japan under the supervision of the Ministry of Construction.

Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi and officials drove stakes at the designated places.

With the cash assistance of Japanese government, Ministry of Construction and JICA will jointly build a 253-meter-long four-lane bridge.

The facility will have a 16.5-meter-wide motorway flanked by two-meter-wide pedestrian way on either side. The approach road will be 165 metres long on Mingala Taungnyunt bank and 202 metres long on Dawbon bank.—*MNA*

Bangladeshi boat people repatriated

SITTWAY, 19 May—Immigration authorities have repatriated 11 Bangladeshi refugees who reportedly drifted to shore near the Kanpuchaung Prawn Breeding Pond near Oodaung (West) village, after being forced to jump from a boat on which they were traveling.

Local police, acting on a tip-off, found the refugees taking shelter in a hut at the prawn breeding pond on the morning of 17 May. They were confirmed to be Bangladesh nationals from villages near cities including Dhaka and Chittagong.

According to their account, they had boarded a ship bound for Malaysia before being told they would be sent back to their homes, as it was impossible to send them to their destination. They were put on a boat from the ship on 15 May.

When the boat they were travelling reached near the mouth of the Alethankyaw Creek, where the water is about 7 feet deep, they were made to jump off the boat and drifted to the place they were found taking refuge.

The local police, together with the Myinhlut Village administrator, handed them over to Maungdaw District Immigration Department, which repatriated them to Bangladesh from the mouth of the Myinhlut Creek by a fishing trawler operated by Rawhee Mullah of Myinhlut (West) village.—*MNA*

Golden umbrella to be hoisted at Shwedagon replica tooth relic pagoda

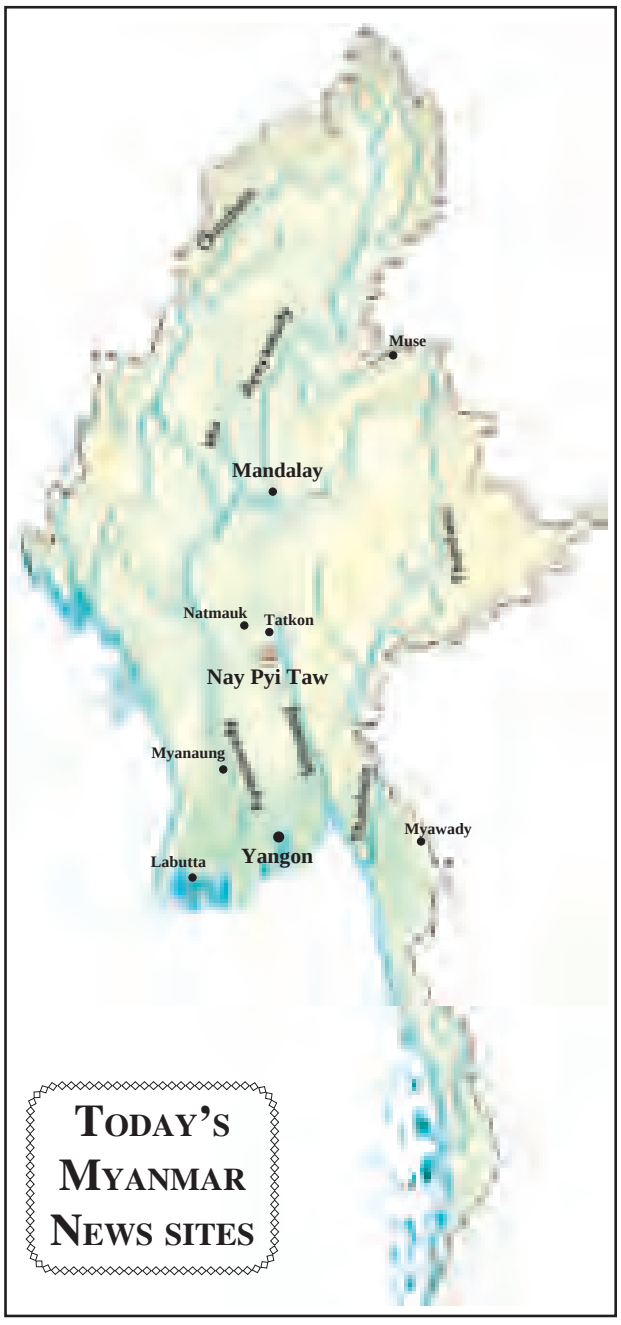
MYAWADY, 19 May — Two sacred tooth relics, one diamond orb and a tiered golden umbrella arrived in Myawady, Kayin State, on 17 May, prior to their installation at Shwedagon replica tooth relic pagoda in Ward 4.

Venerable monks, local authorities and members of social and religious association conveyed the religious objects from Thingan-Nyinaung village in Kawkareik.

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min and wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai and party conveyed the sacred tooth relics, diamond orb and tiered golden umbrella to Sasana Hitakari Beikman at Shwemyinwun Pagoda.

A ceremony to enshrine the religious objects will be held at the Shwedagon replica tooth relic pagoda on 26 May and the umbrella hoisting ceremony on 30 May.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Specialists broaden health knowledge of residents

TATKON, 19 May — Health specialists gave an educative talk on dengue haemorrhagic fever and the risks to pregnant women at Aung San Hall in Tatkon on Tuesday.

OG professor Dr Daw Win Win Mya of Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital spoke about dangerous signs during pregnancy while paediatrician Dr Daw Khin Swe Oo explained mosquito bites and causes of DHF.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Health Department Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi disseminated health knowledge to the people, before officials discussed household sanitation to prevent the spread of DHF.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

War veterans organizational course kicks off

MANDALAY, 19 May —War Veterans Training School (Mandalay) opened the advanced organizational course No 35/2015 in Yedaguntaung area in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, on the morning of 18 May.

Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Kyaw Moe spoke on the occasion and greeted the trainees individually.

Member of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Col Khin Maung Tin (Rtd), principal of the school Lt-Col Ye Lwin (Rtd), officials and guests attended the opening ceremony. A total of 47 trainees from region and state war veterans organization supervisory committees are attending the four-week course.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Tube-well funded by donors provides drinking water to villagers

NATMAUK, 19 May — Local authorities began sinking a tube-well and dredging lakes on 10 May in North Uyin village, Natmauk Township, Magway Region, funded by contributions from well-wishers.

"There are six wells in our village but none can deliver water in the summer," Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika of the village monastery said.

"We are currently facing a water shortage.

"Thanks to the abbot of Maggin monastery from Amarapura, well-wishers are sinking a tube-well in the village."

A local resident welcomed donations from Yangon for the well.

"Upon completion, we will enjoy water sufficiency," the resident said.

In order to help supply potable water to the local residents, U Maung Maung Soe of One More Philanthropic Association from Yangon donated K3 million, U Maung Sein and wife Daw Swe Swe Thin K300,000, while U Myo Lwin-Daw Aye Mi San, U Than Lwin and Daw Tin Ohnma donated K200,000.

The well-wishers plan to sink a tube-well for more than 3,000 local people of the village and to store water in a 4,000-gallon tank.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Educators undertake course for correspondence teaching

MANDALAY, 19 May— An intensive course on correspondence education for junior assistant teachers concluded at Education College (Mandalay) on 17 May.

Deputy Director U Khin Maung Myint of Mandalay Region Education Office and Principal Daw Khin Mya Thet gave speeches at the conclusion ceremony before trainees paid respect to faculty members.

Altogether 537 teachers from Mandalay and Sagaing Regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area attended the course as of 22 April.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Founding members of China-backed AIIB to meet in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 19 May — Representatives from the 57 prospective founding members of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will meet in Singapore from Wednesday, Singapore's Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

The three-day meeting of chief negotiators will be co-chaired by Shi Yaobin, vice minister of China's Ministry of Finance, and Yee Ping Yi, deputy secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Finance, the ministry said in a statement.

"The meeting will discuss the draft Articles of Agreement (AOA) and operational policies for the AIIB," it said.

The AIIB was proposed by China in 2013, and in October last year representatives from 21 Asian countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing the AIIB.

Currently, a total of 57 countries, including some Group of Seven major countries, announced their plans to participate in the AIIB, while the United States and Japan, the world's largest and third largest economies, respectively, have stayed out of the project.

This will be the fifth chief negotiators' meeting, with the fourth held just last month in Beijing.

J Soedradjad Djiwandono, professor of international economics at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Singapore's state-run Nanyang Technological University, said Asia's emerging economies are in dire need for infrastructure to narrow the infrastructure gap among them.

He said the meetings will have to decide on issues such as capitalization and management issues.

Ma Tieying, an economist in the group research unit at DBS Bank, said, "The bank hasn't been fully established, so key issues are the contribution of the fund or capital, (and) the percentage of share of capital contribution for individual countries."

She added that the officials will have to discuss and decide "on governance of the new investment bank, the voting power of individual members and their influence on investment projects, the financing process, and also manpower and how to set up the recruitment process."—*Kyodo News*

Thai ex-premier Yingluck goes on trial at Supreme Court, denies charges

BANGKOK, 19 May — Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra insisted on her innocence on Tuesday as she went on trial at the Supreme Court for allegedly mismanaging a rice subsidy programme that cost the country billions of dollars.

Before entering the courtroom, Yingluck briefly told reporters that she is "ready to clarify and defend" herself at the trial, which could see her jailed for up to 10 years if convicted, and that she hopes the court will "deliver justice."

After Yingluck heard the charge against her and declared her innocence in court, the judges opted not to detain her. She was released on bail on condition that she not travel abroad without their permission.

The next hearing was set for 21 July.

Supporters of Thailand's first female leader, who claim the case against her is politically motivated, appeared at the venue to provide her with moral support and a bunch of red roses.

In July last year, the National Anti-Corruption Commission charged Yingluck with the criminal offence of "dereliction of duty" in connection with the rice-pledging scheme under which farmers could pledge their crops in return for payment, while last February, public prosecutors indicted her on the same charge.

In denying the accusations against her, Yingluck has said that as prime minister between August 2011 and May 2014, she adhered to the law, worked for the benefit of the Thai people, and implemented the rice-pledging scheme to "promote fairness in the market mechanism" and to "enhance the living standards of the rice farmers."

Critics say her government ran up huge bills when farmers were paid overly high rates for their rice and that it allowed the scheme to continue, despite acknowledging the losses, causing Thailand's financial situation to deteriorate.

Yingluck, 47, was unseated in May last year when the Constitutional Court ruled that she must step down for having abused her power as prime minister. The military seized power later the same month.

In January, junta-appointed parliamentarians formally impeached her and banned her from politics for five years.

There had been speculation that moves against Yingluck could eventually force her to go into exile abroad as did her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a military coup in 2006.

Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra heads to the Supreme Court in Bangkok for her first trial on19 May, 2015. Yingluck insisted on her innocence amid allegations that she mismanaged a rice subsidy programme that cost the country billions of dollars.
KYODO NEWS

Kyodo News

Innovation Party elects Matsuno as new leader

TOKYO, 19 May — Japan's second largest opposition party, the Japan Innovation Party, elected Yorihisa Matsuno as new leader on Tuesday following a failed administrative reform bid by the party's associated group in Osaka in Sunday's referendum.

At a general meeting of party lawmakers, Matsuno, who has been the party's secretary general, was approved as successor to Kenji Eda whose resignation was accepted earlier in the day at a meeting of party executives.

In the referendum, Osaka city residents rejected by a slim margin a plan to reorganize the city government into a metropolitan entity like Tokyo by merging its 24 wards into five districts — a policy Eda called his party's "point of origin."

The plan was the brainchild of high-profile Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto, the party's supreme adviser who heads the Osaka Restoration Association political group, and its defeat led him to announce he will retire from politics after his mayoral term expires in December.—*Kyodo News*

***Japan Innovation Party leader Kenji Eda (L) and Secretary General Yorihisa Matsuno attend its meeting in Tokyo on 19 May, 2015. The opposition party approved Eda's resignation over a failed bid by his party's regional chapter to reorganize Osaka city administration. Matsuno is expected to assume the leadership.*—KYODO NEWS**

***Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong (L) greets visiting French Secretary of State for Development and Francophonie Annick Girardin (Front R) in Phnom Penh, Capital of Cambodia, on 19 May, 2015. Cambodia and France on Tuesday signed a Four-Year Orientation and Cooperation Document (2015-2018), aiming to further enhance bilateral ties and cooperation.*—XINHUA**

Thai cabinet agrees to hold referendum on new constitution

BANGKOK, 19 May — The Thai cabinet agreed on Tuesday that a referendum should be held on the new constitution and the military's blueprint for restoring democracy, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said, a move likely to delay any return to democratic rule.

"The cabinet agrees that there should be changes to the current constitution in order to hold a public referendum," said Prayuth.

The military government, which came to power in a coup last May, had said that a general election will take place in early 2016. Prayuth said that if a referendum is held, elections would likely be pushed back.

"It will take three months to hold a referendum ... it could impact the roadmap if we have a referendum."

Reuters

Indonesian ambassador to Pakistan dies 11 days after helicopter crash

JAKARTA, 19 May — Indonesia's ambassador to Pakistan died on Tuesday, 11 days after he was injured in a helicopter crash in northern Pakistan that killed seven others, Indonesia's foreign minister said.

Burhan Muhammad, 58, was on a military helicopter that crashed in a mountainous area, killing Muhammad's wife, the ambassadors of Norway and the Philippines, and three Pakistani crewmen.

"The foreign ministry has lost one of its best diplomats," Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said.

The Pakistani government has said the helicopter crashed because of engine failure, dismissing Pakistani Taleban claims that militants had shot it down. The Mi-17 helicopter crashed into an empty school while those on board were inspecting a tourism project.

Muhammad, who had been based in Islamabad since 2008, was taken to a hospital in Singapore for treatment after the 8 May crash. His body would be taken to the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta later on Tuesday, the foreign ministry said.

Pakistan has said 17 people were on board the helicopter. The ambassadors of Poland and the Netherlands were among the injured.—*Reuters*

NurOwn by BrainStorm gets fast-track approval for ALS treatment (Unique Israeli Experimental treatment)

Enhanced adult stem cells are being tested in major medical centres to slow progression of incurable neurodegenerative diseases.

JERUSALEM, 19 May — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has designated NurOwn, a unique Israeli experimental treatment for neurodegenerative diseases, as a "fast track" product — meaning it could find its way to the market more quickly than many other drug candidates.

NurOwn was developed by BrainStorm Cell Therapeutics based on a technique developed by Profs Daniel Offen and Eldad Melamed at Tel Aviv University for growing and enhancing stem cells harvested from patients' own bone marrow, rather than from controversial fetal stem-cell sources. The enhanced cells secrete elevated levels of nerve-growth factors that protect existing motor neurons, promote motor neuron growth and reestablish nerve-muscle interaction.

NurOwn isn't a cure for devastating neuromuscular conditions such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease), but in clinical trials conducted in Israel, it appears to ease symptoms and slow progression of such diseases.

Advanced clinical trials of NurOwn began in June 2014 at three major US medical centres, and BrainStorm raised $10.5 million in private investments. In July, BrainStorm was notified of the allowance of its US patent application, and the company began trading on NASDAQ in September.

Dr Tony Fiorino, the New York-based CEO of BrainStorm, says the fast-track status "will allow us greater and more frequent dialogue with the [FDA] as we continue the development of this groundbreaking cell therapy for the treatment of ALS."

According to the ALS Association, every year in the United States two in 100,000 people are diagnosed, usually between 55 and 65 years of age.

Promising results

Dr Dimitrios Karussis, head of Hadassah University Medical Centre's Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Jerusalem and a noted stem-cell transplant pioneer, conducted two initial trials on 24 patients.

"We are working on analysis of the data, but we can say there is some positive effect," Karussis says. "In some of the parameters there was up to a 60 percent beneficial response after the treatment."

In addition to those trials, four ALS patients in an advanced stage of the disease received NurOwn transplants

Dr Dimitrios Karussis

at Hadassah, starting in 2012, as "compassionate use" cases, including Omri Chotam, a former paratrooper in his 20s, and octogenarian sage Rabbi Rafael Shmuelevitz.

"All four had, at least for three to six months, a response of improvement in respiratory function or muscle power," reports Karussis.

"The most impressive response was in the rabbi, who had a very severe and unique combination of ALS and myasthenia gravis. He improved substantially for about six months, started walking and speaking, and then the effects faded. Then we did a second injection and he had even more impressive improvement. This makes it highly unlikely to be a placebo effect, which is important to note."

Ordinarily, some 90 percent of ALS patients die of respiratory failure within three to five years after the onset of symptoms. As the disease progresses, they lose the ability to stand or walk, and have difficulty breathing because the muscles of the respiratory system weaken.

"According to the data we have, the treatment makes a beneficial change in the progression of the disease. This is the first step. We probably need to improve the protocol to do multiple injections for the longer term, and find the best way of administration in each individual patient."

Platform technology for several diseases

Karussis, who has now treated 30 patients with NurOwn, is collaborating and consulting with the multicenter US study approved by the FDA. This safety trial will involve a total of 48 patients in Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital and the Mayo Clinic.

"Each of the three sites is headed by important leaders in the field of ALS," says Fiorino.

Three-quarters of the patients enrolled in the randomized, double-blind trial will receive NurOwn enhanced stem cells from their own marrow, and the remaining 12 will receive a placebo. The study is expected to be completed in early 2016, after which the results will be analyzed for safety and efficacy.

"This is really a platform technology with applications outside of ALS, though ALS is our lead indicator," Fiorino explains. "The cells can apply in any disease where neurons are dying." These include multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's.

Fiorino acknowledges there are many companies in the stem-cell space. However, BrainStorm is the first to reach the clinical phase. What also makes it unique is its focused approach.

"Many other companies in the stem-cell space take a shotgun approach in which they use early stem cells that possess the potential to turn into many different cell types. By contrast, we have taken adult stem cells and converted them into factories that pump out growth factors known to promote the survival of neurons. Thus we know exactly where we want to use them; there are no mysteries."

GNLM

Rasheda Ali, whose father retired boxer Muhammad Ali has Parkinson's disease, came to observe a BrainStorm clinical trial at Hadassah in Jerusalem.

Iran uses maritime confrontations to project power in Gulf

ANKARA, 19 May— Iran is using its sea power in the Gulf to show it will not be cowed by Washington's newly assertive Arab allies, prompting critics to accuse Teheran of destabilizing the region.

Iranian ships fired shots at a Singapore-flagged tanker which it said damaged an Iranian oil platform, causing the vessel to flee, and seized a container ship in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important oil route, over a debt row.

The incidents coincided with a push by Washington to reassure Gulf Arab monarchies that their interests would not be threatened by a nuclear accord that Teheran and world powers are trying to reach by the end of June.

In an escalating confrontation with Saudi Arabia over Yemen, Teheran criticized Arab states for recklessness and brutality in that country, where a Saudi-led coalition is attacking an Iranian-allied militia.

Iran has also sent an aid ship, the Iran Shahed, to the Yemeni Red Sea port of Hodaida to test a naval blockade enforced by the coalition. Several Iranian military officials have warned of war if the Iran Shahed is attacked by Saudi-led forces. It expected to reach the port by Thursday.

"Iran's recent measures in the Strait of Hormuz have one clear message to Saudi Arabia. No one can ignore Iran's key role," said an Iranian official, who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

"Whether reformist or hardliner, Iranian leaders have consensus on securing Iran's influence in the region," said the official. "They (the United States and its Gulf allies) don't expect a key regional power like Iran to remain silent over its aid ship being prevented from entering Yemen." Teheran and Riyadh have long been locked in a proxy war, competing for regional supremacy from Iraq to Syria and Lebanon to Yemen, where Riyadh backs Yemen's exiled government against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

In a bold operation by Gulf Arab states, the Saudi-led coalition backed by the West on 26 March began pounding Houthi rebels and allied army units that control much of Yemen as well as inspecting all ships in a bid to stop weapons smuggling. Teheran denies training Houthi fighters and supplying arms, as claimed by Riyadh.

The standoff has intensified since the coalition declared that it had to inspect all aid for Yemen including that sent by Teheran.

Iran has been cautious about direct military confrontation with Saudi Arabia. "Riyadh is trying to drag Iran into a military conflict," said a senior Iranian security official.

"The Saudis are pursuing a very dangerous path ... We are strong enough to confront them ... but we prefer political solutions, for now."

Iran's maritime operations have brought a new dimension to the stand-off between Teheran and Riyadh, and officials and analysts say they clearly mark a renewed drive to wield regional influence.

Last week five Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps patrol boats fired shots at the Singapore-flagged Alpine Eternity oil products tanker in the Gulf, US officials said. It fled to safety in the United Arab Emirates' waters.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore on Monday called on Iranian authorities to investigate the incident and "prevent future recurrences".

"Such interference with navigational rights is a serious violation of international law," the authority said.—*Reuters*

UN chief Ban to visit N Korea on Thursday: source

SEOUL, 19 May — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is scheduled to visit an inter-Korean industrial park in North Korea's border town of Kaesong on Thursday, a source said on Tuesday.

Ban's visit to the Kaesong Industrial Complex, a symbol of inter-Korean reconciliation, will be the first by a leader of the world body.

The industrial zone, launched in 2004 with a combination of the North's cheap labor and the South's capital and technology, is the key source of revenue for North Korea.

Earlier in the day, Ban expressed hope of visiting North Korea at an appropriate time to help ease inter-Korean tensions, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

"I have consistently expressed my readiness to visit Pyongyang if my visit is helpful...through close coordination with the concerned parties," including South Korea, he said in a keynote speech at the 6th Asian Leadership Conference in Seoul, according to the report.

The former South Korean foreign minister, who arrived in Seoul on Monday for a five-day visit, is scheduled to attend the World Education Forum 2015 to be held in the western port city of Incheon from Tuesday to Friday.—*Kyodo News*

Athens sees EU deal soon, Greeks' approval of government stance dwindles

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras

ATHENS, 19 May — Greece's labour minister said on Tuesday Athens would soon conclude a deal with its foreign creditors that could unlock further loans to the cash-starved country.

Greece's new government has been in talks with its European Union and International Monetary Fund lenders over the past four months about the release of around 7.2 billion euros (5 billion pounds) in aid.

Asked on Greek TV when Athens would reach the cash-for-reform deal, Labour Minister Panos Skourletis said: "De facto, in the coming days."

"There's a deadline, which is 5 June," he said - the date on which Greece's next repayment of a loan to the IMF falls due. "We all know that if there is no solution, let's say until then, in relation to funding, things will be difficult.

Greece faces payments of about 1.5 billion euros to the IMF next month. It made its last repayment of about 750 million euros to the IMF last week by emptying a holding account at the Fund. Speaking on a late-night talk show on Monday, Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said the government hopes it can both make debt repayments and pay wages and pensions in June, but if it has to choose, it will choose the latter.

The Greek government took power in January promising to end years of EU/IMF-imposed austerity that worsened a deep recession and pushed up unemployment and poverty. Not accepting cuts to pensions and wages is one of its so-called red lines.

The creditors, on the other hand, have been demanding Greece implement reforms, including pension cuts and labour market liberalisation. Talks on the conflict have been deadlocked.

They two sides are now getting closer to an understanding, the EU's monetary affairs chief, Pierre Moscovici, said on Monday . But the European Commission denied a report in a Greek newspaper the commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, had made a new, more lenient proposal.

Most Greeks are unhappy with their government's negotiating strategy, a poll published late on Monday found.

According to the survey carried out on May 13-15 by the University of Macedonia, 41 percent of Greeks believe the governments negotiating strategy "is not stable and is therefore sometimes right and sometimes wrong." Thirty-five percent believed it was right, compared to 72 percent in February.

As many as 61 percent believe the government should water down its pre-election pledges given the circumstances, the poll said, compared with 35 percent who want them seen through. —*Reuters*

Hungary defuses 'suspicious package' on coach bound for Bulgaria

BUDAPEST, 19 May— Hungarian police said they defused a "suspicious package" on a coach carrying 34 Bulgarian and Romanian citizens from Prague to the Black Sea town of Varna through Hungary on Saturday.

The driver stopped the coach at a service area on the M0 motorway around Budapest after noticing the smell of chemicals, police said in a statement late on Monday.

It said the driver had found a suspicious package in the luggage compartment and called the police. A disposal squad defused the package on site, the statement said, adding that further checks were being made. No one was injured.

Police have begun an investigation, the statement said. Press officials declined to respond to further questions.—*Reuters*

French attack survivor Luz says he is leaving Charlie Hebdo

PARIS, 19 May — One of the few cartoonists to survive an Islamist militant attack on France's *Charlie Hebdo* journal is leaving the publication, saying he can no longer bear the pressure.

Renald Luzier, better known simply as Luz, announced his decision in an interview in Liberation, the newspaper that helped *Charlie Hebdo* publish again in the wake of an attack in which most of his cartoonist colleagues were killed. "Every print-run was torture because the others are no longer there," said Luz, who drew the cover picture on the first post-attack edition of Charlie Hebdo but had recently declared he would no longer draw cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad because he was fed up with it.

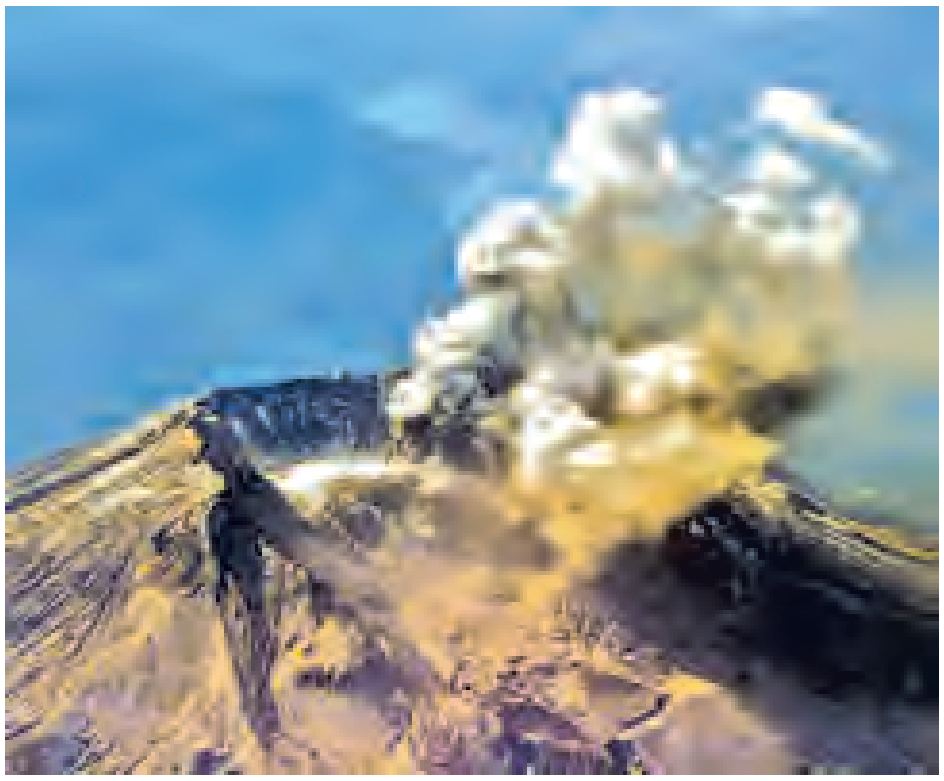
Satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo columnist Patrick Pelloux (R) comforts cartoonist Luz (L) as they attend a news conference at the French newspaper Liberation offices in Paris, on 13 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

The pressure of work in the wake of the attacks and media scrutiny were the main reasons he cited for the decision.

Islamist militants saying they were avenging the Prophet killed 12 people in January when they attacked the Paris offices of the irreverent weekly known for lampooning Islam along with other religions and the political establishment.

Reuters

Mapping Mt St Helens magma progresses, 35 years after eruption



Mount St Helens emits a plume of steam and ash in this 1 Oct, 2004 file photo, from an area of new crevass in the crater glacier south of the 1980-86 lava dome.
REUTERS

PORTLAND, 19 May — Early data collected in a pioneering effort to map the inner workings of Mount St Helens have provided promising initial insights, 35 years after a massive eruption by the Washington state volcano killed at least 57 people, scientists said on Monday.

Further progress is expected soon after readings are collected from more than 70 monitoring devices that ring the mountain, many at high altitudes, which have been inaccessible throughout the winter, they said.

"It doesn't look the way we expected it to," Rice University geologist Alan Levander, who is involved in the research, said of the initial data, adding that with limited two-dimensional images collected so far it take several years for scientists to more fully understand what they are viewing.

Mount St Helens, which sits between Seattle and Portland, Oregon, erupted in an explosion of hot ash on 18 May, 1980, spewing debris over a wide area, killing 57 people and causing more than $1 billion in damage.

Now, through small quakes created via dynamite-triggered blasts that fire seismic waves through the volcano's interior, researchers are working to develop ultrasound-like images of molten rock within the volcano in a project that could improve warning systems.

The team, which includes researchers from universities and federal scientific agencies, aims to apply what it learns about the below-surface flow of molten magma to volcanoes in more populous areas, such as Mount Rainier, which overlooks Seattle.

Seismic activity and gas emissions already help geologists predict the timing of eruptions, but there are no good tools for predicting their size, said Kenneth Creager, a University of Washington seismologist involved in the study.

Mapping the flow and volume of magma from the earth's crust up through Mount St Helens' peak could change that, and ultimately help researchers anticipate large eruptions elsewhere, Creager said.

"It's difficult to tell how big an eruption might be. Knowing how much eruptible magma is down there may tell us," he said.

At the time of the 1980 blast, scientists had been monitoring a bulge and tracking mini-eruptions for several months, but had little understanding of the forces at work beneath the surface, said Carolyn Driedger, a US Geological Survey glacier hydrologist who was driving towards the volcano on the morning of the eruption.

A year ago, the US Geological Survey said magma levels were slowly rebuilding inside Mount St Helens, but there was no sign of an impending eruption.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 20 May, 2015

Opportunism and organizations

By *Myint Win Thein*

Opportunism can be defined as the practice of using situations unfairly to gain advantage for oneself, without thinking about how one's actions affect other people. It can therefore be said that it is the practice of egoists. However, it is also the worst enemy for organizations.

Opportunism has many impacts on the operations of an organization. For example, opportunists may employ a variety of lies and excuses in pursuit of their own interests, while neglecting to work as hard as others in the interests of the organization. This encourages other self-seekers to follow the bad example.

On the other hand, opportunists shirk their organizational duty although they enjoy a lot more benefits than others from the organization. This places a burden on other hardworking and honest members and discourages them from performing their duty.

Another impact is that opportunists try to establish their fake excuses as legitimate truth. This further offends hardworking and honest members of the organization. They feel there is no space for honesty and hard work in the organization and eventually leave it. When there are no honest members in an organization, it will simply become a gang of opportunists and be inoperable, existing as an organization in name only.

Therefore, it is important for organizations to guard against opportunism, their worst enemy.

Write for us

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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.

Let's Boost Cooperation with GIZ

***Kyi Tha Maw* (SMIDB)**

INcorporated as a public limited company under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry, the Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank Ltd. (SMIDB) started its operations on February 15, 1996. The main objective for the establishment of the bank is to provide financial support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country and thereby to support the government's economic policy.

SMIDB is the sole bank in Myanmar focused on the SME sector. However, the bank operates as a mixed institute, i.e. it combines the elements of a commercial and a development bank. The vision of the bank is **to become a leading bank in SME financing. The bank has the following mission:**

- **1. To support SMEs financially**
- **2. To extend technical support**
- **3. To provide good customer service**

The first of the above mentioned missions (SME loans) has been traditionally and widely applied by SMIDB in the banking industry. However, the second and third ones are new developments and pose new challenges for Myanmar banks. Due to the complicated process, the local bank itself cannot implement this alone. In pursuing this mission, SMIDB always tries to seek the opportunity to cooperate with international development organizations to understand and follow good international banking practice and to offer special services to SME customers.

In August 2013, all local banks were invited to attend a meeting hosted by Gesellschaftfür Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), one of the international organizations active in Myanmar. GIZ implements on behalf of the German Government International Cooperation projects in the field of sustainable development in more than 130 countries. Since the return to the country in late 2012, GIZ implements several projects in Myanmar, providing technical assistance in areas such as Financial Sector Development (FSD), Private Sector Development (PSD) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

In the financial sector, GIZ aims to improve the access to financial services in particular for SMEs.One pillar of the project aims at working directly in partnership with selected pilot banks. All Myanmar banks were invited to express their interest to receive comprehensive technical assistance from GIZ. After reviewing its proposal and conducting several interviews, SMIDB was selected as one of the 3 pilot banks. The partnership was formalized by a joint MoU between GIZ and the banks, signed on January 24, 2014. It was agreed that the duration of the cooperation is from April 2014 to September 2015 (18 months in total), with a possible extension. Depending on the specific profiles of the banks, the agreements between the selected banks and GIZ differ from each other.

According to the MoU, a long term international technical expert (LTE) is residing at SMIDB supported by different missions of short term experts (STE). The experts provide consulting and training on banking practices, in particular related to credit provision to SMEs. Therefore, they meet with customers, introduce new institutional settings and provide various trainings to understand good international banking practice.

As such in April 2015 we could mark the first year anniversary of the project and I would like to share the experiences under the project. On the other hand, the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year sets a very significant milestone in the 19 year-history of the bank as a lot of tasks could be achieved with the cooperation of GIZ.

The following trainings have been conducted at the training hubs in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw and all of them were the first ones of such kind in SMIDB. The main objective was to improve the credit assessment quality of the staff particularly in the credit department.

1. Financial Literacy Course
2. Business Plan Preparation
3. SME Banking Value Chain
4. Additional Financial Literacy
5. Additional Business Plan
6. ToT (Training of Trainers)
7. Marketing Courses to ToT participants
8. Monitoring and Recovery

Additionally, SMIDB is a financial institution and works very closely with its customers from the private sector. SMIDB endeavors to offer good services to them and to understand that capacity building significantly contributes to the development of each sector. For these reasons, SMIDB will conduct training courses to its valued customers to share the know-how recently acquired from GIZ.

With the cooperation of GIZ's Private Sector Development project, 9 SMIDB staff members were trained to train customers in business plan preparation (ToT programme). Under the close supervision of an international CEFE Trainer, coached Business Plan Training to customers by the freshly home-made trainers was successfully conducted in January 2015. By cooperating with GIZ and its customers, SMIDB would like to pave the way for win-win solutions for all parties involved.

One of the participants, the owner of Thamawarnnisa Robe Mart, Daw Su Su Kyaw, commented that "We have over 150 years of traditional business experience as the company is already run in the 3rd generation. However, we did not realize how to develop a business plan properly by considering various points of view. This training course is of great benefit for all of us."

Another young lady, who is planning to do business after her graduation and now is still at university said that "I was just about to finish watching a movie named "SUPER QUARTER OF KO TINT" when I received a call from Mom that I had to attend the course at the bank immediately. However, I did not know what kind of course the bank would conduct and just followed the instruction. Finally, I fully realized that if I had missed this class, it would have been a great loss for me. "Thanks to all of you."

These experiences were the basis for the implementation of the 2nd and 3rd courses which were equally successful with the kind cooperation of GIZ. A total of 41 participants joined in these 3 courses: two in Yangon and one in Mandalay. It is also a milestone of the bank conducting training to its customers. Thanks to GIZ for their great contribution to SMIDB! We highly appreciate the technical cooperation and, accordingly, it is planned to continue to conduct customer training courses at all 3 places.

Additionally, SMIDB feels committed to the responsible finance concept jointly developed with GIZ. As such, the bank

- selects its borrowers in a transparent credit selection process,
- makes adequate assessment of clients' repayment capabilities,
- measures social and environmental performance and
- provides respective trainings to its customers and staff members.

In conclusion, there is huge untapped demand for finance in the SME sector and we need to grasp the opportunities in a proactive manner. Under the GIZ project, SMIDB has gained profound benefits, particularly for its staff members. The improvement is not only important for SMIDB itself but also for the banking sector development in general. However, we need to change our mindset, practising traditional banking culture to be in line with good international banking one.

Unusually heavy rains cause floods in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 19 May — Due to heavy rains on Monday evening, roads and wards in downtown Mandalay were flooded. Although the drainage systems in downtown Mandalay has improved after maintenance works, unusually heavy rains caused floods.

Rainwater overflowed banks of the Shwetachaung Canal, the main sewage of Mandalay, in lower area of the town. As rainwater flowed through wards into Kandawgyi Lake, fish there jumped onto land and many people caught them. Floodwater receded in the afternoon as the rain stopped but floods still persisted in wards in lower areas where social organizations and local authorities distributed meals.

The floods were caused in Mandalay and Patheingyi by excessive water released from Hsetawgyi Dam and some flights from Mandalay International Airport had to be cancelled. About 4.05 inches of rain fell in Mandalay on Monday, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Tin Maung and Aung Thura (Mandalay)

People face inundation on roads in Mandalay.

Authorities emphasize regional development in Myawady Tsp

MYAWADY, 19 May — Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min held a meeting with township-level officials and members of social organizations at Thaungyin Hall in Myawady, Kayin State, on 18 May.

The chief minister said the government is fulfilling regional development requirements, specifically roads and bridges, electricity and water supply, as well as education and health. He urged all residents to cooperate with the government to ensure sustainable development of the nation.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Lwin Ko Oo and departmental officials reviewed the discussions of the attendees.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

Agriculture department families donate drinking water to rural people

LABUTTA, 19 May— Under the arrangement of Ayeyawady Region Department of Agriculture, families of staff members of Labutta District and township departments of agriculture donated drinking water to villages facing shortages along Labutta-Myaungmya road on 16 May.

Two water bowsers from Labutta Township Fire Services Department supplied 2,000 gallons of drinking water to more than 400 local residents from villages along the road.

The families plan to distribute drinking water to people in villages where water is scarce.

Mawgyun Mying Aung

Traffic rule enforcement contributes to safety of road users

MANDALAY, 19 May — Combined teams comprising traffic police, officials of Mandalay City Development Committee, local police and officials of the traffic rules enforcement supervisory committee have been checking vehicles daily in Mandalay to ensure public safety.

The teams will step up traffic enforcement for vehicles and road users as of the last week of May.

Action will be taken against rule violators in traffic court, according to the Mandalay Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Muse District IPRD sets up urban public reading spaces

MUSE, 19 May — Muse District Information and Public Relations Department in northern Shan State has set up mini book corners for reading in urban public spaces.

The department has also installed public digital library service machines at its offices and ADSL Wi-Fi services at libraries.

In addition, the department provides mobile library services to local residents at their homes to improve reading skills.

Mong Win Naing

Display of artefacts marks 1st International Museum Day 2015

MANDALAY, 19 May — Mandalay Cultural Museum and Library Branch under the Ministry of Culture organized the 1st International Museum Day 2015 at its office in Aungmyethazan Township on 18 May.

The booths in commemoration of the day showcased ancient handicrafts, primate fossils, stone weapons, earthen pots, royal equipment and religious objects for public observation, free of charge.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Saudi-led air strikes hit Yemen's capital Sanaa: residents

CAIRO, 19 May — Saudi-led air raids hit the Yemen capital Sanaa overnight, targeting forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the east and south of the city, residents said on Tuesday.

The strikes are the first to hit the capital after a five-day ceasefire ended late on Sunday, although military operations resumed earlier on Monday in northern Saada province and in the southern city of Aden.

Saudi Arabia and its Sunni Muslim allies have been conducting an offensive against Iranian-allied Houthis and units loyal to Saleh for more than seven weeks, part of a campaign to restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

The truce ended despite appeals by the United Nations and aid groups for extra time to allow badly needed humanitarian supplies into the country of 25 million people, one of the poorest in the Middle East.

Houthi sources also said they had fired mortar rounds at several areas in Saudi Arabia's southern Najran province late on Monday and that they had engaged in clashes with Saudi forces near the border area.

Reuters could not immediately verify that information. Houthi rebels have been shelling some populated areas across the borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Reuters

*A man walks at the site of a Saudi-led air strike that hit a residential area last month near Sanaa airport, on 18 May, 2015.—*REUTERS

Burundi protesters gather in capital, defying threat of crackdown

*A protester jumps over a barricade during a protest against Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza and his bid for a third term in Bujumbura on 18 May, 2015.—*REUTERS

BUJUMBURA, 19 May — More than 100 protesters chanted slogans against Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza and his bid for a third term in office on Tuesday in defiance of government threats of a crackdown on demonstrations.

"We will not stop until he gives up the third term," the protesters shouted in the capital's suburb of Nyakabiga, a flashpoint during three weeks of unrest that have triggered fears of another bout of ethnic bloodletting in Africa's Great Lakes region.

Protesters say Nkurunziza's bid for five more years in power violates the constitution and a peace deal that ended an ethnically-fueled civil war in Burundi in 2005.

A group of generals, laying the same charge against the president, tried and failed to overthrow him last week. The government said late on Monday it would treat any future demonstrators as accomplices in the failed putsch.

But the protesters in Bujumbura said they were against both Nkurunziza and the attempted coup.

"No to the coup, and no to the third term. We will continue until he says no to the third term," one of the demonstrators, who gave his name as Jean-Paul, told *Reuters*. He did not wish to give his last name, for fear of reprisals.

Police and soldiers watched the demonstration from the other end of the street. Burundi, an impoverished nation with a population of 10 million, is still recovering from its civil war that killed about 300,000 people.

Neighboring Rwanda, which shares a similar ethnic mix between a Hutu majority and Tutsi minority, suffered a genocide in 1994 genocide in which 800,000 people, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were killed. Nkurunziza says his participation in elections this year would not violate a two-term limit in the constitution, as his first term does not count, because he was appointed by parliament not chosen by a popular vote.

Reuters

Judge sentences 11 Afghan police over lynching of woman in Kabul

KABUL, 19 May — An Afghan judge sentenced 11 police on Tuesday to one year in jail for failing to prevent the mob killing of a woman in Kabul who was accused of burning a Koran.

Judge Safiullah Mujadidi freed eight other officers accused of failure to carry out their duty for lack of evidence.

The lynching in March of the 27-year-old woman, named Farkhunda, sparked outrage and demonstrations in the Afghan capital even before it was revealed that she had not desecrated Islam's holy book.

It prompted rare protests against religious extremism and violence against women in Kabul.

Earlier this month, the same judge sentenced four men to death after they were convicted of murdering Farkhunda. Among them was the caretaker of a local shrine who had accused her of burning the Koran and led the mob that beat her to death and set her body on fire.

Eight others were jailed for 16 years for participating in the attack.

Some of those arrested were tracked down after posting footage of the attack on social media and bragging about taking part.

Afghanistan remains a deeply conservative religious society where many frown on women in the public sphere, more than 13 years after the Taleban's hard-line Islamist regime was ousted.

Under the Taleban's five-year rule, women were banned from leaving home without a male guardian, denied education and forced to wear the all-covering burqa.

Reuters

*Two of four Afghan men arrive at court while chained at their feet for their trial in connection with the killing of a 27-year-old woman, in Kabul, Afghanistan on 6 May, 2015.—*REUTERS

One killed, seven wounded in suicide bombing in eastern Libya: official

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 19 May — One person was killed and seven were wounded on Tuesday in a suicide bombing in the eastern Libyan town of Qubbah, a security official said.

Islamic State militants, exploiting a power vacuum amid conflict between two rival governments, have built up a presence in Derna, a city to the east of Qubbah. But there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

A car packed with explosives hit a checkpoint in the east of the small town, the security official said.

Qubbah lies near the seat of the internationally recognized government, which has worked out of eastern Libya since losing the capital Tripoli to a rival group in August.

In February, militants loyal to Islamic State claimed responsibility for a car suicide bombing that killed 42 people in Qubbah in apparent retaliation for Egyptian air strikes following the killing of 21 Egyptian Copts by the group.

Four years after rebels overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, the oil-producing North African state is in chaos, with two governments and parliaments allied to armed factions fighting for control, while Islamist groups vie for control.

Reuters

Apple gets partial win on appeal in Samsung patent case

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO, 19 May — Apple Inc was handed a mixed ruling by a US appeals court in the latest twist in a blockbuster intellectual property battle with Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, as a prior patent infringement verdict was upheld but a trademark finding that the iPhone's appearance could be protected was thrown out.

That means up to 40 percent of a $930 million verdict which had been won by Apple must be reconsidered.

In the highly anticipated ruling stemming from the global smartphone wars, the Federal Circuit in Washington, DC upheld patent infringement violations including one which protects the shape and color of its iPhone as well as the damages awarded for those violations.

"This is a victory for design and those who respect it," Apple said in a statement on Monday.

Samsung welcomed the court ruling regarding the trademark finding.

"We remain confident that our products do not infringe on Apple's design patents and other intellectual property, and we will continue to take all appropriate measures to protect our products," it said in a statement.

Shares in Samsung climbed 2.6 percent in Seoul trading after the decision, beating the wider market's 0.6 percent gain.

An Android mascot is seen in front of a displayed logo of Apple in this photo illustration taken in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 5 May, 2015. REUTERS

The long-running dispute with Samsung dates back to when former Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs was still alive and was seen as emblematic of his tendency to fiercely defend the company's proprietary designs and technology from copies.

Although the opinion was mixed, it tilts strongly in Apple's favour, upholding the bulk of its damages award and reinforcing the principles of design that the company sued to advance, said Brian Love, an assistant professor of law at the University of Santa Clara.

"They made this argument from the beginning of the case that they were sort of the true innovators in the smartphone world, and that although a lot of this technology existed in the past, they came up with very simple, elegant and easy-to-use design that took the smartphone to the next level," he said. "To the extent that it was protected, it was protected by these design patents."

The 2012 trial between the two smartphone titans was widely watched, and the jury found Samsung violated several Apple patents including those related to iPhone's design and appearance.

Apple was eventually awarded $930 million in damages, but failed to win a ban on the sale of the infringing Samsung phones, which are now no longer on the market. The appeals court further muddied the waters for Apple by ordering the court in San Jose to reconsider the $382 million portion awarded for trade dress dilution.

Since the 2012 trial, Samsung and Apple have mostly dropped their legal battles, except for another case pending in the same appeals court involving a $120 million verdict in 2014 for Apple on separate smartphone patents.

Samsung said in its appeal that the damages award was excessive and unprecedented. The company argued it should not be forced to pay such a high price for making a "rectangular, round-cornered, flat-screened, touch-screened phone," calling those features "basic."

Apple countered that Samsung was trying to downplay its "shameless copying" of the iPhone design to increase its market share. Apple's shares rose as much as 1.8 percent to $130.72 by midday on Monday after billionaire investor Carl Icahn said in a letter to CEO Tim Cook the company was "still dramatically undervalued" and that it should be trading at $240. The stock has gained more than a quarter since October, when Icahn first said it was undervalued. The case is Apple Inc v Samsung Electronics Co, Ltd, in the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, No. 14-1335.

Reuters

US researchers test way to rejuvenate muscles, brain

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 May — A study led by researchers with University of California at Berkeley has found that a small- molecule drug can inhibit the activity of a growth factor, allowing aging tissues to regenerate.

Dr rina Conboy, associate professor of bioengineering at UC Berkeley and co-author of the study, told *Xinhua* that high numbers of the growth factor, known as TGF-beta1, in the tissues are a typical sign of aging.

And the drug under the study is able to inhibit the receptor of TGF-beta1, blocking its pathway to the stem cells. The researchers were able to tackle both the brain and muscle tissues because they have the same molecular mechanism for aging. Using a viral vector for genetic therapy developed by Dr David Schaffer, director of the Berkeley Stem Cell Center and professor of chemical and bimolecular engineering, the team was able to insert genetic blockers into the brains of old mice to knock down TGF-beta1 activity.

"After blocking the pathway," Conboy said, "we saw that the hippocampal stem cells began generating new nerve cells."

Concluding that inhibiting the pathway leads to renewed cell activity, Conboy and Schaffer injected mice with a molecule known as Alk5 kinase inhibitor to block TGF-beta1. The animals not only began regenerating old brain and muscle tissues, but also became smarter as their stem cells were rejuvenated. "All the mice regained between 70 and 80 percent of tissue youth and increased their cleverness," Conboy said. However, the researchers cautioned that this is a small step towards creating an actual rejuvenating solution for humans, since there are many other biochemical cues regulating adult stem cell activity. Though it has been successful with mice models, clinical trials will determine if the treatment is applicable to the human body. Conboy said the team would begin testing with human models as soon as they come up with the funding.

The researchers reported their finding in the current issue of the journal *Oncotarget*. —*Xinhua*

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong does experiments with students from international schools at the the start of a week-long science and technology campaign in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 May, 2015.—XINHUA

US science leaders to tackle ethics of gene-editing technology

NEW YORK, 19 May — The leading US scientific organization, responding to concerns expressed by scientists and ethicists, has launched an ambitious initiative to recommend guidelines for new genetic technology that has the potential to create "designer babies."

The technology, called CRISPR-Cas9, allows scientists to edit virtually any gene they target. The technique is akin to a biological word-processing programme that finds and replaces genetic defects. The technique has taken biology by storm, igniting fierce patent battles between start-up companies and universities that say it could prove as profitable and revolutionary as recombinant DNA technology, which was developed in the 1970s and 1980s and launched the biotechnology industry.

But CRISPR has also brought ethical concerns.

Last month, scientists in China reported carrying out the first experiment using CRISPR gene-editing to alter the DNA of human embryos. Although the embryos were not viable and could not have developed into babies, the announcement ignited an outcry from scientists warning that such a step, which could alter human genomes for generations, was just a matter of time.

In response, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and its Institute of Medicine will convene an international summit this fall where researchers and other experts will "explore the scientific, ethical, and policy issues associated with human gene-editing research," the academies said in a statement.

In addition, NAS — an honorary body that was chartered by Congress in 1863 and performs studies for the federal government and others — will appoint a multidisciplinary, international committee to study the scientific basis and the ethical, legal, and social implications of human gene editing. It is a step reminiscent of one in 1975, when NAS convened the Asilomar Conference. That led to guidelines and federal regulations of recombinant DNA, the gene-splicing technology that underlay the founding of Genentech and other biotech companies and revolutionized the production of many pharmaceuticals. The NAS committee will, similarly, recommend guidelines for gene-editing technologies.

"We provided leadership in the past on emerging, controversial new areas of genetic research, such as human embryonic stem cell research (and) human cloning," NAS President Ralph Cicerone and IOM President Victor Dzau said in a joint statement. "We are prepared to work with the scientific and medical communities to achieve a comprehensive understanding of human gene editing and its implications."

Reuters

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We would like to congratulate
U Aung Ko Win,
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Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation of Kanbawza Group of Companies

on her achievement of **President's Excellence Award for Excellent Performance (Best Philanthropic Social Organization Award)**
at the Ceremony of presentation of
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Awards for Excellent Performance in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 May, 2015.

We hope that both of you continue to be the highest taxpayers up coming years and continue to more and more contribute toward the development of the country in various sectors.

Chairman and Executive Committee

Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association

Homeless Nepalis sleep in the open as monsoon rains approach

THALI, (Nepal), 19 May — Nepali tea shop owner Phurba Sherpa has spent four nights cramped under a tarpaulin with his wife and nine others on a school field outside Kathmandu since falling rocks triggered by an earthquake last week demolished his distant mountain village.

The Nepali government is struggling to provide shelter for more than a million people like Sherpa who were uprooted by two massive earthquakes, first on 25 April and then 17 days later.

Tens of thousands are sleeping in the open, with monsoon rains possibly little more than a fortnight away.

"I lost everything — my house, tea house and all that I owned. I am a refugee in my own country now," said the 28-year-old, one of about 120 people who made the 110-km (70 miles) trip from Tatopani, a village on the Chinese border, to the town of Thali near the capital, Kathmandu. Sherpa said he left his village after the second quake triggered landslides that left almost no space for shelter. "We don't have any place to go and this is not enough when it starts raining," said Sherpa, who shared the cost of the blue-and-yellow plastic sheet with three other families.

Parts of Nepal have returned to relative normality since the quakes. Shops have reopened in Kathmandu, farmers are back in their fields and power lines are being reconnected. But families such as Sherpa's making do under plastic sheets are a visible reminder of how much authorities need to do almost a month after the first quake struck. More than 8,600 were killed in Nepal's worst natural disaster on record. Aid organizations worry about the possible spread of disease and the risk of further displacement in a country ill-equipped to help those most in need.

Nepal's government has raised $70 million of the $200 million it needs to give shelter and medical help to see the homeless through the monsoon before more permanent reconstruction work can begin.—*Reuters*

Nepalese military personnel search for bodies inside a collapsed building after Tuesday's earthquake at Charikot village, in Dolakha, Nepal, on 15 May, 2015.
REUTERS

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Dated **20 May 2015** yma@kcyangon.com

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Level 8-A, Union Financial Center(UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Date **20 May 2015** yma@kcyangon.com

Two die as 480 rushed to hospital due to heat exhaustion last week

Tokyo, 19 May — Two people died as 480 were taken to hospitals due to heat stroke or heat exhaustion in the week through on Sunday, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said on Tuesday.

Of the 480, 11 were diagnosed with severe symptoms and required hospitalization of three weeks or more, while 131 with milder symptoms needed to stay at hospitals for shorter periods, the agency said. Nearly half of those sent to hospitals were 65 or older.

As temperatures are expected to rise, the agency is calling on people to ward off heat exhaustion by staying hydrated and using air conditioning.

By region, Tokyo had the largest number of 39 sent to hospitals last week, followed by Saitama Prefecture with 37 and Okinawa Prefecture with 33, the agency said.

Kyodo News

25 Years Silver Jubilee

Dear L. Subramani @ Mg Thein and Proba @ Daw Aye Than

It is very exciting to know that you are going to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of your married life. Accept our heartiest congratulations and wishes on the auspicious occasion.

May God shower all the blessings on the lovable couple.

Sincerely Yours
Friends (Yaar Group)

Pentagon has no plan to change Osprey operations in Japan after crash

Washington, 19 May — The US Defence Department foresees no changes to a planned deployment of Osprey military aircraft to a western Tokyo air base even after the deadly crash of an Osprey unit in Hawaii over the weekend, a spokesman said on Monday, adding that there are no plans to change operations of already stationed vehicles in Japan.

The incident left one US Marine dead and 21 injured after an *MV-22 Osprey* of the Marines made a hard landing during a routine training session, following just days after an announcement by the department that it would deploy a squadron of *CV-22 Osprey*, the Air Force equivalent of the *MV-22*, to Yokota Air Base beginning in 2017.

So far, details surrounding the crash remain murky. At a Press conference, Pentagon spokesman Steve Warren said that the accident would not affect the planned Yokota deployment and that there are currently "no plans to adjust our flight operations in Japan" or elsewhere.

Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF263R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINETAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY NO (-)

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (129N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (079N)

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Kendall, Kylie Jenner booed at Billboard Music Awards

LOS ANGELES, 19 May — Sisters Kendall and Kylie Jenner got a cold welcome by some audience members at the 2015 Billboard Music Awards, when they arrived on stage to introduce their brother-in-law Kanye West.

The two reality stars looked stunning in black outfits at the function which took place at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday, 17 May.

Amid the loud cheer, some people could be heard booing the Jenner sisters while Kylie described the rapper as a "great artist, a friend, an inspiration, a brother, and now a doctor," reported *Us* magazine.

The young stars, however, seemed to be unfazed by the noise as they completed their duty without any mishap.—*PTI*

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (4/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/1 (2015-2016)	120 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	3 Sets	USD
(2)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/2 (2015-2016)	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven)	4 Sets	USD
(3)	MPPE/MCY/T/1 (2015-2016)	Oil Suction & Discharge Rubber Flexible Hose	8 Items	USD
(4)	MPPE/MCY/T/2 (2015-2016)	Gate Valve	4 Items	USD
(5)	MPPE/AV(LUB)/T/1 (2015-2016)	Aviation Lubricating oil and Grease	9 Items	USD
(6)	MPPE/AV/T/1 (2015-2016)	Aviation Gasoline 100LL	96,000 Ltrs	USD
(7)	MPPE/LP/MCY/T/1 (2015-2016)	Stainless Steel Dippin g Tape	2 Items	Kyats
(8)	MPPE/LP/TTS/T/1 (2015-2016)	Tyre with Tube & Flap	2 Items	Kyats
(9)	MPPE/LP/MCY/T/2 (2015-2016)	Battery	2 Items	Kyats
(10)	MPPE/LP/CHEM/T/1 (2015-2016)	Shell Water Detector Capsules	400 Boxes	Kyats

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 18 - 6 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19 - 5 - 2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone : 067-411487.

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

'Sorry about the singing,' says Al Pacino on ageing rock star role

LONDON, 19 May — Al Pacino apologized on Monday for his singing in the movie in which he plays the ageing rock star Danny Collins.

The 75-year-old Pacino delivers a rare comic turn in the film about a singer who discovers a letter written to him by John Lennon four decades earlier.

At the London premiere of "Danny Collins" at the Ham Yard Hotel, he joked: "I am sorry about the singing but I have to do it in the part."

The star of "The Godfather" and "Scarface" admitted he suffered from nerves when the script demanded he perform in front of a crowd.

"I will tell you the one thing you learn about singing in front of an audience is it's really hard to hang onto the words," he said.

The Oscar winner also recalled once bumping into John Lennon in New York near Central Park.

Actor Al Pacino attends the 'Danny Collins' premiere at AMC Lincoln Square Theater in New York, on 18 March, 2015.—REUTERS

"I ran into John Lennon but it wasn't a run in, we were like ships in the night, we passed each other but he looked at me and smiled and I smiled back and we both waved. It was a moment that I'll never forget," he said.

In the film, released in the United States in March, Danny Collins abandons his hard-living ways and touring to build a relationship with his family and start writing songs again.

Pacino was joined on the red carpet by British musician Steve Tilston, who received a letter from Lennon 40 years after it was sent and whose experience inspired the movie.

The film opens in the United Kingdom on 19 May.

Reuters

Correction

Please read K 64 billion instead of K 6.4 billion in the fifth line of the Advertisement on page 13 of this daily issued on 19 May, 2015.—*Ed*

Platini hints at easing of FFP rules

LONDON, 19 May — UEFA president Michel Platini has suggested European football's break-even rule known as Financial Fair Play (FFP) could be "eased" with the executive committee to discuss the idea in June.

FFP was introduced in 2010 in an attempt to prevent rich owners from pumping unlimited amounts of cash into clubs and distorting the market. Under the rules, clubs who take part in European competition cannot spend more than their generated revenue. "I think things will be eased," Platini told French radio station RTL on Monday. "It will be the executive committee which decides and you will know at the end of June. "I think that the rules which have been made are very good. Financial fair play was voted for by the clubs."

UEFA could not be reached for comment on the interview. When the rules were introduced, Platini said that UEFA would not hesitate to ban clubs who broke them.

However, in pratice clubs have been allowed to negotiate settlements with UEFA's financial control panel. Manchester City and Paris St Germain were given fines of up to 60 million euros ($68.1 million) last season and had their squad sizes capped for the Champions League, although they could get 40 million euros back if they stick to the terms of their negotiated settlements.

Reuters

Warren Buffett impressed by children's money-making ideas

Warren Buffett talks with sibling finalists 9-year-old Lilian (C) and 12-year-old Simeon (R) at Buffett's Secret Millionaires Club 'Grow Your Own Business Challenge' in Omaha, Nebraska, United States, on 18 May, 2015.—REUTERS

OMAHA, (Nebraska), 19 May — Miroslav Bergen thought he would be "terrified" at meeting Warren Buffett, but he was wrong.

Miro, 14, was one of the winners of "Grow Your Own Business Challenge," a nationwide contest related to the animated "Secret Millionaires Club," which teaches children about finance and where Buffett voices his own character.

"He's a nice, down-to-earth person," said Miro, who lives in Short Hills, New Jersey. "I entered this competition not really as an entrepreneur because I wasn't experienced in business. But I had an idea. Now business people are giving me advice."

The contest, in its fourth year, attracted entries from more than 4,000 boys and girls ages 7 to 14. The top entrants flew to Omaha, Nebraska to be judged and show Buffett their ideas.

"You're looking at the future and it's a pretty good looking future," Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) and the world's third-richest person according to Forbes magazine, said in an interview.

Bergen won for "Beyond the Books," a website that lets people work together to create online courses and study guides, in a "Wikipedia of education." People would pay to advertise, or pay a monthly fee to have ads removed.

Bryn Hansen, 11, and Emily Harkins, 12, of Omaha, won the team contest for "Keep Track Sticky Back," sealable plastic pouches costing $7.99 to $66.99 that have sticky backs so they can be attached to nearly anything.

"This competition has taught us a lot, not just business skills but also cost-evaluation, problem-solving skills, and business etiquette, and how to interact with other people," said Emily, who was on "cloud nine" after winning.

Winners each got $5,000, and said they plan to invest it towards their businesses. Bryn and Emily may also seek a patent.

Buffett gave each finalist 10 Class B shares of Berkshire -if they vote to reelect him next year as chairman.

Many entries were pure online concepts. That is a change from when Buffett would buy Coca-Cola six-packs at his grandfather's grocery store for 25 cents, and then sell bottles for a nickel each.

"They've had the benefit of the Internet," Buffett said, "and that's reflective of the products they've come up with. They are leagues ahead of where I was at the same age."

Still, Buffett remains a role model. "He has a ton of inspirational quotes to believe in yourself, to save money, and maybe someday grow up to be someone like him," Bryn said.

The Fairholme Foundation sponsors the contest. By Kids for Kids Co oversees it. Genius Brands International Inc (GNUS.PK) created "Secret Millionaires Club."—*Reuters*

More than 50 dead, dozens injured in Colombia landslide

BOGOTA, 19 May — A landslide sent mud and water crashing onto homes in a town in Colombia's northwest mountains on Monday, killing more than 50 people and injuring dozens, officials said.

"The earth slid into the course of the La Liboriana ravine, then the dammed water caused an avalanche which destroyed everything in its path" in Salgar in Antioquia department, regional police commander Jose Angel Mendoza said in an interview.

The national disaster unit said in a statement that 52 people were killed and 37 others had been treated for injuries. Rescue teams, including search dogs, continue working in the area looking for an unknown number of missing people.

Photographs released by the country's air force and television news footage showed homes and streets covered in mud and debris in the town in a mountainous area close to the Colombian Andes.

Residents were shown digging through rubble with sticks and their hands, looking for survivors.

"We don't know how many people are missing," said President Juan Manuel Santos, who flew over the affected area to survey the damage and met with local authorities.

Santos declared a public emergency, freeing up relief funds for victims.

"People that you knew, children, young people, whole families lost their homes. We're on alert because there are fears there could be another landslide," resident Maria Gutierrez told local media.

Residents remove mud and debris as they search for bodies after a landslide in the municipality of Salgar, in Antioquia department on 18 May, 2015.—REUTERS

"It almost gave me a heartache. We saw big waves and people and pigs going down in the water."

Additional but less intense rain is expected over the next two to three days, meteorology officials said.

Retuers

mitv Myanmar International

(20-5-2015 07:00 am~ 21-5-2015 07:00 am)

* News
* The Wachet Jivitadana Sanga Hospital
* Lisu New Year Festival
* News
* Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
* All About Orchids
* A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
* News
* Horse Cart Driver
* Myanmar's Traditions and Culture: The Golden Land
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* Myanmar Toys… for your eye-catching
* Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
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* A Visit To Kayah State
* Mt. Naw Bu Baw
* Today Myanmar "Harmful UV Rays"
* News
* Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
* Famous pagodas of Sagaing
* Entrepreneur "U Than Myint"
* News
* Insight Myanmar: Library (Ep-2) Beyound Access Libraries Powering Development
* MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
* News
* Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
* Products of Myanmar — Pottery Business
* Dengue Fever
* News
* Choral Dance By Female Dancers
* Marvelous Solo Cane Ball Playing
* Talented Musicians
* News
* …..Changes
* Beach Food Delivery
* Indian Footsteps

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(20-5-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:20 am
- Physical Exercise

7:00 am
- News / Weather Report

7:35 am
- Money Talk Myanmar

8:00 am
- News / International News

10:30 am
- Head Line News

10:35 am
- Documentary

11:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm
- Head Line News

12:35 pm
- Hluttaw Image

1:50 pm
- Documentary

2:10 pm
- Instrumental Music

2:35 pm
- Traditional Boxing

3:30 pm
- Head Line News

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Botany)

5:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

6:35 pm
- Science and Technology Programme

7:00 pm
- News

7:35 pm
- Documentary

8:00 pm
- News International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm
- Teleplay

9:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report
- Hluttaw Image
- Sport
- Fine Arts-Bostom of Dramatic Performance

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(20-5-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Mono Classical Songs

6:15 am
- Myanmar Series

6:50 am
- Fashion Show

7:10 am
- TV Drama Series

7:55 am
- TV Drama Series

8:30 am
- Musical Programme

8:45 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:05 am
- Joint Performance by State Orchestra

9:15 am
- Musical Programme

9:30 am
- Myanmar Movie

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

3rd Waxing Day of Nayon 1377 ME

Wednesday, 20 May, 2015

Nadal no longer 'immovable' object in Paris, says Courier

Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland during their men's quarter-final match at the Rome Open tennis tournament in Rome, Italy, on 15 May, 2015. —Reuters

London, 19 May — Nine-times French Open champion Rafa Nadal will no longer be regarded as an "immovable obstacle" at Roland Garros this year, according to twice former winner Jim Courier.

The American, who ruled the claycourt grand slam in 1991 and 1992, has watched the Spaniard's increasing vulnerability on the red dust with interest in the build-up to the year's second grand slam which begins in Paris on Sunday.

While Courier believes the best-of-five-set format means Nadal remains formidable, he makes world number one Novak Djokovic favourite followed by Japan's Kei Nishikori.

"For the first time in many years Nadal will not be the favourite going into Roland Garros," Courier, who will commentate on the tournament for British channel ITV, said.

"That role is now firmly occupied by Novak Djokovic. Nadal is less vulnerable in Paris, given the best of five-set format which allows him more time to problem solve but there are now guys in the locker room who see him as an opportunity rather than an immovable obstacle."

Nadal was beaten by Stanislas Wawrinka in the quarter-finals of the Rome Masters, following his defeat by Andy Murray in the Madrid Masters final the week before.

The 28-year-old Spaniard also lost to Djokovic in Monte Carlo and has looked nowhere near the player who has lost only one match at Roland Garros in 10 years of domination.

Djokovic, beaten in last year's final by Nadal, has been in electrifying form and after beating Roger Federer to win the Rome title on Sunday looks to have a golden opportunity to complete his career grand slam.

That favourites tag will bring its own pressures, though, and Nadal, who will be seeded outside the top four, is not the only threat to the Serb's hopes of a first French Open.

"Murray is most certainly a threat to go very deep and, if the draw breaks in his favour, a final is attainable," Courier said.

"Once you reach the final, anything goes — especially now that Nadal is playing like a mortal on the clay again.

"Kei Nishikori is my second favourite behind Djokovic and I firmly believe he is the second best claycourt player today.

"Also, Nick Krygios has the game, aggressive energy and athletic ability to stir things up the way he did at Wimbledon last year and in Australia in January."

Reuters

Fabregas gets comical red as Chelsea slump at West Brom

London, 19 May — Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas was sent off in bizarre circumstances as the below-par Premier League champions, playing with 10 men for over an hour, slumped 3-0 at West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

Saido Berahino struck twice for Albion but the main talking point at the Hawthorns was the first-half red card shown to Spaniard Fabregas for unsportsmanlike conduct by referee Mike Jones.

The official was in the process of booking Chelsea striker Diego Costa after he tussled with Gareth McAuley when Fabregas, standing some 20 metres away, chipped the ball towards a crowd of players and it hit West Brom's Chris Brunt on the head, prompting Jones to walk over and brandish a red card.

"What Fabregas didn't hurt anyone, he shouldn't do it but I don't think that the red card was fair," Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho told the BBC.

The Portuguese said his side, who won the title earlier this month with three games to spare, had lost "concentration, intensity and motivation" with nothing to play for.

In typical Mourinho fashion, however, he blamed Manchester City, United and Arsenal for failing to mount a sustained challenge. Chelsea are eight points clear of City going into their final match of the season at home to Sunderland on Sunday.

"Am I guilty? Yes, but I think the top contenders for the title are also guilty, because they didn't give us a big fight. You can't expect us to get on the bus crying because we lost 3-0, we are champions."

Chelsea's third league defeat of the season — the first two coming at Newcastle and Spurs — was kickstarted by West Brom top scorer Berahino's fine curling strike from outside the penalty area after nine minutes.

Keeper Thibaut Courtois prevented Chelsea going into halftime further behind but West Brom won a penalty 29 seconds into second half after Berahino was brought down by John Terry. Berahino converted to take his league tally to 14 for the season and Chris Brunt lashed in a third goal on the hour for West Brom who are guaranteed to finish no lower than 13th place.—*Reuters*

Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas is shown a red card by referee Mike Jones during Barclays Premier League at The Hawthorns on 18 May, 2015. Reuters

Mertens double keeps Napoli in Champions League contention

Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain celebrates with his teammate Dries Mertens (14) after scoring against AC Milan during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the San Paolo stadium in Naples on 3 May, 2015. Reuters

Milan, 19 May— Dries Mertens scored twice to help Napoli stagger to a 3-2 win over relegated Cesena on Monday which kept them in contention for a place in the Champions League next season.

Gregoire Defrel stunned the San Paolo when he fired Cesena in front with a powerful left-foot drive after being given too much space in the 15th minute and the home fans were growing restless until Napoli replied with two goals in a minute.

Mertens equalized in the 19th minute when Jose Callejon's shot was deflected into his path and the Belgian midfielder immediately set up a second when he weaved his way into the area to leave Manolo Gabbiadini with an easy finish.

Napoli, who have made a habit of dropping points at home to opponents from the lower half of the table, failed to capitalise and Defrel brought the Sea Horses level with his second goal on the stroke of halftime.

Napoli's fans were again growing impatient and coach Rafael Benitez began to look uncomfortable when Mertens turned the ball in from Marek Hamsik's pass just before the hour.

But the hosts still looked wobbily and were relieved to hold out for a win which kept them fourth with 63 points, three behind third-placed Lazio and four adrift of second-placed Roma.

The team which finishes second qualifies for the Champions League group stage and third place earns a spot in the final qualifying round.

Fiorentina went fifth, six points behind Napoli, and closer to a Europa League spot when they beat relegated Parma 3-0 with Gonzalo Rodriguez, Alberto Gilardino and Mohamed Salah sharing the goals.—*Reuters*

Ancelotti finding some have short memories in Spain

Madrid, 19 May — If there is one lesson Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has learned during his two seasons in Spain it is that resting on your laurels is not an option at the world's richest club by income.

After leading Real to a record-extending 10th European crown and a King's Cup triumph last term, Real have failed to win any of the three major trophies in 2014-15 and speculation has already been swirling for weeks about the Italian's future.

Club director Emilio Butragueno pointedly refused to confirm Ancelotti will see out his contract, which runs for another season, after Real were knocked out of the Champions League by Juventus on Wednesday.

The former Real and Spain forward did so again following Barcelona's victory at Atletico Madrid on Sunday, which secured a fifth La Liga title in seven years with a game to spare for Real's arch rivals, who are also through to the finals of the Champions League and King's Cup.

They are on course to repeat 2009's historic treble, something neither Real or any other Spanish club have achieved.

"It is not something to be said now," Butragueno told Spanish television when asked about Ancelotti's future. "And this is not the place either," he added. "There is one match left and after that we'll see."

Reuters

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