

Myanmar, U.S. focus on combating people smuggling, trafficking



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Anthony Blinken of U.S.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—President U Thein Sein on Thursday received a U.S. delegation led by Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Anthony Blinken at the Creden-

tials Hall of the Presidential Palace, where they held talks on humanitarian assistance for illegal migrants and boat people in the Andaman Sea and the Strait

of Malacca.

They also discussed combating people smuggling and human trafficking, the situation in Rakhine State, the peace-making pro-

cess and constitutional amendment ahead of the 2015 general election.

Also present at the meeting were union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wun-

na Maung Lwin, U Aung Min, U Ye Htut and officials. The U.S. delegation was accompanied by Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

MNA

Low pressure over Bay of Bengal no longer influential: weather bureau

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 21 May — The influence of a low-pressure area over the East Central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal has become negligible, according to an observation at 1:30 p.m. Thursday by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The southwest monsoon has already entered the deltaic areas during the past 24 hours, according to the forecast of the government weather bureau.

The forecast stated that strong monsoon conditions were present in the Andaman Sea, South and East Central Bay of Bengal, while the weather was partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Rain is expected to decrease in the next two days

in upper Myanmar areas where rain has fallen heavily in the past 24 hours.

The government weather bureau forecast for Friday predicts rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing and Magway Regions and Chin State, scattered in Mandalay Region, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Bago Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

Isolated rain or thundershowers are expected Friday over Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, while rain or one or two thundershowers are expected over Yangon and neighbouring areas, with an 80-percent degree of certainty.

GNLM

S. Korea-Myanmar forum aims to boost bilateral trade, investment

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 21 May—The Korea-Myanmar Forum 2015 began Thursday in Yangon with presentations and panel discussions focused on furthering economic, political and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The forum was part of Korea Week 2015 in Myanmar running from 21 to 26 May to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and South Korea.

After the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency President Mr. Kim Jae-Hong signed a Letter of Intent on promotion of bilateral trade and investment.

U Win Aung, President of the Republic of

the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the forum will lead to investment and trade opportunities between the two nations.

“International forums

are needed for our country’s development, to have business partners in terms of trade and investment,” U Win Aung said.

Academics and economists from both countries shared their views on stra-

tegic partnerships and expansion of bilateral cooperation, as well as the rich cultural heritages of the respective countries.

The Republic of Korea committed roughly (See page 2)



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint addresses the opening of the Korea-Myanmar Forum 2015 at Novotel Hotel in Yangon on Thursday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session covers land disputes, labour issues

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — The Central Committee for Management of Land Use will cooperate with parliament to resolve some 8,000 outstanding land disputes, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Thursday.

The deputy minister

was reporting on work done by the central committee to prevent losses to the public due to confiscation of land including farms.

The central committee is handling all complaints on land confiscation including those sent to the president and the vice presidents, according to

the deputy minister.

The central committee looked into a total of 10,225 land disputes, with 119,328.678 acres of land returned to former owners as of 15 May, 2015 in addition to 224,403.079 acres released by ministries and private companies, the deputy minister said.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Daw Win Maw Tun reported to the session on work of the ministry, saying the labour organizations law of 2014, the social security law of 2012, the minimum wage law, the employment and skills development law, and the law amending the

leave and public holiday law (1951) have been enacted while four other laws have been repealed.

She added that efforts are also being made to complete new bills for foreign workers and worksite health and safety.

The ministry is also taking measures for state and private sector workers in special economic zones and industrial zones, as well as to protect Myan-

mar migrant workers in other countries.

A representative of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw submitted a motion during the session urging the combined houses of parliament and the union government to submit and approve a bill to exempt mobile phone subscribers from a 5 percent commercial tax on their prepaid phone charges in fiscal 2015-2016.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 50th day

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Dr Soe Yin of Kamayut Constituency asked about a complaint for a five-storey building at No 54/A on Thiri Mingala Street in Ward 8 in Kamayut Township under permission of YCDC at the 50th-day session of Py-

ithu Hluttaw Thursday.

Deputy Minister at the President office U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied that YCDC allowed construction of the five-storey building in line with the existing rules of the committee although local residents

have made complaints over its construction.

With regard to a question raised by U Min Swe of DaikU Constituency, the deputy minister said that although the local authorities have demanded the budget in 2015-16 fiscal year,

works of dredging Dayemee and Akyauung creeks and other silted creeks in DaikU Township in the open season.

Dr Maung Maung Swe of Kyaukdaga Constituency asked about timetable for repairing the road

linking Yangon-Mandalay Highway with KhinIngyi, Bogon and Hsabyin villages. Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe replied that the rural development fund of the ministry this fiscal year does not include the

repairing of the road but the ministry will undertake rural development tasks on priority.

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Khin Maung Shwe submitted a report on bill amending the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US deputy secretary of state, EU Ambassador



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with United States' Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Anthony Blinken.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Deputy Secretary of State of US Mr. Anthony Blinken at the Hluttaw Building on Thursday afternoon.

They held discussions on democratic reform in Myanmar, US sanctions on Myanmar, endeavours of the Hluttaw, the general election, peace process, situation in Rakhine State and illegal migration of boatpeople.

Present at the meeting were Hluttaw committee chairmen U Thein Swe and U Hla Myint Oo, Hluttaw officials and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

The Speaker held a talk with EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia and party at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, on Thursday.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Ko Ko Naing and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Senior General describes country of origin as top priority in troubled boat people issue

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — The country of origin is the first thing to consider when it comes to troubled boat people, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Antony J. Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State of the United States on Thursday.

The commander-in-chief pledged rescue efforts of his army, adding that there was no push against Myanmar citizens to leave the country.

Over 2,000 Myanmar citizens were reportedly among the troubled boat people ashore in Indonesia, with the US deputy secretary of State urging the My-

anmar's army to rescue the victims.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hinted that most victims are expected to assume themselves to be Rohingyas from Myanmar in the hope of receiving assistance from UNHCR. He stressed the need to investigate their country of origin rather than to accuse a country.

He cited interviews in some foreign media as reporting that the boat victims were from Bangladesh.

Some Bangladeshis fleeing their country entered a village in Maungdaw on the Myanmar soil as they ran out of food and water and found it difficult to continue their

journey, with the senior general saying that Myanmar helped them with food and water and freed them.

He also spoke of peace talks with ethnic armed groups and the army's preparedness to sign 'Nation-wide Ceasefire Accord'.

Regarding the elections, the commander-in-chief pledged to abide by the regulations of the Union Election Commission and greater cooperation in making the elections free and fair.

He also stated the need to improve the role of the army depending of democratic maturity of citizens and challenges in defence, politics and international relationships.—MNA

Union FM receives Indonesian, U.S. and Malaysian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mme Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia at the ministry, here, at 9 am on Thursday.

South Korea's Deputy Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy Mr. Lee Woon-Ho, South Korean ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Baek-Soon, and U Win Aung, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

GNLM

They discussed promotion of bilateral relations including further strengthening economic, social and cultural cooperation and democratization in Myanmar. They exchanged views on movements of illegal migrants at the Andaman Sea and the Strait of Malacca as reported by the international media and on the need to intensify cooperation in law enforcement in the sea. The union minister hosted a welcome dinner to the visiting Indonesian delegation on 20 May.

The union minister also received a US delega-

tion led by United States' Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Anthony Blinken at 1 pm, the ministry, here, on Thursday.

They cordially discussed and exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the United States as well as on the matters of mutual interest. Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia called on Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin at 2 pm.

The Malaysian minister briefed on the rationale

behind the statement jointly issued by Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand on 20 May 2015. He also informed that such cooperation among the affected countries was done in response to international attention received by boat people. In this connection, the Malaysian minister welcomed the press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar on 19 May 2015. On his part, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin expressed his views on possible cooperation in preventing smuggling, human trafficking and illegal migrations.—MNA

S. Korea-Myanmar forum . . .

(from page 1)

U.S. \$3.36 billion to investments in Myanmar between fiscal 1988-89 and 2014-15, and has investments in 113 ongoing projects.

Speakers gave presentations on topics including Myanmar's national export

strategy and special economic zone development plans, as well as opportunities for Korean investors.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint gave an opening address, along with KOTRA President Mr. Kim Jae-Hong,

Stability in Rakhine State enables new development focus: vice president



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets officials of UN agencies and INGOs in Sittway.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Measures to restore peace, stability, and the rule of law in Rakhine State have been successful, ena-

bling regional development activities to focus on new areas, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham told local people in Sittway on Thursday.

Communal violence that broke out three years ago had weakened the administrative machinery of Rakhine State.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham expressed his hope that the expansion of electric power supply to many parts of Rakhine State will dramati-

cally improve the quality of life for local households.

The vice president said local people had contributed to the success and recognized their active cooperation in development activities. He also inspected renovations at Sittway General Hospital and comforted patients.

At the Union-Level Emergency Coordination Centre, he met INGOs and local officials to seek further cooperation in improving rescue shelters in Rakhine State.

INGOs included the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the United Nations Office

for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

It is important for boat people at sea to be able to come ashore, they said, stressing the need to provide health care to children under the auspices of the local government.

Director General U Myint Swe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs read out the government's announcement on the issue which appeared in state-run dailies dated 20 May.

Regarding rehabilitation measures, the vice president said local authorities are building houses for families staying in rescue shelters in Rakhine State. A total of 2,000 detached houses have been built. In the first phase, altogether 5,091 houses will be built.

MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun says Myanmar fulfilling int'l duties on boat people

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Vice President U Nyan Tun delivered a speech Thursday at the meeting of the Emergency Management Committee for Illegal Migrants at Sea at the Presidential Palace, here.

In his speech, the vice president said extensive international media coverage about boat people and illegal migrants in the Andaman Sea and Strait of Malacca had caused concern among the international community, although Myanmar has been placing an emphasis on prevention of illegal migration and human trafficking.

The country deems regular patrols and search-and-rescue operations in Myanmar waters as one of the major duties of the defence services, he said.

The vice president pointed out that the boat people are victims of international criminal gangs who have been committing transnational crimes in the

form of large-scale human trafficking.

Allegations that the boatpeople had left Myanmar are completely wrong, he said, stating adamantly that most of them are not from Myanmar, although a few among them may be from the country.

Protection and care will be provided to those found to be Myanmar citizens after conducting citizenship scrutiny in accordance with international consular practices prior to their repatriation to Myanmar, the vice president added.

The vice president explained that repatriation of 102 Myanmar migrant workers detained in Langkawi, Malaysia, by the Myanmar Navy, and that of about 500 Myanmar fishermen in Indonesia, proved Myanmar is ready to provide care and protection to genuine citizens regardless of race and religion.

The vice president explained the situation in

Rakhine State, saying that revocation of temporary identity cards and citizenship scrutiny tasks are being carried out peacefully in accordance with the citizenship law, without racial discrimination, and no one will leave Myanmar due to the process.

The situation in Rakhine State has changed dramatically since communal violence broke out in 2012, he said, adding there has been no further violence, while permanent homes for those living in relief camps are being built, and measures are being taken to provide them with job and education opportunities and healthcare.

The vice president added that the government and international organizations are working together for stability and development in Rakhine State and the assumption that people are fleeing the state due to suppression and discrimination are completely at odds with

what is happening on the ground, although some people may be trying to migrate for economic reasons.

He urged officials to take measure against human trafficking and to carry out educational tasks to prevent human trafficking and to disseminate knowledge of the dangers of illegal migration at sea in the Bengali community in Rakhine State, while measures are taken to create job opportunities for the community.

The vice president later pointed out that it is necessary for security forces at sea to prevent Myanmar waters being used for transit by human traffickers, and to provide search and rescue for boat people in Myanmar waters, as well as humanitarian assistance, regardless of their origins.

As human trafficking and illegal migration is a regional problem and is difficult for Myanmar to tackle alone, it is necessary for Myanmar to identify and

Vice President U Nyan Tun speaking at meeting of the Emergency Management Committee for Illegal Migrants at Sea.
MNA



treat the root causes of human trafficking through regional cooperation, the vice president said.

In conclusion, the vice president warned that tackling a problem with the wrong approach will not deliver favourable outcomes.

After the speech, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko reported on taking legal action against 435 Bangladesh nationals and repatriation of them since April 2011.

Then, Union Minister Lt-Gen Wai Lwin report-

ed on operations against human trafficking at sea before Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin explained the measures for citizenship scrutiny in accordance with international norms and cooperation with regional countries.

Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Ye Htut and deputy ministers reported on measures being taken by respective ministries.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the vice president. —MNA



Photo shows boats used in smuggling Bengalis.—MNA

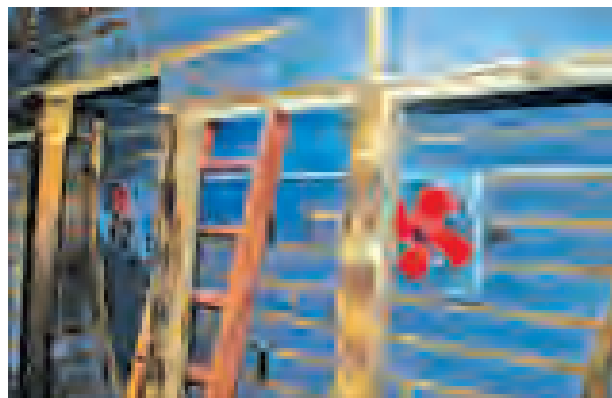


Photo shows structures inside the boat for smuggling Bengalis.—MNA



Photo shows inside structures of boat to smuggle Bengalis.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — A stake-driving ceremony marked the beginning of construction Thursday of a new apartment complex for civil servants and their families in Bawgatheikdi Ward, Zabuthiri Township.

Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Kan Chun, U Phone Zaw Han and U Myint Swe, along with acting Building Department Director-General U Win Tint, drove stakes for the two-storey, 24-apartment complex.

The Building Depart-

Construction begins for civil servant housing in Nay Pyi Taw

ment under the Ministry of Construction will build the quarters with funds from the Nay Pyi Taw Council fiscal 2015-16 budget.

*Tun Tun Win
(Pyinmana)*

The stake-driving ceremony for construction of staff quarter in progress in Zabuthiri Township.



Int'l tour operators view Myanmar attractions, attend conference



NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — A delegation of tour operators and media from Thailand, European countries and the United States visited Myanmar from 17 to 20 May to view some of the country's attractions

and attend the International Conference on Ecotourism in Protected Areas in Nay Pyi Taw.

The 61-member delegation arrived in Mandalay from Thailand on 17 May and visited Mandalay and

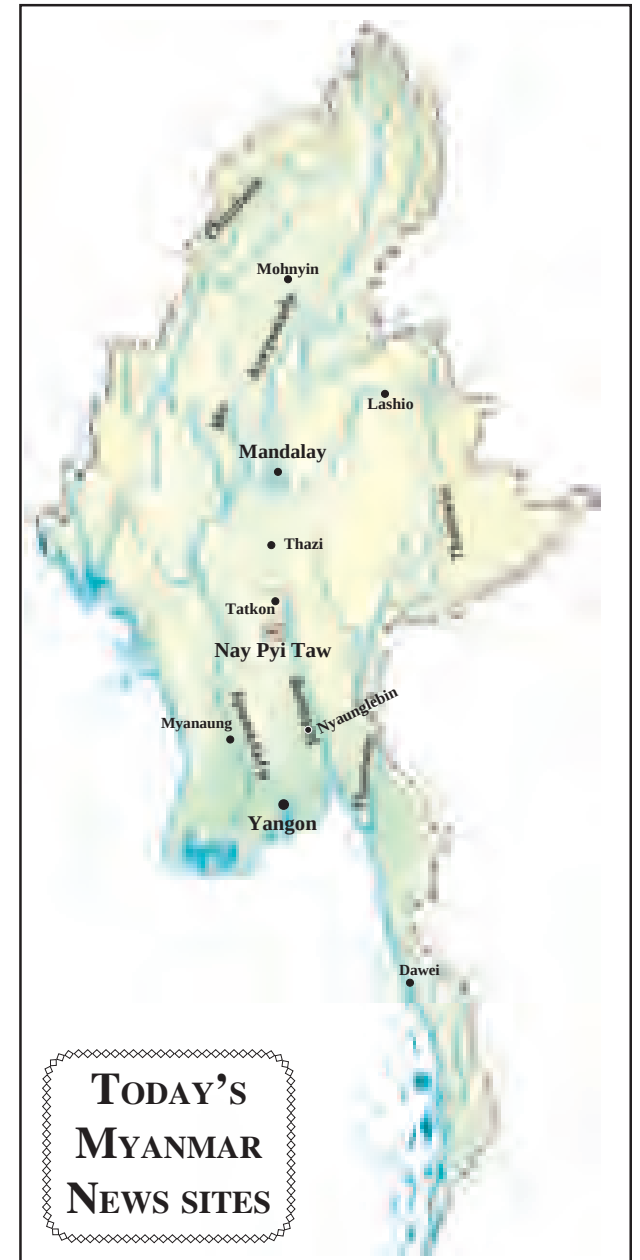
nearby areas. They also toured the archaeological region in Bagan before proceeding to Nay Pyi Taw for the conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II.

On 20 May, Union

Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung received the guests at the Hilton Hotel, where they discussed overseas promotion of Myanmar's tourism industry.

The group's visit was jointly arranged by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Tourism Authority of Thailand with the assistance of the Union of Myanmar Travels Association.

MNA



Kachin State government to fund water supply to Dawphonyan

MOHNYIN, 21 May — The Kachin State government is preparing to build water tanks and reservoirs to enable the supply of potable water to all households in Dawphonyan town, Momauk Township, following a proposal by state MPs.

Improvements to infrastructure have been identified as crucial to restoring security and prevalence of law in the town, where residents have long faced water shortages.

According to calculations by the Township Development Affairs Committee, the Kachin State



government will spend K58.5 million from the poverty alleviation fund on the project in fiscal 2015-16, the Kachin State Development Affairs Minister said.

GNLM-001

Heavy rainfall damages bunds, dam embankments in Thazi Tsp

THAZI, 21 May — Heavy rains recently broke the 100-foot-long embankment of Kanlya Lake in Thabyewa Village-tract in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region.

Water from the lake flowed down into Samon Creek, which runs past lo-

cal farmlands.

Water from Magyi Lake in Wantha Village-tract and Yitzin Lake in Thebon Village-tract flowed into the farmlands through damaged bunds. In Ywapalegyi Village, Thayetpin Dam sustained damage to its embankment, but

water from the dam spread out the farmlands, causing no major damage.

Township authorities and departmental officials inspected damage to bunds and embankments and arranged repairs to lakes and dams.

Township IPRD

Teachers, departmental staff arrive back Laukkai

LASHIO, 21 May — With peace and stability returning to Laukkai in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone of Shan State, basic education teachers have come back to the area and resumed teaching their pupils for the 2015-16 academic year.

A total of 210 education staff left No 5 Basic Education High School in Lashio by car in 20 May for Laukkai, where government forces have clashed with armed insurgents.

Similarly, departmen-

tal personnel left for Laukkai by car. Swanyi bus line and Border Mann bus line arranged transport of staff and teachers to Laukkai under supervision of officials from the Transport Planning Department.

IPRD



LOCAL NEWS

Nay Pyi Taw MCWSC provides cash and rice to nunnery

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Patron of Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Kyin Khaing and Chairperson Daw Aye Aye San together with members donated rice, cooking oil, kitchen crops and cash to Theingi Yadana nunnery in Tatkon on 19 May.

The patron and officials visited the delivery room of Township MCWA and provided nutritious foods and cash assistance to patients. They also attended the talks on dengue haemorrhagic fever and risks to pregnant women organized by Tatkon Township Development Affairs Committee.



While in Tatkon, snacks to children at of Township MCWA. they fed soy milk and the pre-primary school

Shwe Kokko

Township officials inspect development works in Myanaung Tsp



MYANAUNG, 21 May — Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials inspected progress of regional development tasks in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 18 May.

They viewed the widening of an earthen road at Taungyoe station and expansion of an inter-village road in Bantbwagon village-tract.

They instructed local authorities to ensure proper

maintenance of the roads to ensure their longevity.

The township administrator and party looked into construction of a 120-foot-long, 30-foot-wide building at Letpankwin Basic Education

High School.—Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Departmental officials disseminate prevention of narcotic drugs to students

TATKON, 21 May — An educative talk on prevention of narcotic drugs was held at U Sonny Boarding and Day Special Teaching Session in Myawady Ward in Tatkon on 19 May.

Head of Township Information and Public Re-

lations Department Daw Tint Tint Khaing gave talks on reading in spare time. Reporter Min Hein Khant of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Central) spoke about disadvantages of drug abuse while Police Captain Than Win of Tat-

kon Myoma Police Station explained crime reduction.

It was attended by 9th and 10th graders and matriculation students together with teachers from the boarding totalling 200.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Free clinic volunteers receive recognition for service

MYANAUNG, 21 May — Myanaung Township honoured volunteers who provided their services at the free clinic at Parahita Myoshwe Monastery in a ceremony Wednesday at the township General Administration Department.

Township Administrator U Min Min Tun praised the volunteers and medical officers for their efforts in providing health care services to local people.

Retired medical super-

intendent of Ayeyawady Region General Hospital Dr Myint Kyi said the clinic had proved its longevity.

Township officials presented certificates of honour to well-wishers, doctors and health workers.

The clinic, opening every Saturday as of May 2013, provided free health-care services to 3,185 patients from May 2014 to April 2015.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



Tailoring course improves job skills, employment prospects

NYAUNGLEBIN, 21 May — A tailoring course to provide job skills and opportunities for trainees kicked off Wednesday at the hall of Nyaunglebin Township General Administration Department, Bago Region.

The Basic Tailoring Course No. 3/2015 is jointly run by the Township Maternal and Child Welfare

Association and Township Women's Affairs Organization.

Chairwoman of Township MCWA and WAO Daw Nang Shwe Nwe gave a speech about the benefits of the course for trainees. Altogether 25 trainees are attending the six-week course.—Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



Japan, ADB to provide \$110 bil to develop infrastructure in Asia



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers a speech during the 21st International Conference on The Future of Asia at a hotel in Tokyo on 21 May, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 21 May — Japan will collaborate with the Asian Development Bank to provide around \$110 billion to develop “quality infrastructure” in Asia over the next five years, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Thursday.

The plan to boost such investment by around 30 percent from the previous five years is apparently aimed at taking a lead in the fast-growing region with enormous infrastructure needs, amid the rise of China that is

planning to set up a multilateral lending body.

The prime minister said people in Japan are used to choosing good quality products that last a long time, even if prices are a bit high.

“In the long run, we’d like to spread quality infrastructure and innovative infrastructure in Asia,” Abe said in a speech in Tokyo.

To pursue not only quality but quantity, the Japanese government will cooperate with the ADB, led by Japan and the United States, to fund projects, while aiming to draw money from private-sector companies in addition to public funds, he said.

Abe said Japan “highly welcomes” the ADB’s move to boost lending capacity and consider further increasing its capital as well as expand lending to the private sector.

To expand investment, the government-backed Japan Bank for International Cooperation will create a new programme to supply financing for risky projects, though JBIC has so far provided funds for such projects

only with guarantees from local governments, Abe said.

He said Japan wants to share its technology and experience acquired through tackling issues such as poor energy resources and the aging population.

As for energy-saving technology, Abe said Japan has developed technology to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions in coal fired power generation, which would help slash 1.5 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually if the technology is spread to the United States, China and India.

Japan’s move is seen as intending to show its capabilities in infrastructure development, with the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank set to be launched by the end of this year with over 50 founding members.

While major European countries like Britain and Germany are among the prospective founding members, Japan and the United States have stayed out of the project, citing concerns over the new body’s governance and debt sustainability.

The prospective founding

countries are now holding a meeting in Singapore to discuss terms for the AIIB, with an eye to considerably lifting the initial capital from the earlier planned level of around \$50 billion, according to participants at the gathering.

China’s investment ratio, initially anticipated to be around 50 percent, could be less than 30 percent as more countries are set to become founding members, they said.

In boosting infrastructure investment in Asia, the Japanese government will focus on providing infrastructure that meets local needs, is long lasting and considerate of the environment, such as energy-saving subways and bridges that are resistant to earthquakes.

Japan will also place emphasis on creating employment and transferring its technology for building and maintaining such infrastructure to developing countries.

Among notable examples, Japan built a bridge over the Red River in Hanoi using its official development assistance, and the technology was adopted by Viet-

nam as the standard in constructing bridges, according to the government.

To finance projects, the government will also start a new program to have the Japan International Cooperation Agency collaborate with the ADB to invest in private sector-led projects, Abe said.

Japan’s cooperation with the ADB comes after the Manila-based bank pledged to merge its two main financing instruments for an expansion of its lending capacity to meet growing funding needs in the region and reduce poverty.

The government will also make efforts to swiftly conduct screening procedures in approving yen loans to boost infrastructure investment in the Asian region, it said.

The ADB spends around \$13 billion annually to finance infrastructure development, but the amount is far smaller than its estimate of around \$8 trillion expected to be required for the region’s infrastructure financing from 2010 to 2020.

Kyodo News

Cambodia warns 4 UN representatives for criticism of draft NGO bill

PHNOM PENH, 21 May — Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Thursday warned four representatives of the UN agencies for their criticism of a draft NGO law in a meeting.

The meeting was convened after Wan-Hea Lea, representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Cambodia, Rana Flowers, head of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)-Cambodia, Marc Derveeuw, representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-Cambodia, and Wenny Kusuma, representative of UN Women-Cambodia, criticized the Draft Law on the Association and the Non-Governmental Organization on the *Phnom Penh Post* newspaper last week.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Hor Namhong said he told the representatives to perform their activities by respecting the UN Charter and their specific mandate.

He said the Article 2, Paragraph 7 of the UN Charter, stipulates that “Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.”



Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong (1st R) meets with representatives of the UN agencies to Cambodia in Phnom Penh on 21 May, 2015. Hor Namhong on Thursday warned four representatives of the UN agencies for their criticism of a draft NGO law in a meeting. —XINHUA

“I told them that in their capacity as UN agencies, they must respect the UN Charter’s article 2,” said Hor Namhong, who is also a deputy prime minister.

He said this draft of law has nothing to do with human rights, with children, with Cambodian population or women.

“As a state of law, we just want to know who does what in this sovereign country and member of the United Nations, we need transparency and order when thousands of NGOs, Civil Societies and Associ-

ations perform their duties throughout the country,” he said. On Wednesday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also slammed the United States Ambassador to Cambodia, William Todd, for his criticism of the draft NGO law.

In a diplomatic note to the US Embassy, the ministry said, “The words expressed by the foreign Ambassador to Cambodia are extremely insolent, even if he is a representative of a big country.”

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on 5 April that the proposed

NGO law will require NGOs to register their nationalities with the government in order to have legal standing, and they are required to file reports on their activities and finances each year to the government.

“We do not make the law to prevent the activities of NGOs, but we want to see NGOs operate transparently in this country,” he said. The law also aims at fighting against terrorism financing, money laundering, and creation of illegal armed forces, he added.

Xinhua

Thailand could stop thousands of HIV deaths with more tests and treatment

BANGKOK, 21 May, — Thailand could prevent more than 5,000 HIV-related deaths in the next decade if it expanded HIV testing and treatment among gays in Bangkok, where about one in three males who have sex with men is infected, researchers said.

A third of the estimated 185,000 men who have sex with men in the Thai capital fail to use condoms or are involved in other behaviour that puts them at high risk of infection, experts said in a World Bank-sponsored study. Yet in 2011, only 14,000 of men who have sex with men in Bangkok got tested, and only 30 percent of those diagnosed and eligible for treatment started taking lifesaving antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), the study said. “We know that antiretroviral treatment works. It keeps people alive, and it also works in reducing the risk of transmission to other people,” said David Wilson, an author of the study and associate professor at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

“It is clear that the number one priority in reducing HIV in this country is to target men who have sex with men with

better services so they can access testing and then be linked into treatment,” Wilson told journalists at the launch of the report in Bangkok this week. Often touted as a success story, Thailand tackled its massive AIDS epidemic in the 1990s, cutting the estimated number of people infected each year to 8,100 in 2013 from 143,000 in 1991.

However, it has failed to keep up with the spread of the disease among some groups, including gay men and transgender people.

About 44 percent of new infections are in men who have sex with men, and 25 to 30 percent of those are likely to occur in Bangkok, the study said, citing official estimates.

The researchers found that a continuation of the current levels of testing and ARV treatment would cost Thailand \$74 million between 2012 and 2022.

It would cost an additional \$55 million over the same period to expand testing and treatment to 80 percent from 20 percent in 2012, the study said.

“That’s a lot of money, but relatively, it’s not that much to get four times the coverage,” Wilson said.

Reuters

WORLD



Delegates from the Chinese Embassy in Nepal and Nepalese Army pose for a group photo after the landing of a cargo jet carrying relief materials and equipment for earthquake-affected Nepalese people at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 20 May, 2015. Another batch of relief materials and equipment provided by China were delivered to Nepal on Wednesday. Earlier reports said the Chinese government and military had mobilized more than 40 helicopters and airplanes to deliver 650 tons of tents, generators, water purification facilities, blankets and other emergency supplies to Nepal. —XINHUA

Putin aide brings Russia president's message to Abe

TOKYO, 21 May— A close aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo and delivered a message from Putin, a senior Japanese official said, without revealing the substance of it.

But Abe and Russian State Duma chairman Sergey Naryshkin did not discuss a visit to Japan by Putin, Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

Asked whether Abe and Naryshkin discussed bilater-

al negotiations for the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, Suga declined to comment on the substance of the 15-minute meeting at a Tokyo hotel.

Japan has invited Putin for a visit but it was put off last year due to Russia's annexation of the Crimean region of Ukraine, an act condemned by Tokyo and other members of the international community. The rescheduling of Putin's visit has yet to be decided.

Abe has attached importance to Putin's visit as

a step to bring forward the stalled negotiations for the return of the four islands. The territorial dispute has prevented the two countries from concluding a post-World War II peace treaty.

In a meeting Wednesday with Masahiko Komura, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Naryshkin said Japan's imposition of sanctions on Russia over the Ukrainian crisis is making it difficult for Putin to visit Japan despite Abe's hope for an early visit.—Kyodo News

S Korean president names justice minister as new PM

SEOUL, 21 May— South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Thursday named the current justice minister as new prime minister after the former prime minister stepped down for the alleged bribery scandal.

Justice Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn was nominated as the country's second-highest administrative post, 25 days after Lee Wan-koo, the former prime minister, resigned on suspicion that he received bribes, the presidential office said.

It reflected President

Park's strong will to reform the political arena by naming the head of the judiciary authority as new prime minister.

"Under our current reality, it is very important to achieve a political reform by eliminating irrationalities, corruption and irregularities that have lasted from the past," senior presidential press secretary Kim Sung-woo told reporters.

Hwang, 58, was named as the first justice minister of the Park administration that took office in Febru-

ary 2013. He had assumed major positions in the prosecution before making the justice minister.

Hwang's nomination came after the former prime minister stepped down on suspicion that he received 30 million won (28,000 US dollars) in bribes during the by-election campaign period in April 2013 from a businessman who killed himself on 9 April.

Sung Wan-jong, the former ruling party lawmaker and businessman who ran the now-bankrupt

construction firm, left a brief memo that listed eight heavyweight politicians, including the former prime minister alongside current figures. Lee had strongly denied his involvement although admitted that he had few acquaintances with Sung. Lee even said that he would kill himself if any evidence comes out for conviction. Lee resigned as it turned out that he had made some 200 phone calls with Sung in the past year and had dozens of meetings with Sung. —Xinhua

China navy warns US spy plane in disputed South China Sea

WASHINGTON, 21 May — The Chinese navy warned a US surveillance plane flying over artificial islands that Beijing is creating in the disputed South China Sea to leave the area eight times, according to CNN, which was on board the flight on Wednesday.

At one stage, after the American pilots responded by saying the plane was flying through international airspace, a Chinese radio operator said with exasperation: "This is the Chinese navy ... You go!"

The P8-A Poseidon, the US military's most advanced surveillance aircraft, flew at 15,000 feet (4,500 metres) at its lowest point, CNN said.

The incident, along with recent Chinese warnings to Philippine military aircraft to leave areas around the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea, suggests Beijing is trying to enforce a military exclusion zone above its new islands.

Some security experts worry about the risk of confrontation, especially after a US official said last week the Pentagon was considering sending military aircraft and ships to assert freedom of navigation around the Chinese-made islands.

A spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry said

he was not aware of the incident.

"China has the right to engage in monitoring in the relevant airspace and waters to protect the country's sovereignty and prevent accidents at sea," ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a regular briefing. "We hope the relevant country can earnestly respect China's sovereignty in the South China Sea."

Footage taken by the P8-A Poseidon and aired by CNN showed a hive of construction and dredging activity on the new islands the plane flew over, as well as Chinese navy ships nearby.

CNN said it was the first time the Pentagon had declassified video of China's building activity and audio of challenges to a US aircraft.

"We were just challenged 30 minutes ago and the challenge came from the Chinese navy," Captain Mike Parker, commander of US surveillance aircraft deployed to Asia, told CNN aboard the flight.

"I'm highly confident it came from ashore, this facility here," Parker said, pointing to an early warning radar station on Fiery Cross Reef.

Military facilities on Fiery Cross Reef, including a 3,000-metre (10,000-foot) runway, could be op-

erational by year's end, one US commander recently told Reuters.

Asia's rising power China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taipei and Brunei also have overlapping claims.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi last week asserted Beijing's sovereignty to reclaim the reefs, saying China's determination to protect its interests was "as hard as a rock".

China has also said it had every right to set up an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the South China Sea but that current conditions did not warrant one.

ADIZs are used by some nations to extend control beyond national borders, requiring civilian and military aircraft to identify themselves or face possible military interception.

During the P8-A mission, the pilot of a Delta Air Line flight in the area spoke on the same frequency after hearing the Chinese challenges, and identified himself as commercial. The Chinese voice reassured the pilot and the Delta flight went on its way, CNN said.—Reuters



Soldiers take part in a drill in Kangwon-do, South Korea, on 20 May, 2015. More than 300 army soldiers and 60 vehicles and tanks took part in the five-day live fire drill in Kangwon-do.—XINHUA

Pakistan denies report of nuclear deal with Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD, 21 May— Pakistan on Thursday rejected as baseless a report by Britain's Sunday Times newspaper that Saudi Arabia has reached out to Pakistan to acquire "off-the-shelf" atomic weapons.

"There is no Pakistan-Saudi nuclear deal. We reject the report," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qazi Khalilullah told a weekly briefing.

The spokesman said that Pakistan's nuclear pro-

gramme was meant for self-defence and maintenance of a nuclear deterrence. "Pakistan supports the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation," Khalilullah said. However, the spokesman said that like oth-

er signatories of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Saudi Arabia has a right to peaceful use of nuclear technology. The Sunday Times said that the move by the Gulf kingdom comes amid growing anger among

Sunni Arab states over an agreement involving the permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany, which they fear could allow their arch foe, Iran, to develop a nuclear bomb.—Kyodo News



Friday, 22 May, 2015

Tax should not be a bitter pill for people to swallow

By Kyaw Thura

Tax has recently become the talk of the day throughout social media in Myanmar. The government has instructed local mobile operators to introduce a 5 percent commercial tax on all recharges from 1 June, sparking an unhappy response among the public.

This does not necessarily indicate people's unwillingness to pay taxes. Most want to be dutiful taxpayers, but only if they are kept in-

formed of how their money is spent. They have all heard and accepted that tax is an engine, not a constraint, for the country's infrastructural development.

Undeniably, our country is still dependent on foreign loans and aid, and obviously much remains to be done to minimize its dependence on external assistance. There have been hints of accusations that the country is tied to the will of its creditor countries.

The government, for its part, ought to view tax as a source of national development rather than a source of revenue. It must start to improve the process of taxation, making it more transparent to the public. Only then will Myanmar take a vital step forward as a developing country. What is important in this context is the establishment of taxation structures, the absence of which can be interpreted as concrete proof of

weak governance.

Tax is more important as a source of growth than a source of revenue. With this end in view, the government itself should be at the vanguard of the fight against tax evasion by persuading its citizens to pay taxes through transparent means, and by exchanging information on how their money is spent.

Write for us

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

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

Keep our youths sober

By Myo Myint

It is widely accepted that alcohol does more harm than good to drinkers. Despite this general belief, consumption of alcohol seems to be on the rise in most societies. Even without research, it can be gauged from the huge crowd of drinkers at bars, restaurants, food stalls, parks and under overpasses, and the number of unsteady drunkard young men supporting each other, and in a few cases, young women supported by young men, on their way home late at night, that the consumption of alcohol has alarmingly increased in Yangon.

One can think of many reasons for the increase in the number of drinkers. The first is the widespread availability of alcohol. It will be noted that along with the huge increase in the number of shops in the city, the number of off-licence, and the number of restaurants and food stalls serving alcohol, legally and illegally, have also grown. All supermarkets have a separate section for the sale of alcohol and the newly opened 24-hour convenience shops found in most big wards all sell alcohol although they have a notice posted that it will not be sold after 10 p.m. In public parks like the Inya bund, there are vendors freely selling bottles of alcohol. In smaller towns, there are licensed alcohol serving shops, as well as illegal alcohol stalls that sell country spirit. In the countryside, there are shops opened at houses that sell home

brewed alcohol and wherever there is a grove of toddy palm trees, one can find a hut set up to sell toddy palm juice, an alcoholic beverage. Although legally, alcohol is not allowed to be sold to the under-aged, the attitude of most shopkeepers is that if they do not sell to them, others will, so they might as well do it too. The "don't ask, don't tell," system seems to prevail in most shops, and anyone who has the money to pay for it, including young teenagers, can walk into them and freely buy a bottle of alcohol without being asked his age. Alcohol sales are also being promoted using a variety of means. One that is used by many restaurants, food shops and stalls, is to employ girls to serve alcohol to mainly male customers to promote sale of particular brands. This is prevalent not just in big cities like Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw but also in small towns too. There is also the free distribution of alcohol ads printed on vinyl sheets which are used as sunshades by house owners in the countryside thereby unwittingly providing free advertising service to alcohol producers. Officially, alcohol ads have been banned on TV and in public places, but some devious alcohol producers have for a long time been using TV ads of purified drinking water and soft drinks that share brand names and logos with their alcohol products as surrogate TV ads. Consequently, more and more young people including females are forsaking coffee and tea

shops and are frequenting shops and restaurants that serve alcohol as their meeting places.

Affordability is another key factor in the increase in consumption of alcohol. A can of beer costs around 800 kyats, while a locally produced bottle of beer, whiskey or rum costs about 1200 kyats. They are therefore within the reach of many people. For those, who cannot afford them, they can always resort to country spirits, illegal brews and adulterated drinks which are much cheaper but can be most dangerous for health.

Why do people drink? There is no doubt that many people get seduced by the feelgood effect of alcohol, such as, making contact with people more easily, feeling more sure of oneself, being less bothered by guilt or shame, worrying less, getting to sleep easier, etc. as mentioned in ww.lookatyourdrinking.com, just as humans had been seduced by various forms of alcohol for centuries. But the desire for this feelgood effect can become addictive and can cost one his health, lives, properties and even kingdom as in the case of a Myanmar king of the 16th century. Some who feel guilty about drinking make up various excuses, such as drinking to celebrate some occasion, to get through some miseries suffered, to overcome inhibition at social gatherings, to show the spirit of camaraderie, due to peer pressure, or because it is part of the job, etc., etc. Whatever the reason offered may be, from social drinking, one can gradually, and in some cases,

swiftly graduate to heavy drinking, binge drinking and become an alcoholic. Moreover, the bad example set by friends, seniors, and stars in movies, and advertisements, young people living away from home and away from parental guidance, increasing acceptance of lax behaviour by society, authorities and communities, deterioration of family cohesiveness and parental authority, and lack of education, all lead to increase in the number of persons drinking and the amount of alcohol consumed. In addition, nowadays, many people, including women, are no longer hesitant about being seen frequenting bars or restaurants serving alcohol, and drinking beer, which they declare is a nonalcoholic drink.

What are the adverse effects of drinking? These are too numerous to be listed here and only some major ones will be mentioned. The effects on health range from simple hangover, to more serious problems such as liver, kidney, and heart diseases, hypertension, and cancer. Binge drinking can also result in memory problems when one gets older. Another effect is laxity in behaviour and manners which results in development of bad habits that affect health such as chewing betel, smoking, and becoming addicted to certain drugs. Lack of a respect for customs and traditions also affect morality, such as, shameless behaviour in public, and loss of religious and moral values. Another effect is the harm caused to one's job due to decline in creative and thinking skills, loss of in-

POEM:

Future Farmer of Myanmar (with apologies to past Myanmar poets of the rural scene)

Come Monsoon when rain starts to fall
heralding in the rice planting season to all
at break of dawn the farmer and his son,
graduate of the college in the State/Region
hasten to plough their extended paddy field
with their tractor acquired by Hire Purchasing
from the Farm Machinery Company in keeping
with policy 'Traditional to Mechanized Farming'
to increase agricultural productivity
and reduce levels of rural poverty.
When the field is ploughed, the farmer and his family
contracts the Cooperative of Agricultural Machinery
to transplant to the field from the nursery
the rice plants of the high-yield variety.
When adding fertilizer and spraying insecticides is needed
the Service Cooperative concerned is contracted
and their trained workers undertake the task of spraying
using the right amount of chemicals and safe handling.
Comes summer when the fields are a golden hue
it's time to harvest the crop, the farmer contracts the new,
Farm Machinery Service Cooperative to harvest the crop
and send whole or part of it to the Marketing Co-op.
The above narrative, may as yet sound like a dream
But with diligent efforts of the farmer and his team,
the efforts and integrity of organizations concerned too
in the not distant future the dream will come true.
Lokethar

The narrative above, may as of now sound like a story
but with diligent efforts by the farmer and his family
and the efforts and integrity of the concerned Cooperatives too
in the not too distant future the story could come true.
Lokethar

terest in one's work, and reduction in sense of responsibility which all lead to loss of efficiency, reliability and reputation. Similarly, for those young people who are still pursuing their education, addiction to alcohol results in poor academic performance, decline in ambition, poor social skills and a bleak future. Socially, alcohol can have an adverse effect on one's relationship with family, friends, colleagues and the community. More seriously, terrible crimes

such as rapes and murders have been committed by people while being intoxicated. A piece of news that horrified the people of Yangon recently is the murder of a young man over the theft of a cell phone by a group of acquaintances after a bout of drinking. Many accidents which have caused loss of lives and limbs have also occurred while driving under the influence of alcohol. Finally, there is the huge waste of hard-earned
(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Telenor plans expansion of education programme for child workers

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 21 May — Telenor Myanmar will expand a joint programme to provide education for children working in teashops to roughly 1,000 students by the end of this year, CEO Mr Petter Furberg said Thursday.

At a Telenor sustainability briefing in Yangon, Mr Furberg said the company launched the project in cooperation with the Myanmar Mobile Education Project (MyME) in late 2014, with the aim of improving the lives of children working in teashops who are unable to attend school.

Currently the project is delivering free mobile education services to over 100 children between the ages of 13-16 from Telenor-branded teashops in Yangon and Mandalay. Each child is provided six hours of lessons per week, he added.

Under the programme, MyME is preparing to boost education services to Yangon's suburban areas within the next two or three months, Director of MyME U Tin Maung Maung Aye said.

The free education services will also reach needy teashop workers in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, Patheingyi Region, Mawlamyine in Mon State and Magway Region this year, the director said.

MyME's teaching programme is classified into three levels—beginner level, level I and level II. The syllabus includes basic literacy, mathematics and computer skills. The young learners will also be taught basic knowledge of personal hygiene and social interaction in a safe environment.

Currently, between 350 and 400 children are pursuing their education at mobile schools of MyME established in early 2014.

There are about 25,000 teashops across the country. Ninety percent of school-age workers in Yangon come from poor families from other regions and states, U Tin Maung Maung Aye said. Telenor, a Norwegian mobile company, launched its services in Myanmar in September 2014 and has 6.4 million local users.—GNLM

UEC Chairman, EU Ambassador exchange views on process of 2015 general elections

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Roland Kobia and party at the hall of UEC, here, on Thursday.

The UEC Chairman

explained preparations for holding the 2015 general elections based on experiences in previous elections, conducting voter training and procedure of time frame for the election. The EU Ambassador spoke

about a plan to send an observation team to monitor the election.

Ms. Lora Borissova of the delegation explained the procedure for monitoring the election. The UEC Chairman explained pro-

cess of voting in advance and discussed cooperation procedure.

Also present at the call were members of the UEC, the secretary and officials of the commission office.

MNA

Development of Myanmar's rice sector discussed



The opening ceremony of IRRI's branch in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Director-General of Agriculture and Research Department Dr Ye Tint Tun and Di-

rector General Dr Robert Stewart Zeigler of IRRI formally opened IRRI branch in the compound

of Agriculture and Research Department, here, on 20 May.

The union minister spoke about conducting rice research and development tasks with the assistance of development partner countries and international organizations while the director general of IRRI explained cooperation in development of Myanmar's rice sector between Myanmar and IRRI.

Departmental officials and the resident representative of IRRI together with officials of donor organizations discussed rice germplasm and technology for Myanmar.—MNA

USAID announces partnership to train aspiring engineers in Southeast Asian countries

YANGON, 21 May — The United States Agency for International Development on Wednesday announced it has entered a partnership with testing device and software maker National Instruments to train young aspiring scientists and engineers in the

Lower Mekong sub-region, including Myanmar.

USAID said it would work together with NI over the next five years to "create learning centers at universities and vocational colleges to enable students and professionals to access NI's embedded

and measurement devices, including software, hardware, training and technical support."

"This partnership involves developing curricula, training instructors and supplying lab equipment to these schools, start-ups and small and

medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)," USAID said in a press release.

NI has committed \$4.5 million to the partnership, and will provide its software and hardware technology platforms and support for regional projects, including the

USAID Connecting the Mekong Through Education and Training (USAID COMET).

"Two U.S. government projects — USAID COMET and USAID ACTI — will coordinate this partnership," USAID said. "Launched as one of the programs affiliated with the Young Southeast Asia Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) by President Obama in Myanmar in November 2014, USAID

COMET plans to help 100 universities and vocational centers increase the number of skilled workers in ASEAN-targeted fields."

The partnership will focus on providing information and skills development training to SMEs. Emphasis will be on greater economic inclusion of women and young entrepreneurs to advance regional economic growth in the Mekong sub-region.

GNLM

Keep our youths . . .

(from page 8)

money spent on drinks and one's valuable time which could be better spent on improving the quality of life of oneself and family.

What are some of the solutions? The most important is creating awareness of the harm that addiction to alcohol can cause to one's social, financial, mental and physical development since young, and ensuring that young people do not pick up this ruinous habit. This involves pro-

viding sustained education to young people in schools and universities about the dangers of alcohol by teachers, health authorities and religious and social organizations. The next strategy is to reduce exposure to portrayal of alcohol consumption in films, advertisements and public places so that young people do not think that it is an everyday normal behaviour. The third is to provide alternative social outlets and activities to young people so that

they do not resort to alcohol for companionship or to boost self-esteem. The fourth is to raise taxes on alcohol, restrict availability and production of alcohol and take legal action against drunk driving, cheap harmful drinks, sales to under-aged persons, sales without license and make the shops and restaurants that serve alcohol to limit the amount served to those who have been drinking beyond their limit. The fifth strategy is to set up an organization like Alcoholics Anonymous to help those

with drink problems overcome them.

Alcoholism usually starts with social drinking, moves to heavy drinking, followed closely by binge drinking and ends with becoming alcoholics. Two current trends should worry parents, authorities and society. The first is the consumption of alcohol in public by an increasing number of women, and the second is the increase in the number of teenagers below the legal age buying and drinking alcohol. Both these trends show that alcohol

consumption is no longer just the personal matter of a few individuals. It is also becoming an important social problem that affects the health and wellbeing of many citizens, family relations, and the future of young people. It is also a growing national problem that affects social harmony, economic productivity, and human resource development. It is therefore imperative that swift and appropriate action be taken by parents, families, and authorities concerned. In order to take effective action,

it is necessary to find out the causes, extent, consequences and seriousness of the problem in our country, and learn what action is taken and what support is provided to those with similar problems in other countries. Hence, it demands extensive research and study to understand the scope of the problem and to come up with the right solutions as well as to draw the attention of the community and the authorities in order to get their cooperation in bringing this rising public problem under control.

US, Cuba to focus on reopening embassies in Washington talks

WASHINGTON, 21 May — The United States and Cuba resume talks on Thursday aiming to overcome obstacles to opening embassies in each other's capitals and re-establishing diplomatic ties, the crucial next step in their historic detente.

Both sides have reported progress in closing in on a deal, part of an agreement clinched between US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro in December. Once diplomatic relations are restored, the long-time adversaries will work on the more complicated task of normalizing overall relations. But Washington wants assurances that its diplomats will have more freedom of movement, while Castro this week reiterated Cuban concerns that dissidents are receiving "illegal" training at the US Interests Section in Havana.

US Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson assured lawmakers in testimony on Wednesday that Washington would not agree to the opening of an

embassy in Havana without its diplomats being able to travel outside the capital.

The two countries have interests sections rather than embassies in each other's capitals. Currently, US and Cuban diplomats cannot leave the capitals.

Jacobson, the lead US negotiator with Cuba, said Washington also wanted assurances that Cubans would be able to visit the US embassy without being harassed by police and that there would be an increase in US embassy personnel. She acknowledged, however, that any the embassy would likely operate under restrictions similar to those in other countries run by authoritarian governments. China and Vietnam could serve as models for new rules governing US diplomats' movements in Cuba. One of the most contentious issues between the former Cold War adversaries is Washington's so-called pro-democracy programmes for Cuba, which Castro argues are "illegal" and in breach of international treaties on diplomatic



A man stands near the national flags of the US and Cuba (R) on the balcony of a hotel being used by the first US congressional delegation to Cuba since the change of policy announced by US President Barack Obama on 17 Dec, in Havana, on 19 Jan, 2015. The United States will urge Cuba to lift travel restrictions on US diplomats and agree to establish US and Cuban embassies in historic talks in Havana this week aimed at restoring relations, a senior State Department official said on Monday. —REUTERS

missions. The US Interests Section in Havana offers Cubans free courses on journalism, English and information technology, and also allows Cubans to use the Internet.

In November 2012, the Cuban Foreign Ministry is-

sued a statement accusing the US Interests Section in Havana of "serving as headquarters of political subversion" against Cuba by creating an opposition movement and fomenting instability.

The talks are the first

since Obama announced on 14 April that he had decided to remove Cuba from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, which Havana had said was a necessary step for further progress.

The Cubans have signaled that any formal an-

nouncement on the re-opening of embassies would likely have to wait until after the 45-day Congressional review period for removing Cuba from the terrorism list. Cuba considers 29 May as the date when the review period ends.—Reuters

Ukraine wants roadmap to EU accession at Riga summit — minister

BERLIN, 21 May — Ukraine's foreign minister said his country wants assurances at a summit with the European Union this week that it is a suitable candidate for EU membership and its citizens will gain visa-free travel to the bloc next year.

Officials from the EU and its member states meet six of the bloc's eastern neighbours, including Ukraine, in the Latvian capital Riga on Thursday and Friday, with a political solution to the conflict in

Ukraine high on the agenda.

The EU has already agreed a free-trade pact with Ukraine, to be implemented from next year.

"Now we want concrete assurances in Riga that Ukraine is eligible for future membership of the European Union, and has the chance to become an accession candidate in the future," Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin told German daily *Die Welt*.

"We want to see light at the end of the tunnel," he said, adding that Ukraine

also expected a commitment at the summit to visa-free travel to the EU from next year for its citizens.

Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia signed political and trade agreements with the EU last year and want to join the bloc.

The Riga summit with those countries, as well as the more pro-Russian Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus, will try to further deepen ties.

A tug-of-war for influence between Brussels and the Kremlin, culminating in

the Ukrainian conflict and Western sanctions against Moscow, has raised concern among some in the West about a new Cold War. Russia describes last year's toppling of a pro-Russian president in Ukraine by mass protests and the country's turn away from Moscow towards the EU as a Western-backed coup.

The loss of Ukraine was a blow to President Vladimir Putin's plans for a Eurasian Customs Union to parallel the EU.

Reuters

Merkel — can't imagine Russia back in G8 until common values met

BERLIN, 21 May — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday that there would not be any Group of 8 meetings with Russia as long as it fails to comply with basic common values of democracy and states based on rules of law.

"The developments in Ukraine are the reason that we will meet in Elmau as Group of 7 and not a Group of 8," she said in a speech in parliament, referring to the meetings in Bavaria next month without Russia's par-

ticipation.

"We see the G7 as a community of values. And that means working together for freedom, democracy, and for the rule of law.

That means respecting the laws of nations and the territorial integrity of nations." She added, "Russia's actions in Ukraine are not compatible with that.

A return to the G8 format is not imaginable as long as Russia doesn't act according to those basic values." — Reuters

UK's Cameron to unveil immigration curbs on eve of EU meeting

LONDON, 21 May — Prime Minister David Cameron will outline measures to stem near-record immigration levels on the eve of a European Union summit he wants to use to tentatively start renegotiating Britain's ties with the bloc.

Speaking in London on Thursday before flying to an EU Eastern Partnership Summit in Latvia, his first foreign trip since his re-election on 7 May, Cameron will say he plans to make illegal working a criminal offence and to give authorities the power to

seize illegal earnings.

Cameron is under growing pressure to cut rising immigration fueled by his country's strong economy. Official data released hours before he was due to speak showed net annual migration hit a near high of 318,000 in 2014.

Cameron's focus will be largely domestic, but the timing of his speech will be seen as a message to EU leaders about how important the issue is to him. Cameron is expected to remind them he wants the bloc to agree to allow Britain to sharply



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron

restrict EU migrants' access to its welfare system.

"A strong country isn't one that pulls up the drawbridge ... it is one that controls immigration," Cameron will say, according to an advance text of his speech.

In a potentially hopeful sign for Britain, German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble said he had invited Osborne to Berlin to discuss possible reform. Germany wants reform of euro zone rules, something that could potentially be done at the same time as Britain's renegotiation.

George Osborne, Cameron's finance minister accused the EU of sleepwalking out of the global economy. Britain's Europe debate has alarmed some firms and Airbus became the latest to say a British

EU exit would involve huge risks.

Cameron, who promised but failed to reduce annual net migration into Britain to less than 100,000 during his last term, has pledged to reshape Britain's ties with the bloc before holding an in-out EU membership referendum by the end of 2017.

He wants to force EU migrants to wait four years before accessing a range of welfare benefits and to win the power to deport jobless EU jobseekers after six months.

If the renegotiation is completed early, Cameron has made clear he might hold the referendum before 2017. But he is under pressure from some of his own Eurosceptic lawmakers to take his time getting what they consider to be a meaningful settlement.

Some EU countries, such as France, have ruled out the prospect of the bloc changing its founding treaties to suit Britain. But British officials say Cameron remains convinced he will need such changes.

Reuters

WORLD

Iraqi forces thwart third Islamic State attack east of Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 21 May — Iraqi forces said they thwarted a third attempt by Islamic State militants to break through their defensive lines east of the city of Ramadi overnight on Thursday.

Police and pro-government Sunni fighters exchanged mortar and sniper fire with the insurgents across the new frontline in Husaiba al-Sharqiya, about halfway between Ramadi and a base where a counter-offensive to retake the city is being prepared.

Ramadi fell to the militants on Sunday in the most significant setback for Iraqi

security forces in nearly a year, calling into question the US-led strategy to “degrade and destroy” the Islamist group. The militants are now seeking to consolidate their gains in the surrounding province of Anbar by pushing east towards the Habbaniya base where Iraqi security forces and Shi’ite paramilitaries are massing.

“Daesh is desperately trying to breach our defences but this is impossible now,” Police major Khalid al-Fahdawi said, referring to Islamic State. “We have absorbed the shock and more reinforcements have reached the frontline. They

tried overnight to breach our defences but they failed. Army helicopters were waiting for them.”

Habbaniya is one of only a few remaining pockets of government-held territory in Anbar, and lies between Ramadi and the town of Falluja, which has been controlled by Islamic State for more than a year.

Local officials say the militants want to join up the two towns and overrun the other remaining government holdouts, strung out along the Euphrates river valley and the border with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Reuters



Members of the Iraqi army and Shi’ite fighters launch a mortar toward Islamic State militants outskirts the city of Falluja, Iraq on 19 May, 2015. — REUTERS

Ten killed as Libya’s rival governments take on Islamist fighters

TRIPOLI/BENGAZI, (Libya), 21 May — Ten people were killed and almost 40 wounded when Libya’s two rival governments clashed with Islamist fighters in two large cities on Wednesday, officials said. Supporters of Islamic State and other Islamist militant groups have exploited the turmoil in Libya, where two governments and parliaments are fighting for control four years after the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi. In the eastern city of Benghazi, nine soldiers were killed when fighting the Majlis al-Shura, an umbrella of mostly Islamist groups including Ansar al-Sharia blamed by Washington for the storming of a US diplomatic compound in 2012 which killed the US ambassador.

At least 30 soldiers

were wounded, a military spokesman said. Army forces allied to the internationally recognized government based in the east have been fighting since last year Islamist groups in the port city.

Backed by helicopters, army special forces took back several government buildings in Libya’s second-largest city previously held by Majlis al-Shura, said the spokesman.

The army has gained some territory but clashes continue almost daily despite repeated claims by top army commander Khalifa Haftar that his forces were dominating. In the central city of Sirte, Islamic State fighters fought with forces sent from the western city of Misrata allied to a self-declared government controlling the capital Tripoli,

officials and residents said.

Taking advantage of the security vacuum, just as Islamic State did in Syria and Iraq, Islamic State militants had seized Sirte, Gaddafi’s home town east of Tripoli, earlier this year.

One member of the Misrata-based Brigade 166 was killed and seven were wounded on Wednesday, Jamal Zubia, a spokesman for the Tripoli-based government, said in a message on social media.

Islamic State said in a Twitter message its fighters had seized a camp of the Misrata forces in southeast Sirte. The group published pictures purportedly showing its fighters at the camp, seizing several vehicles. A resident said the camp seemed to be in the hands of Islamic State.—Reuters

Islamic State’s Egypt affiliate urges attacks on judges — recording

CAIRO, 21 May — Islamic State’s Egypt affiliate on Wednesday urged followers to attack judges, declaring a new front in an Islamist militant insurgency in the world’s most populous Arab state.

The leader of the group Sinai Province called for violence against judges in an audio statement posted on a prominent jihadist website.

Reuters could not confirm the authenticity of the recording. A spate of attacks on judges suggests they are the latest targets of an insurgency centred in North Sinai that has killed hundreds of Egyptian soldiers and police in the past two years.

“It is wrong for the tyrants to jail our brothers,” cleric Abu Osama al-Masry said, referring to judges.

“Poison their food... surveil them at home and in the street... destroy their homes with explosives if you can.”

Any full-blown campaign against judges could spell trouble for President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who as army chief removed the Muslim Brotherhood from power in mid-2013 after mass protests against its rule. Sisi has only just managed to deliver a degree of stability to Egypt after years of political upheaval triggered by an uprising in 2011 that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Although the judiciary says it is independent of the government and military, some of Egypt’s judges have drawn accusations of blatant bias by handing down lengthy jail terms

and mass death sentences against Islamists.

The recording appeared days after a court’s decision to seek the death penalty for Mursi and follows the state’s execution of six members of Sinai Province for an attack on soldiers in Cairo last year.

“The justices have been central to the repressive strategy the Egyptian government has pursued since the July 2013 coup,” said Steven Cook, Mideast expert at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. “The combination of the state’s repressive tactics, mass jailings, death sentences and now the insurgency’s call to kill judges makes it a toxic brew that will likely lead to an escalation of violence.” —Reuters

Islamic State enters ruins of Syria’s Palmyra after storming city

BEIRUT, 21 May — Islamic State fighters in Syria have entered the ancient ruins of Palmyra after taking complete control of the central city, but there are no reports so far of any destruction of antiquities, a group monitoring the war said on Thursday.

The offshoot of al-Qaeda has taken control of the city’s military air base and prison after storming them on Wednesday, Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said by telephone.

Islamic State said in a statement posted by followers on Twitter that it was in full charge of the city, including the military installations, and that the retreating

pro-government forces had left behind a large number of their dead.

Clashes since Wednesday had killed at least 100 pro-government fighters, said Abdulrahman, who bases his information on a network of sources on the ground.

It is the first time Islamic State has taken control of a city directly from the Syrian military and allied forces. The ultra-hardline Sunni Muslim group has destroyed antiquities and ancient monuments in neighbouring Iraq and there are fears it might now devastate Palmyra, one of the most important ancient World Heritage sites in the Middle East.

The major assault on

the city, which started a week ago, is part of a westward advance by Islamic State that is adding to pres-

sures on the overstretched army and pro-government militia, which have also recently lost ground in the

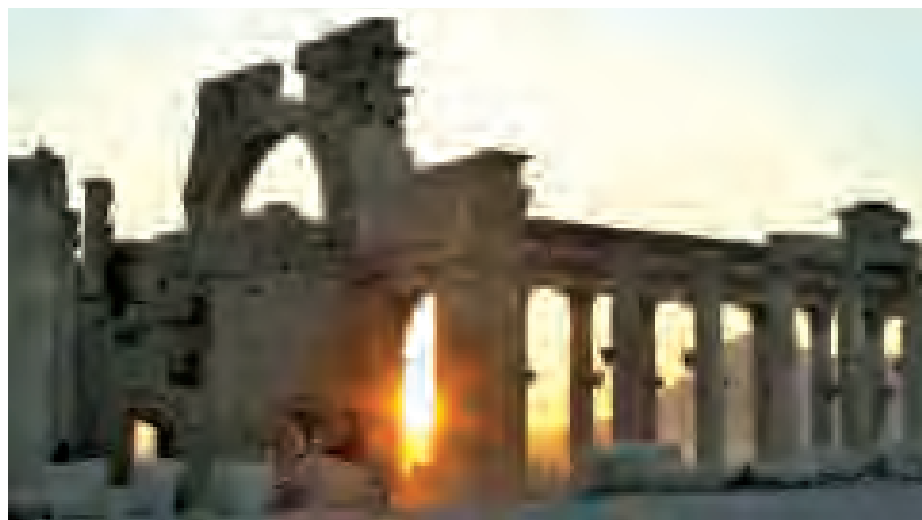
northwest and south.

The fall of Palmyra comes just days after the Islamic State seized Ramadi,

the capital of Anbar province in neighbouring Iraq, dealing a significant blow to US efforts to defeat the radical group. Islamic State now controls more than half of Syrian territory, the Observatory said.

The areas it holds are mostly sparsely inhabited. Syria’s main cities, including the capital Damascus, are located on its western flank along the border with Lebanon and the coastline and have been the priority for the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian state television said late on Wednesday that pro-government forces had withdrawn from Palmyra after managing to evacuate most of its civilian population.—Reuters



The sun sets behind ruined columns at the historical city of Palmyra, in the Syrian desert, some 240km (150 miles) northeast the capital of Damascus in this file photo taken on 12 Nov, 2010. —REUTERS

Congratulations!

Our most sincere compliments to
Daw Nang Lang Kham,
Chairperson of the Air KBZ Ltd
and the Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation
of the Kanbawza Group of Companies
 for her achievement of
the Presidential State Excellent Award
 conferred by President U Thein Sein
for the Best Philanthropic Organization
 that contributes to the people and society in Myanmar.

During the five year-sovereignty of the new Democratic Government, Daw Nang Lang Kham, the Chairperson of Air KBZ Co., Ltd and the Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has contributed over **Ks.64 billion** to support religious affairs, social affairs, healthcare, education and youth development, community development, sports, disaster relief and recovery programs and many more.

We wish you all the best in your business
 and
 philanthropic endeavors.



Board of Director
and staff members of Air KBZ Ltd.

Tidal flat near Tokyo is rare oasis enclosed by cityscape

CHIBA, (Japan), 21 May — Surrounded by an urban landscape that includes an elevated expressway, high-rise condominiums and an IKEA furniture store, the Yatsu-higata wetland in Narashino, Chiba Prefecture is an unusual nature preserve.

Yatsu-higata, with an area size of around 40 hectares — slightly smaller than Tokyo Disneyland — is located in the middle of an urban area that is a half-an-hour drive from central Tokyo. It is close to Tokyo Bay and is connected to the

sea by two rivers. Yatsu-higata is protected under an international treaty on wetland preservation known as the Ramsar Convention. It has also been designated as a national bird sanctuary to which entry is restricted. A 3.5-kilometre-long promenade surrounds the sanctuary, providing good observation points to watch wildlife from.

The tidal flat is a resting place for migrant birds flocking from distant lands like Southeast Asia and Siberia, including sandpipers

and plovers. There are also shrimp-like creatures and other aquatic species. At high tide, floods bring sea creatures like rays and jellyfish there.

However, if you turn away your eyes from the wetland to the neighbouring area, a quite different world comes into view. You see a cityscape of modern buildings, including condominiums and shopping malls. There is also a horseracing track and a motorboat racing circuit as well as the IKEA store, which stands on a site

where a giant artificial ski slope used to project a towering presence over the area.

An urban wetland like this is said to be rare not only in Japan but around the world. On one morning early this spring, ordinary citizens participated in a natural life survey in Yatsu-higata. Guided by rangers of the wetland, participants waded into the swamp, which is usually off-limits, and observed a wide variety of wildlife from close by. Similar surveys are regularly conducted.—Kyodo News



A ranger (L) shows a small creature found in the Yatsu-higata mudflat, placed on the Ramsar Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance, in Narashino, Chiba Prefecture near Tokyo in March 2015.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (124W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (124W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2015 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-635)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-635) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Invitation for the Letter of Expression of Interest

Title: Joint Venture Project for the Construction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) terminal and Supply Chain of LPG Business (Importation, Storage, Distribution and Marketing)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) hereby announces an invitation for the Letter of Expression of Interest to implement a joint venture project between MPE and interested investors who shall be a consortium of a local company (or companies) and a foreign company (or companies) and shall have the ability in terms of world-wide experiences in LPG importation, storage, wholesales distribution, marketing and services, financial capability, reliability for long term cooperation.

The scope of the business shall include the construction of a new LPG terminal (i.e storage tank(s), jetty, etc) on available land area in No. (1) Refinery (Thanlyin) and the supply chain of LPG business of importation, storage, wholesale distribution and marketing.

Detailed information for LOEI submission and information related to the joint venture project are available in the Ministry of Energy's website (www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement) and the facebook (www.facebook.com/MinistryOfEnergy.Myanmar) as well as at the following address during office hour starting from 27.5.2015;

Planning Department

3rd Floor, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No (44), Nay Pyi Taw
lpgbusinessjv@gmail.com

Letter of Expression of Interest must be delivered together with all the necessary materials requested in the detailed information to the following address in person before 12:00 noon on 15.7.2015;

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No (44), Nay Pyi Taw

No telephone enquiries shall be facilitated.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Title: Invitation for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of laboratory services for petroleum and petrochemical products

1. Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is planning to establish a Joint Venture Project of laboratory services which analyses the specification and qualification of the petroleum and petrochemical products and certifies or recertifies in accordance with the standard of International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

2. MPE hereby announces an invitation to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for the Joint Venture Project of laboratory services between MPE and a company which shall have the accreditation of International Organization of Standardization (ISO) and also have experience(s) for the analysis of specification and qualification of the petroleum and petrochemical products.

3. The required data for LOEI submission and information related to the above Joint Venture Project are available in the Ministry of Energy website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/MinistryOfEnergy.Myanmar) as well as at the following address during the office hours starting from 27.5.2015;

Director (Planning) Fax: 067-411124

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Email: labjvp@gmail.com

Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw

4. No telephone inquiries shall be facilitated.

5. LOEI shall be submitted to following address in person no later than 12:00 noon on 15.7.2015;

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw

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For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM,

Please email

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (072W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (072W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2015 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BULK ARGENTINA VOY NO (54)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BULK ARGENTINA VOY NO (54) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 BRIGHT SAIL
SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 2301186

Japan, S Korea to hold talks Fri on World Heritage listing

Tokyo, 21 May — Japan and South Korea will hold a meeting on Friday in Tokyo to discuss the proposed UNESCO World Heritage listing of historical industrial sites in Japan, the foreign ministries of the two countries said on Thursday.

The working-level meeting comes after South Korean President Park Ge-

un-hye "condemned," as Seoul media reported, Japan's bid in line with a recommendation by a UNESCO advisory panel to register the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution," which represent Japan's industrialization in the late 19th to early 20th centuries, to the World Heritage list.

In the meeting, South

Korea plans to "reiterate our legitimate concern regarding the forced labour that took place at some of the facilities listed for registration and call for a sincere and serious attitude from Japan in order to stress a solution that reflects (this concern)," *Yonhap* News Agency quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying.—*Kyodo News*

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea, South and East Central Bay of Bengal and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 22nd May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing and Magway Regions and Chin State, scattered in Mandalay Region, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the Upper Myanmar areas.

WEATHER REPORT

**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 Dipping 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

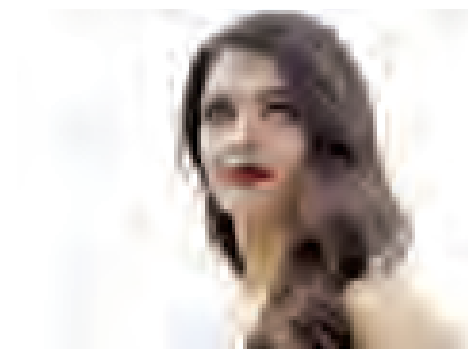
Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai returns to cinema with 'Jazbaa'

CANNES, (France), 21 May — After a five-year hiatus to embrace motherhood, Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan marked her return to the big screen by taking on one of her most demanding roles, playing a mother whose child is kidnapped in thriller "Jazbaa."

A former Miss World and one of the most successful actresses in Bollywood, Rai Bachchan said the film stretched her as an actress, with each day posing new challenges to overcome.

"Every day when I come to work I kept saying, how am I supposed to wrap my head around the situation like this, on any human level?" the actress told Reuters at the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday where "Jazbaa" made its debut.

"That to me just seemed tough, demanding, grueling, challenging and, thereby, so interesting," Rai Bachchan, 41,



Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan poses during a photocall for the film "Jazbaa" at the 68th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, on 19 May, 2015.

REUTERS

was named Miss World in 1994, often features on "most beautiful" lists and is one half of a Bollywood supercouple with actor husband Abhishek Bachchan, son of Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan.

Her prolific Bollywood career includes hits such as "Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam" and "Devdas," and she has also starred in Hollywood movies such as "The Pink Panther 2."

"Jazbaa" (Passion), directed by Sanjay Gupta, is the first acting project for Rai Bachchan after she welcomed her first child in 2011.

Gupta said the actress tapped into a "very raw" performance that drove the film, in which a lawyer and single mother (Rai Bachchan) "has to do the impossible" to get her kidnapped daughter back. "Life of Pi" actor Irrfan Khan also co-

stars.

At Cannes this year, the subject of women's role in cinema has been a hot topic. Rai Bachchan herself co-chaired a UN-backed panel to discuss the issue on the sidelines of the festival, where she has previously served as a jury member.

She said "Jazbaa" was a strong female drama, but didn't want that to distract from the main content of the film. "We don't want necessarily things being bracketed as female-centric — by doing that you are marginalizing the female protagonist, so don't label it, don't marginalize it, don't define it as being different," the actress said.

"Recognize it as being part of the broader cinematic experience. We all belong, all our subjects and stories too."

Reuters

Hollywood stars, presidents join Letterman for final act



US President Barack Obama tapes an appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 21 May — Hollywood stars Steve Martin and Tina Fey, comedians Chris Rock and Jerry Seinfeld and a host of US presidents joined the band Foo Fighters on Wednesday to bid farewell to David Letterman as the veteran "Late Show" host signed off for the last time.

The show as expected featured no sit-down guest interviews, relying heavily on clips of Letterman shows going all the way back to his 1980s morning show on NBC.

It opened with news footage of former President Gerald Ford intoning, out

of context: "Our long national nightmare is over," referring to the time to the Watergate scandal.

In succession, presidents George H and George W Bush, Bill Clinton and finally Barack Obama all repeated Ford's pronouncement verbatim, with Obama adding, "Letterman is retiring."

A bevy of top names turned up for one of Letterman's signature bits, the nightly Top 10 list, which was entitled "top 10 things I've always wanted to say to Dave."

Barbara Walters, Jim Carrey, Peyton Manning,

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Alec Baldwin, Seinfeld, Chris Rock, Bill Murray, Fey and Martin took aim.

"I'm just glad your show is being given to another white guy," was Rock's contribution, a reference to Letterman's successor Stephen Colbert who takes over in September. Tributes also came from long-running television shows including "The Simpsons" and "Wheel of Fortune." Notably absent was longtime rival and former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno, although Letterman quipped in his monologue "I'll be honest with you — it's beginning to look like I'm not going to get 'The Tonight Show.'"

More of his trademark self-deprecation followed when he observed that he had done more than 6,000 shows, then joked that noted physicist Stephen Hawking had calculated "It works out to about eight minutes of laughter."

The 68-year-old host, famed for his quick wit, sarcasm, offbeat humor, often snarky attitude and silly stunts, hosted top stars and presidents in his final

weeks, much as he did during 33 years on late night television at NBC and CBS. For his swansong, Letterman, who started in television as a weatherman in his native Indianapolis, dropped his edginess and instead thanked his staff, his audience and CBS executives, including president and CEO Les Moonves who was on hand.

Letterman even took a moment to introduce his wife Regina and son Harry as the lights briefly came up in the Ed Sullivan Theater in Manhattan's Times Square district.

The show, which ran long at more than one hour and 15 minutes, ended as Letterman told viewers "thank you and good night," turning the stage over to his favorite band Foo Fighters who performed "Everlong" to a montage of clips.

In a final image, he blew a kiss to the cheering audience.

"It was a heart-warming and heartfelt goodbye," said Victor King of Los Angeles, who flew in to attend the historic show.

Reuters



Slovenian Maraaya performs during a dress rehearsal for the second Semi-Final of 60th annual Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) at the Wiener Stadthalle in Austria's capital of Vienna, on 20 May, 2015.—XINHUA

GENERAL

Matri the unlikely hero as Juventus win Italian cup

ROME, 21 May — Substitute Alessandro Matri was the unlikely hero when he scored an extra-time winner to give Juventus a 2-1 win over Lazio in the Coppa Italia final on Wednesday, keeping them on course for the treble.

Matri, who has changed clubs in each of the last four transfer windows and been a fringe player since returning to Juventus in January, blasted the ball into the roof of the net in the seventh minute of extra-time.

It was a record tenth Coppa title for Juventus, although their first since 1995. Having already won Serie A for a fourth successive season, Juventus will attempt to cap their season by winning the Champions League in the final against Barcelona on 6 June.

Lazio took a shock lead



Alessandro Matri scores the second goal for Juventus during Italian Cup Final at Stadio Olimpico, Rome on 20 May, 2015. — REUTERS

after four minutes when Andrea Pirlo failed to cut out a free kick into the area and Stefan Radu rose to head the ball into the top of the net.

Juventus needed only

seven minutes to reply, central defender Giorgio Chiellini popping up to volley home from close range after Pirlo's floated free kick was knocked down by Paul Pogba. Matri had

a goal ruled out for offside late in the second half but made no mistake when Tevez's shot rebounded at his feet in extra-time in a move set up by an incisive ball by Pirlo.—Reuters

Deceased councilwoman in Pittsburgh wins Democratic primary

PITTSBURGH, 21 May—A councilwoman who died earlier this month easily defeated the only other candidate on the ballot for the Pennsylvania county that includes Pittsburgh, results showed on Wednesday.

Incumbent Barbara Daly Danko, 61, died of cancer on 6 May but remained on Tuesday's ballot for the party's nomination for a seat on the Allegheny County Council.

She defeated her opponent, Caroline Mitchell, 5,575 to 4,015. There were

no Republican candidates vying for the seat, one of 15 representing Pittsburgh and the surrounding suburbs.

Mitchell, a retired chemical engineer and lawyer could not be reached for comment. "It was a sympathy vote for Daly Danko," said Nancy Mills, chair of the Allegheny County Democratic Committee, which endorsed Daly Danko.

The incumbent was an outspoken opponent of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in county parks. Backers of the controversial

technique for extracting oil and gas recently won a legislative battle to allow the practice. Environmentalists say fracking can contaminate ground water and trigger earthquakes.

"Clearly she was well-respected by her constituents, which is pretty much as good as it gets for an elected official," said Jared Barker, the county council's chief clerk and director of legislative services.

The county council is expected to appoint some-

one in the next month to fill Daly Danko's seat until November, Barker said. At that time, voters will pick someone to fill the remainder of her term, which ends in January.

By 15 August, Democratic officials in Daly Danko's district will select a replacement to appear on the November ballot, Mills said.

Pittsburgh, the second-largest city in Pennsylvania with a population of about 305,000, is the seat of Allegheny County.

Reuters

Crews work to clean California beach fouled by oil pipeline spill

GOLETA, 21 May—Cleanup crews fanned out across an oil-fouled California beach on Wednesday to scoop up gobs of petroleum spewed from a burst pipeline in what may be the biggest oil spill to hit the pristine but energy-rich Santa Barbara coastline in 46 years.

As much as 2,500 barrels (105,000 gallons) of crude oil was released in Tuesday's rupture, according to a "worst-case scenario" presented by the pipeline company, five times more than was initially estimated.

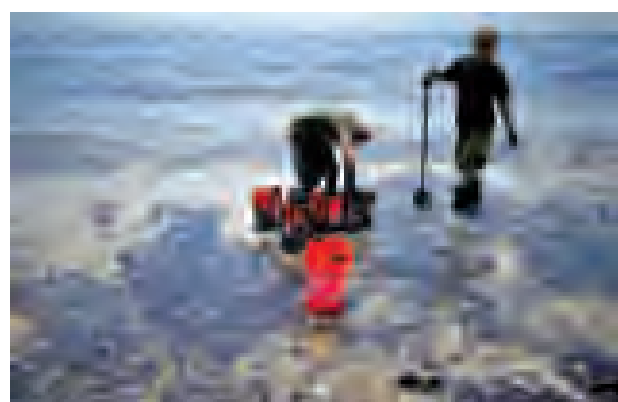
Plains All American Pipeline (PAA.N) said it calculated that up to a fifth of the total spill had reached the ocean.

The 24-inch-wide pipeline, which runs underground parallel to a coastal highway

west of Santa Barbara, inexplicably burst late on Tuesday morning, belching crude oil down a canyon, under a culvert and onto Refugio State Beach before it flowed into the Pacific, US Coast Guard officials said.

Plains Chief Executive Officer Greg Armstrong told an evening news conference that pipeline pressure irregularities were detected by control-room operators at about 11 am on Tuesday, and the line was shut off in about 30 minutes.

Company spokesman Brad Leone acknowledged that residual oil in the pipeline continued to drain for some period after the shutdown. The spill was discovered about an hour later, when people in the area noticed a petrochemical odor and alert-



Volunteers carry buckets of oil from an oil slick along the coast of Refugio State Beach in Goleta, California, United States, on 20 May, 2015. —REUTERS

ed authorities, officials said.

By Wednesday, a 4-mile (6-km) stretch of beach was blackened, and an oil slick spanned more than 9 miles (14 km) of the ocean, the Coast Guard said.

It appeared to surpass the size of an offshore rupture

in 1997 that dumped up to 1,000 barrels of crude into the Santa Barbara Channel, about 125 miles (200 km) northwest of Los Angeles, said Kevin Drude, deputy energy director of the county's Planning and Development Department. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(22-5-2015 07:00 am ~ 23-5-2015 07:00 am)

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| 6:00 am | 2:05 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • Documentary |
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| 7:00 am | 3:30 pm |
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| • People's Talks | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Zoology) |
| 8:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| • News / International News | • News / Weather Report |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Current Affairs | • Hyper Sports |
| 9:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • News / Weather Report |
| 10:35 am | 7:45 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • Teleplay |
| 11:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News |
| 12:00 noon | • International News / Weather Report |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | 8:35 pm |
| 12:30 pm | • Documentary |
| • Head Line News | 9:00 pm |
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| • Hluttaw Image | • Hluttaw Image |
| 12:50 pm | • Amazing World |
| • Documentary | |

Chelsea's Fabregas has three-match ban reduced to one

LONDON, 21 May — Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas has had his three-match ban following his bizarre sending off against West Bromwich Albion reduced to one game, the Premier League champions said on Wednesday.

The Spaniard was shown a red card in the first half of Monday's 3-0 defeat at the Hawthorns 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. "The standard sanction would have been a three-match suspension," Chelsea said in a statement on their website.—Reuters

Forty-five minutes that could change soccer's world



A combination of file pictures shows the candidates running for the FIFA presidency. From L-R: (top row) FIFA President Sepp Blatter, former Portuguese international soccer player Luis Figo, Dutch FA president Michael van Praag, (bottom row) former FIFA official Jerome Champagne of France, former footballer David Ginola from France and Jordan's Prince Ali bin al-Hussein.—REUTERS

LONDON, 21 May — When Sepp Blatter is not comparing FIFA to a boat in calm or choppy waters he often uses football analogies to illustrate his point so it might amuse him to think he faces a tricky 45 minutes at this month's Congress.

That is when he will have to sit back and listen to the three men challenging his right to remain FIFA president, with each being allowed 15 minutes to score, as it were, a goal that would send him crashing to defeat.

Michael van Praag, 68, the Dutch FA president, Luis Figo, 42, of Portugal, a former World Player of the Year, and Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, 39, the outgoing vice-president of the Asian Football Confederation, are lining up against him.

Unless any of them decide to pull out beforehand, all three will address delegates from FIFA's 209 member associations when they assemble at Zurich's Hallenstadion on 29 May, with Blatter then offered the floor to defend

his position.

Unless the majority of the traditionally conservative and fiercely loyal Blatter supporters have a totally unexpected change of heart, he will be presented with the winner's bouquet once the votes cast in the secret ballot have been counted.

However, the 79-year-old Swiss, who has been president since 1998 and seen off opponents before, may not get quite the runaway victory he seeks.

For the first time since 1961, when Stanley Rous of England beat two rivals to win the presidency, the names of more than two men will be on the ballot paper.

While Van Praag, Figo and Prince Ali are unlikely to unseat Blatter, their presence and the fact they might muster enough votes to send the contest into a second round, would show that not everyone is happy with FIFA, or the way Blatter runs an organization with more members than the United Nations.

Reuters

WBA orders Ioka, Reveco to stage rematch

TOKYO, 21 May — Flyweight champion Kazuto Ioka and Juan Carlos Reveco were ordered on Wednesday to stage a rematch by the World Boxing Association.

Ioka took the title off Reveco last month in Osaka by a narrow decision, with one of the judges calling it a draw. Ioka is the second Japanese fighter to win three different weight divisions.

The two camps have 30 days to negotiate the fight.—Kyodo News

Iran emerges champion in 1st Asian U-23 Man's Volleyball Championship, Myanmar stands 5th position on table

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Iran clinched title with a 3-0 victory over S Korea in the final match of the 1st Asian U-23 Man's Volleyball Championship at Wunna Theikdi B Gymnasium, here, on 20 May.

China (Taipei) secured the third prize by winning a 3-1 result over China.

Myanmar stood fifth on the standing table after playing against Japan with a 3-2 result (23-25, 25-22, 25-17, 19-25 and 15-13).

Purya Fayazidam Nabi (7) of Iranian team held up the best player of the championship.

Officials presented best player awards to the respective athletes and the second prize to S Korea and the third prize to Chi-



Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win honours victorious players of Iranian team in 1st Asian U-23 Man's Volleyball Championship.—SPED

na (Taipei) respectively.

U Zaw Win, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and

Deputy Minister for Sports, awarded medals to players of Champion Iranian team and presented K3 million

as special prize to Myanmar team for standing the fifth position in the championship.—SPED

Resilient Sunderland secure Premier League safety

LONDON, 21 May — Sunderland secured their Premier League survival after manning the barricades to tough out a 0-0 draw at Arsenal, for whom a point was enough to all but seal third place and a spot in the Champions League group stage on Wednesday.

The battle to avoid relegation is now a straight shootout between Hull City and 17th-place Newcastle United, who are two points better off heading into Sunday's final round.

Hull are at home to Manchester United while Newcastle host West Ham.

Sunderland needed a point to ensure their top flight status and defended like their lives depended on it to move up to 15th, four points clear of Hull City in the final relegation place.

It was a frustrating evening for Arsene Wenger's Arsenal, who are now unable to catch Manchester City in second, but are three points clear of fourth placed Manchester United with a comfortably superior goal difference.

It was to be expected that Sunderland would arrive at the Emirates with a gameplan designed to stifle their opponents with bod-

ies behind the ball and it proved to be a remarkably well-executed strategy.

It took 29 minutes for Arsenal to have a sniff of goal as Mesut Ozil latched on to a chipped ball over the top from Alexis Sanchez but fired high over the bar, before Olivier Giroud flashed a shot wide two minutes later.

The France forward went close again 10 minutes after the break, drawing an excellent save from Costel Pantilimon by darting to the near post and steering a sharp finish back across goal that the Sun-

derland keeper did well to keep out.

There was a sense that it was not going to be Arsenal's evening in front of a largely muted home crowd when Kieran Gibbs had a header well saved, Sanchez had an effort blocked and Sunderland nearly grabbed a breakaway goal as Steven Fletcher failed to beat David Ospina when through on goal.

Fletcher then had arguably the best chance of the night but somehow failed to convert a Patrick van Aanholt cross from six metres out. Arsenal, however,

continued to pile forward with Theo Walcott beating Pantilimon only to see his goal-bound effort cleared desperately by a back-tracking Sebastian Coates and Sunderland's Billy Jones inadvertently directing a cross against his own post as Arsenal pressed in vain.

The final whistle prompted ecstatic celebrations from the Sunderland players as well as manager Dick Advocaat, who masterminded his side's survival after being appointed in March.

Reuters



Sunderland's Steven Fletcher has a shot saved by Arsenal's David Ospina during Barclays Premier League at Emirates Stadium on 20 May, 2015.—REUTERS