

Myanmar, Vietnam to promote sectoral cooperation



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Pham Binh Minh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Pham Binh Minh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Thursday. They discussed promotion of cooperation in agriculture, marine products, oil and natural gas, communication, human resource development and trade sectors. Also present at the meeting were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Myint Hlaing, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw and officials. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pham Thanh Dung.

MNA

CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR

NAY PYI TAW

Date: May 28, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

To safeguard the integrity of the issued Myanmar banknotes, the Central Bank of Myanmar is upgrading and improving regularly their security status.

Without affecting the legal tender status of Ten Thousand Kyats note issued on June 15, 2012, the Central Bank of Myanmar will with effect from July 1, 2015, put into circulation Ten Thousand Kyats currency note with a new type of shiny emerald number, a new watermark image and a protective layer of vanish on both sides of the banknote in order to further enhance its security status, quality, to prolong circulation life span and to prevent forgery.

A “NEW SHINY TYPE EMERALD NUMBER ၁၀,၀၀၀” is inserted, in lieu of the normal Myanmar figure ၁၀,၀၀၀ at the bottom of the right hand side on the obverse side of the note in the previously issued Ten Thousand Kyats note. The shiny number displays an effect of the light that moves up and down, and also changes the colour from emerald green to deep blue by changing the sight angle. On the left portion of the obverse side, the note bears a new type of watermark image of the white lotus which appears when the banknote is against the light. The protective layer of vanish enhances banknote circulation life span by protecting it from degradation due to moisture, fluid and soiling agents. As a further aid, short raised lines are being included on the right and left edges of the obverse side of the note. The note still uses the colour shift window type security thread of the previously issued Ten Thousand Kyats note, which changes from magenta to green colour upon viewing the banknote from different angle. The size, design and colour of the Ten Thousand Kyats note to be issued are all the same as those of the previously issued Ten Thousand Kyats note with the exception of the new type of shiny emerald number, new watermark image and protective layer of varnish on both sides.

The existing Ten Thousand Kyats note which is in circulation will continue to be legal tender currency.



Obverse side of new specimen Ten Thousand Kyats note.



Reverse side of new specimen Ten Thousand Kyats note.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves foreign loans for development plans

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday approved loans from South Korea worth tens of millions of dollars and passed the mining legislation amendment bill.

Seoul will loan the Ministry of Construction US \$137.83 million from its Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), with MPs voicing support for the move which they described as beneficial to rural

development in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

MPs also agreed on 25,888 million yen (US \$21 million) in loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency to be used for the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Transport.

Daw Sanda Min of Zabuthiri constituency proposed that the Ministry of Finance disburse loans at an interest rate of less than 8.5

per cent, saying banks will receive reloans at an interest rate of 4 percent.

The Ministry of Electric Power said the loans will enable it to distribute enough power to meet the needs of the growing population in Yangon.—MNA

Representatives attend 51st-day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw approves referendum amendment bill for constitutional change



Deputy Minister Dr Lin Aung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — The Pyithu Hluttaw on Thursday approved the referendum amendment bill for the amendment to the 2008 Constitution.

U Aung Sein, a representative from the Manaung constituency, tabled a motion demanding the local government pay the township's development committee staff from its pocket.

He said the staff from remote regions get paid double and that the local government should take charge of their regular pays as the local development committee is short of budgets.

In response to the proposal, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung suggested inserting additional pays in the Union Funds.

U Myint Oo of the Thanatpin constituency inquired about the possible suspension of farm loans due to disasters.

U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Agriculture

and Irrigation, responded that the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, when informed of agricultural disaster in time, reserves the right to suspend loans on the recommendation of local authorities.

Daw Sanda Min of the Zabuthiri constituency asked the local government of possible legal action against mines breaking the laws and any knowledge of illegal mines along the Chindwin river.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister at President Office, responded that legal action will be taken against violators after a joint inspection by related ministries and the local government

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

S&T Ministry promotes ranks of personnel under rules and regulations

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — If the region government sends remarks for upgrading Kyaukse Basic Education High School branch to full-fledge BEHS, the Ministry of Education will earmark it to be upgraded on the list by easing the policy, Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin told the Amyotha Hluttaw session Thursday.

The deputy minister responded to the question of U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No 2 on upgrading the school.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ba Shwe replied to the query raised by U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No 12 that the Ministry of Science and Tech-



Deputy Minister Dr Ba Shwe.—MNA

nology promotes the ranks of personnel under the rules and regulations and sends scholarship students abroad depending on qualification in line with the offers of the scholarship scrutiny committee.

The Hluttaw invited MPs to discuss the second



Deputy Minister U Thant Shin.—MNA

amendment bill on Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the second amendment bill on Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law and the second amendment bill on Region or State Hluttaw Election Law, and bill amending protection of ancient buildings.

MNA

Ecotourism progress report underscores importance of developing sector



Tourists ride elephants at Po Kyar Elephant Camp located in the foothills of Bago Yoma mountain range, 330km from Yangon. The camp is one of Myanmar's 21 protected areas identified as priority areas for ecotourism development. —PHOTO: MOTHER LAND TRAVELS & TOURS

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 May — A progress report on the development of Myanmar's ecotourism sector, including areas of need and growth strategies, will be published next month, tourism specialist Ms. Marjorie Van Strien from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development said Thursday.

The report discusses the diversity of Myanmar's 21 protected areas designated for the development of the ecotourism sector in the country, the expert told The Global New Light of Myanmar via email.

It is the result of collaborative research conducted by an ecotourism working group formed with representatives of various local and inter-

national conservation organizations under the leadership of Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, she added.

A report on Myanmar Protected Areas produced by Instituto Oikos and BANCA in 2011 stressed the importance of maintaining accurate information on the country's 43 officially recognized protected areas.

Twenty-one of these areas have been identified as priority zones for ecotourism development in Myanmar, said Ms. Marjorie Van Strien.

Last week in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar launched its Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy at the International Conference on Ecotourism in Protected Areas. The pol-

icy sets out a 10-year vision, mission and guiding principles. The ecotourism management strategy, which also covers 2015-2020, consists of six key strategic programs to develop ecotourism for the country's protected areas.

The three-day conference brought local and international stakeholders in the ecotourism industry together to learn best practices for protected areas and discuss topics like climate change, spiritual tourism, natural conservation and financing.

A 21 May press release on the international conference said more than 200 participants highlighted the importance of streamlining ecotourism in protected areas, saying it will go a long way in strengthening livelihoods, conservation, and adaptation.—GNLM

NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Tin Myo Kyi Director-General No 2 Basic Education Department Ministry of Education	Director-General Teachership Education and Training Department Ministry of Education
(b) U Ko Ko Tin Director-General Education Planning and Training Department Ministry of Education	Director-General Human Resources and Education Planning Department Ministry of Education
(c) Dr Zaw Myint Director-General Myanmar Language Commission Department Ministry of Education	Director-General Myanmar and Language Education Department Ministry of Education
(d) Dr Khaing Mye Director-General Myanmar Education Research Bureau Department Ministry of Education	Director-General Myanmar Education Research Department Ministry of Education

(e) U Tint Thwin Director-General Hotels and Tourism Development Department Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	Director-General Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
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The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Kyaw Myint of Myanma Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport on expiry of the one-year probation period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Tint Deputy Director-General Road Department Ministry of Construction	Director-General Building Department Ministry of Construction
(b) U Win Pe Deputy Director-General Road Department Ministry of Construction	Director-General Road Department Ministry of Construction
(c) U Han Soe Deputy Director-General Bridge Department Ministry of Construction	Director-General Bridge Department Ministry of Construction

UEC opens electoral knowledge course



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye outlines electoral knowledge for people.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May—The Union Election Commission conducted the electoral knowledge course 4/2015 on 28 and 29 May at its office in Nay Pyi Taw.

At an opening ceremony, Chairman of the commission U Tin Aye said that the commission has launched a website for enabling the people to check the voter list announced for 14 townships in Yangon Region and eight in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 25 May. He noted that the UEC has opened the external relations department on

Shweli Road in Yangon on 26 May where legal facts and figures, electoral process and orders and directives of the commission are available.

Commission members Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Nyunt Tin and U Win Ko gave lectures on strategic plan (2014-18), holding elections, voting in advance, formation of three Hluttaw, self-administered division and zone leading bodies, designation of constituencies, compilation of voter list and electoral rights.—MNA

Union information minister makes speech at Radio Asia 2015 Conference

YANGON, 28 May—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut made a speech Thursday at the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union's Radio Asia 2015 Conference at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

In his speech, the union minister said Myanmar has been creating a favourable media environment since 2008 through cooperation in the country's media reform process with international organizations including UNESCO and FES.

Among the reform measures is the drafting and enacting of the television and radio broadcasting law, which will contribute to development of public service broadcasting stations, private broadcasting stations and people-centred

broadcasting stations, the union minister said.

In conclusion, the union minister expressed his hope that the conference will provide opportunities for sharing experiences in the media reform process.

Following the min-

ister's speech, ABU secretary Dr Javad Mottaghi extended greetings.

The three-day conference will discuss the future of radio broadcasting, including the transition to multimedia broadcasting and the role of social me-

dia. A total of 96 representatives from 26 countries and 120 representatives from local media attended the opening ceremony.

The ABU will hold a radio music festival at the National Theatre on 29 May.—MNA



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut poses for documentary photo with participants to the conference.—MNA

MoU signed to implement combined cycle power plant project

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May—Ministry of Electric Power, Eden Company of Myanmar, Marubeni Corporation of Japan and Global Power Synergy Public Co Ltd of Thailand signed an MoU on implementation of a 400-mega-watt combined cycle power plant in Thanlyin Township, at Hilton Hotel, here, on Wednesday.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe spoke on the occasion while General manager Mr Katsumi Miyamoto of Marubeni Corporation explained implementation of the project.

Director-General U Khin Maung Win of Elec-

tric Power Planning Department, General manager Mr Katsumi Miyamoto of Marubeni Corporation, President Mr Noppadol Pinsupa of Global Power Synergy Public Co Ltd of Thailand and Chairman of Eden Group U Chit Khaing signed the MoU and exchanged notes.

Upon completion, the combined cycle power plant will supply electric power to Thilawa Industrial Zone and power grid.

Also present on the occasion were union ministers U Zeyar Aung, U Win Myint and U Than Htay and deputy minister U Maw Tha Htwe.

MNA

Torrential rain submerges 24,000 acres of farmland in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 May — Torrential rain in the third week of May flooded more than 24,000 acres of farmland in Mandalay Region, according to the Mandalay Region Department of Agriculture.

Paddy, green gram and sesame plantations in the region have been flooded, and the department is still calculating the damage to crops, as the flooding has not receded in some areas, an official of the department said Tuesday. Nearly 100,000 acres of rice and more than 94,000 acres of sesame have been planted in Mandalay Region this summer.

Many parts of Myanmar experienced heavy rain in the third week of May due to cumulus clouds that moved from the west to north and north-west of the country, with the southwest monsoon advancing into the middle of the country after entering the southern part and deltaic areas, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.— GNLM



Police Captain Min Naing of Anti-Human Trafficking Police Squad (Nay Pyi Taw) gives talks on trafficking in persons, migration, human smuggling, legal affairs, and Anti-Human Trafficking Law 2005 to local residents in Tatkon on 27 May.—TIN SOE LWIN (TATKON IPRD)

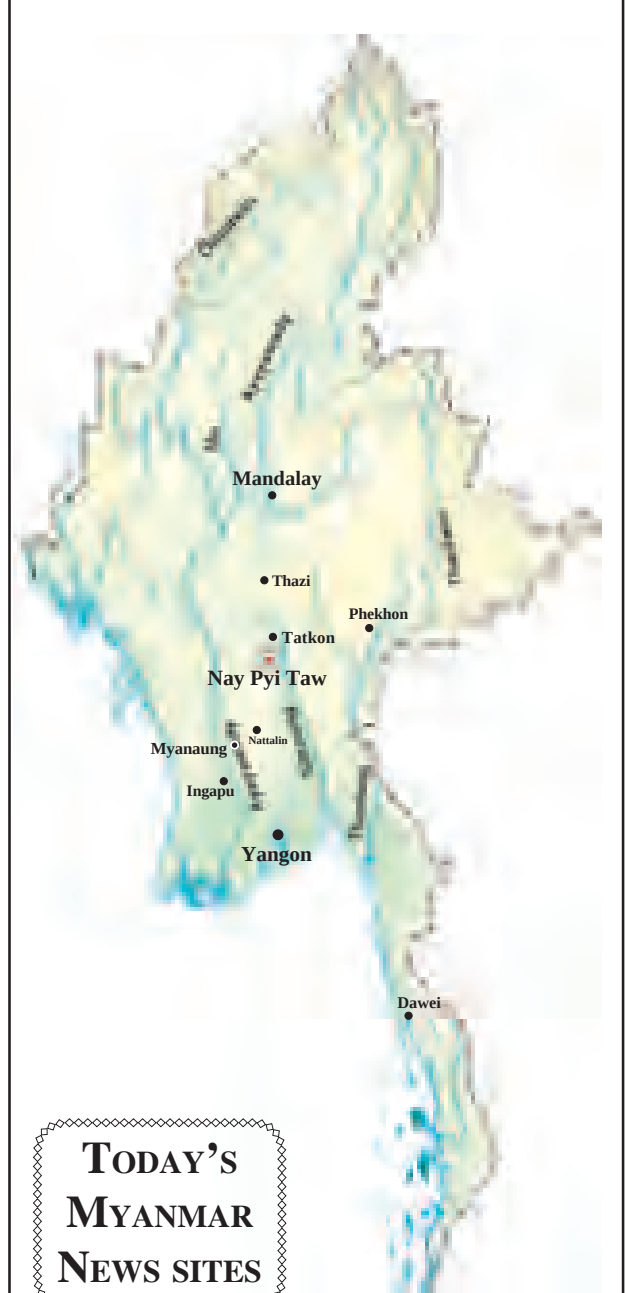
Government and company staff receive driving licences



MANDALAY, 28 May — Mandalay Region Directorate of Road Administration conducted driving tests for civil servants, factory workers and company staff for issuance of driving licences.

The directorate conducted the test from 9 am to 12 noon and held an examination from 1 pm to 4 pm. Officials of the directorate later delivered A level driving licences to the applicants.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Htugyi-Shwegyin laterite road under construction in Ingapu Tsp

INGAPU, 28 May — Engineers of Ingapu Township Department of Rural Development supervised construction of Htugyi-Shwegyin laterite road in the township in Ayeyawady Region in the last week

of May. The department assigned Khaing Thit Company to build the one-mile-long road at a cost of K292.6 million in the fiscal 2014-15 budget.

Upon completion, the laterite road will connect

some 35 villages with 150,000 total residents, speeding up the transport of local products including paddy, beans and pulses, and foodstuff to Htugyi and Shwegyin regions.

Township DRD



Health workers combat diseases in rainy season



TATKON, 28 May — With the monsoon having arrived early in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, local people must beware of infectious diseases in the wet weather, a health official.

Rural health centres are prioritising the prevention of dysentery, malaria

and dengue haemorrhagic fever as common diseases in the rainy season in the rural areas.

Health Assistant U Aung Win Hlaing of Aingkyel village rural health centre in Tatkon Township led a medical team comprising volunteers and members of the Women's

Affairs Organization and the Maternal and the Child Welfare Association in giving talks on the dangers of DHF and malaria in the rainy season, as well as helping local people with sanitation around their homes.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

LOCAL NEWS

BuildTech Yangon 2015 exhibits modern solutions for construction

YANGON, 28 May — With participation of more than 150 construction companies at home and abroad, BuildTech Yangon 2015 kicked off at the Myanmar Convention Centre Thursday.

The event was formally opened by Yangon Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo and Chairman of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association U Thar Htay.

Booths of companies from Myanmar and from

Singapore, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Germany, and Malaysia have staged their booths at the even which started Wednesday and ended Friday.

“We participate in this BuildTech Yangon 2015 to create the local awareness that PERI is participating in the construction market in Myanmar,” said Mr Marco Romahn, Managing Director of PERI Asia Pte Ltd based in Germany and opened an office in Yangon

in 2014.

Investment in Myanmar allows them to contribute to the rising construction market in providing modern solutions for our customers to wake job sites more safe and productive, he added.

Myanmar’s leading building technology and supply event is jointly organized by Sphere Exhibits from Singapore and Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association.

Nay Lin (MNA)



Yangon Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo visits BuildTech Yangon 2015.

50 Department of Agriculture staff attend training



DAWEI, 28 May — The Department of Agriculture in Taninthayi Region concluded a training course for staff in Dawei District on Thursday.

Head of the Region Department of Agriculture U Tun Aung Kyaw spoke at the opening ceremony while Head of Dawei District Department U Kyaw Hla introduced eight subjects of the course to the trainees.

Altogether 50 trainees from the district attended the three-day course until 28 May.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Stone plaque transferred to museum, sent for translation



THAZI, 28 May — A stone plaque unearthed from Hsin Village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region was transferred to the chamber of stone inscription in Royal Mandalay City on 27 May.

Local farmer U Htoo in Hsin Village found the stone plaque on his farmland. According to the information given to local authorities, officials of Mandalay Region Depart-

ment of Archaeology and National Museum oversaw the excavation of the stone plaque. After that, the plaque was brought to Mandalay, Director U Nyo Myint Tun of the department said.

Pyu inscription expert U Sein Win and staff of the department will translate the stone inscription to Myanmar.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Youths join monthly talks in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 May — The Outstanding Students Group (1964-88) in upper Myanmar holds monthly talks on development of youths in Mandalay.

On 27 May, university students and basic education students attended the talks entitled “Youth and Reading Habits.”

Chairman of the group, retired rector Pro-

fessor Dr Than Win of Mandalay University of Medicine, spoke about providing training for young people and improvement of morality.

Retired professor Dr Aung Gyi of Mandalay University of Medicine gave a talk on the benefits of reading.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Japan orange cultivated as poppy substitute in Shan, Kayah states

PHEKHON, 28 May — Potato, sunflower, eaglewood, Japan orange and other crops are being cultivated as poppy substitutes in southern Shan State and Kayah State.

Under an agreement with the government, local farmers are growing the alternative crops in place of opium poppies on more than 30,000 acres of land in two states.

“Loinanpha agricultural farm in Dimawhso Township sells Japan orange plants for K2,500 each to local farmers,” farm owner U Zaw Lwin

said. “The orange plants are being cultivated in Saungay and Yilonyikan villages in Phekhon Township as of May. I have sold more than 6,000 saplings of Japan orange to local farmers.”

One-year-old Japan orange plants can bear fruit. More than 300 saplings can be grown per acre. The fruits have a market price of K2,500 per viss.

Shwe Lin Pyae Sone

Dental association seeks to improve oral care knowledge

YANGON, 28 May — The Myanmar Dental Association and toothpaste maker Colgate are jointly providing a free dental care service to people at six hospitals and 176 clinics in

Thanlyin, Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya townships.

“Dental and oral care prevent tooth diseases in addition to diabetes, stomach, liver and kidney diseases. People need to receive den-

tal checkups at least twice a year,” dentist Dr Thein Win said. More than 90 percent of patients do not have adequate dental knowledge, according to the association.—Moon Oo Nadi

Old outstanding students share experiences with new generation youths at monthly talks in Mandalay.

All at sea: Australia's search for MH370 under scrutiny

SYDNEY, 28 May — Nearly a year after embarking on a multi-million dollar quest to solve one of aviation's greatest unsolved mysteries, authorities and search teams are being criticised over their approach to finding Flight MH370 in the remote southern Indian Ocean.

The Australian-led search, already the most expensive in aviation history, has found no trace of the Malaysia Airlines (MLYAF.PK) jet or its 239 passengers and crew, prompting calls for a rethink into the way the mission is conducted.

Experts involved in past deep water searches say the search to find MH370 could easily miss the plane as Dutch company Fugro NV (FUGRC.AS), the firm at the forefront of the mission, is using inappropriate technology for some terrain and inexperienced personnel for the highly specialised task of hunting man-made objects.

Heightening concerns, Australian authorities said on Wednesday that another search vessel, the Go Phoenix, which is using the world's best deep sea search equipment and crew provided by US firm Phoenix

International Holdings Inc, would pull out within weeks. No reason was given for withdrawing the vessel from the quest.

"Fugro is a big company but they don't have any experience in this kind of search and it's really a very specialized job," said Paul-Henry Nargeolet, a former French naval officer who was hired by France's air accident investigation agency BEA to co-ordinate the search and recovery of Air France Flight AF447 in 2009.

"This is a big job," Nargeolet told Reuters. "I'm not an Australian taxpayer, but if I was, I would be very mad to see money being spent like that."

Fugro, which was contracted by the Australian government to operate three ships pulling sonar across the vast 60,000-km search zone, has rejected claims it is using the wrong equipment, saying its gear is rigorously tested.

Still, Nargeolet's concerns are echoed by others in the tightly held deepsea search and rescue industry, who are worried that unless the search ships pass right over any wreckage the sonar scanning either side of the vessels won't pick it up.



The ship Ocean Shield is pictured at Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Base Stirling, south of Perth on 10 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Experts also question the lack of data released by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) on the activities of the Fugro ships.

Three of the bidders rejected for the MH370 contract, US firm Williamson & Associates, France's ixBlue SAS and Mauritius-based Deep Ocean Search Ltd, have taken the unusual step of detailing their concerns — months down the track — directly to Australian authorities in correspondence viewed by Reuters.

Several other experts are also critical, including

some who requested anonymity, citing the close knit nature of the industry which has just a few companies and militaries capable of conducting deepwater searches.

"I have serious concerns that the MH370 search operation may not be able to convincingly demonstrate that 100 percent seafloor coverage is being achieved," Mike Williamson, founder and president of Williamson & Associates told Reuters.

Australia took over the search for the missing plane from Malaysia in late March

last year, three weeks after MH370 disappeared off the radar during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

The search area was determined by satellite data that revealed the plane turned back sharply over the Malaysian Peninsula and flew undetected for another six hours before crashing into the inhospitable southern Indian Ocean.

The uncharted waters, buffeted by the Roaring Forties winds, stretch as deep as 6 km, hiding old volcanoes and cliffs in their depths. Australia, Malaysia and China earlier this month

agreed to double the search area to 120,000 sq km.

Whether Phoenix International, which has US navy contracts and found AF447, will be part of that extended search area is unclear after the ATSB said that Go Phoenix, owned by Australian firm Go Marine, will cease operating on 19 June. Phoenix International, which was contracted separately by the Malaysian government, did not immediately return calls about its position.

The Malaysian government also did not reply to requests for comment. Two of the Fugro ships traverse up and down 2.4 km-wide strips of the sea floor, pulling via a cable a "towfish" that contains sonar equipment, in a technique often called "mowing the lawn". The towfish coasts around 100 metres above the sea floor, sending out sound waves diagonally across a swath, or broad strip, to produce a flattened image of the seabed.

The Fugro ships are using sonar provided by Edge-Tech, the same US company whose sonar was used successfully to find Air France AF447 after it crashed in the Atlantic Ocean.

Reuters

Leave cancelled for India's doctors as heat wave kills 1,300

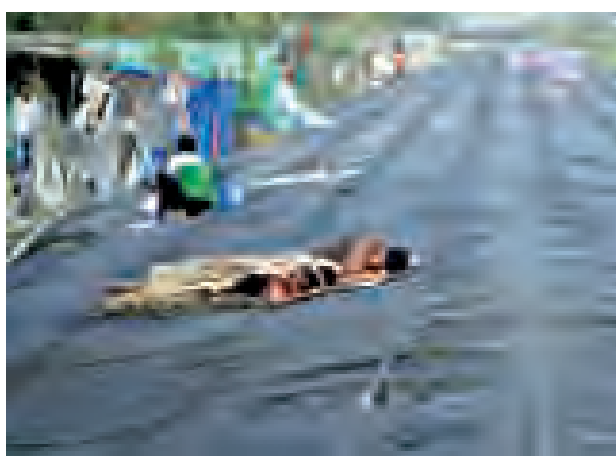
NEW DELHI, 28 May — A heat wave in India has killed at least 1,371 people this week as temperatures soar above 47 Celsius (116.6 Fahrenheit), and doctors' leave has been cancelled to help cope with the sick.

May and June are India's hottest months, with temperatures regularly pushing above 40 Celsius. But meteorologists say the number of days when temperatures approach 45 Celsius has increased in the past 15 years.

The death toll in the worst affected states of Andhra Pradesh in the southeast and nearby Telangana is more than double the toll from a shorter hot spell there last year, officials said, with most of those killed elderly or labourers suffering sunstroke or dehydration.

The toll in Andhra Pradesh alone has reached 1,020, officials said, and deaths have been reported in at least four Indian states.

Authorities have cancelled doctors' leave and



Men sleep on a temporary shade built over a drain next to a slum on a hot summer day in New Delhi, India on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS

advised people not to head outside in the middle of the day to avoid the worst of the heat. However for many Indians, staying indoors is not an option.

"I get headaches, fever sometimes. But (if I stay indoors) how will I make money?" scrap collector Akhlaq, 28, said in the capital Delhi, where temperatures touched 45 Celsius on Tuesday.

The heat wave entered its sixth day in parts of

the south on Wednesday. That's double the time they generally last, according to YK Reddy, a government meteorologist in Hyderabad in one of the worst affected regions.

Blamed on dry continental air blowing in from Iran and Afghanistan, the heat wave is forecast to subside later this week before monsoon rains bring relief to parched areas of the east and south.

Reuters

Vietnam to reclaim electronic waste from mid-2016

HO CHI MINH CITY, 28 May — Waste and dumped electronics in Vietnam will be required to be reclaimed for treatment under a new regulation slated for taking effect from July next year, local online newspaper Tuoi Tre News reported on Thursday. Under a recent government decision, from 1 July, 2016, such products as compact fluorescent lamps, personal computers, laptops, cameras, video cameras, mobile phones and tablets that are no longer working or in use must be recalled. The regulation also covers other products such as batteries, tires, and major home appliances including television sets, fridges, air-conditioners

and washing machines.

Manufacturers are responsible for reclaiming their products, or for setting up places for consumers to dump the electronic wastes instead of throwing them out into the environment. They are also encouraged to reclaim even products they do not make, whereas consumers are required to give away their dumped products to the producers.

The regulation only says the reclaimed products are meant for treatment, but does not elaborate whether they will be recycled.

Many local people support the new regulation, saying it is necessary to prevent Vietnam from becoming a

landfill of electronic waste. However, some doubt the feasibility of the rule as it is not a simple task to reclaim all of the electronic wastes in the country.

Most Vietnamese consumers currently do not know what to do with their used hi-tech devices or major home appliances. They usually sell them to facilities that collect used electronic products, or call a scrap dealer to pick them up. Most scrap collecting facilities, however, will later dump the products to landfills or out to the environment.

Vietnam plans to apply a similar regulation on used vehicles from early 2018.

Xinhua

Philippine police charge missing man with murder of Japanese

MANILA, 28 May — Police on Thursday charged a missing Filipino man for the stabbing death of a 28-year-old Japanese man in the capital Manila earlier this month.

The police said a case of robbery with homicide was filed against Amie Magnaan, who was caught on surveillance camera

as the last person to be in the company of Tomoyuki Takasugi.

Takasugi was found dead on 17 May inside his serviced apartment in Manila. He bore a fatal stab wound near his neck, while a safe inside his apartment had been forcibly opened.

Investigators suspect that some hundreds of

thousands of pesos kept inside the safe were carried off by the assailant, who remains at large.

Takasugi and Magnaan both worked in the same karaoke bar and restaurant in Manila, the former as a payment collector, and the latter as a maintenance worker.

Kyodo News

UNESCO meeting encourages culture-rich cities to deepen exchanges

KANAZAWA, (Japan), 28 May — Representatives of more than 60 cities across the world participating in a UNESCO meeting in the Japanese city of Kanazawa agreed on Wednesday to deepen exchanges and share more information on developing through their distinct cultures.

The members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, established in 2004 by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a means to protect the diversity of cultures, also agreed to report on their activities as they wrapped up their two-day annual meeting.

Currently, 69 cities are



Yukiyoshi Yamano (L), mayor of the central Japan city of Kanazawa, attends a Press conference together with Lynne Patchett, a senior official of UNESCO's Culture Sector, in Kanazawa on 27 May, 2015, after a UNESCO Creative Cities Network Meeting. The participants from 61 cities around the world agreed to enhance information sharing and exchanges. —KYODO NEWS

designated by UNESCO as Creative Cities for their distinct art and culinary

cultures. Japan counts six of its cities as members of the network, including

Sapporo in Hokkaido and Kanazawa in Ishikawa Prefecture.

Kanazawa became the first Japanese city to host the network's meeting, drawing about 150 participants from 61 cities.

Speaking at a Press conference after the meeting, Lynne Patchett, chief of executive office in UNESCO's Culture Sector, emphasized the importance of sharing information among member cities to learn from one another's successes.

During the meeting, some participants proposed strengthening exchanges among member cities beyond the fields of art and food, and helping young craftsmen.—Kyodo News

Chief US negotiator in Iran talks to leave State Dept — NYT

WASHINGTON, 28 May — The chief US negotiator in Iran nuclear talks, Wendy Sherman, will leave the State Department shortly after the 30 June deadline for the talks between Teheran and six major powers to reach agreement, the *New York Times* said on Wednesday.

Sherman made her intentions known before leaving for Vienna and Geneva for a last round of talks aimed at securing curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in return for lifting sanctions that have crippled the country's economy, the newspaper said. "It's been two long years," the *Times* quoted Sherman as saying, referring to the protracted and intensely complex discussions with the Iranians that began with secret talks between the two long-time

foes. Sherman, who is under secretary of state for political affairs at the State Department and who has white, close-cropped hair, has stood out as one of the few women in a sea of men in dark suits at most of the negotiating sessions.

Her departure will leave a big gap in the US team, which will have to manage the arrangements for rolling back sanctions and monitoring Iran's compliance should a final deal be struck next month.

Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement to CNN: "Wendy has been an absolutely critical member of my team, most notably in her work spearheading the nuclear negotiations with Iran, but on nearly every important issue that has crossed my desk."

Reuters

Pakistan executes three plane hijackers

ISLAMABAD, 28 May — Pakistan on Thursday executed three men convicted for hijacking a passenger plane in May 1998.

The three men had hijacked a domestic Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft while it was heading to the port city Karachi from Turbat in Balochistan. The Pakistan security agencies had overpowered the hijackers and had arrested them.

The president had rejected their mercy petitions. The anti-terrorism court's judge, Abdul Ghafoor Memon, had issued death warrant for the convicts last week. A total of 35 people were on board of a Fokker aircraft when it was hijacked. The hijackers had asked the pilot to take the plane to India.

The pilot had landed it at airport at Hyderabad, a main city in Sindh Prov-

ince as the pilot had told the hijackers that the plane runs short of fuel and that he had landed at the Indian Gujarat state.

Pakistani commandos had stormed the plane in the night and arrested all the three hijackers.

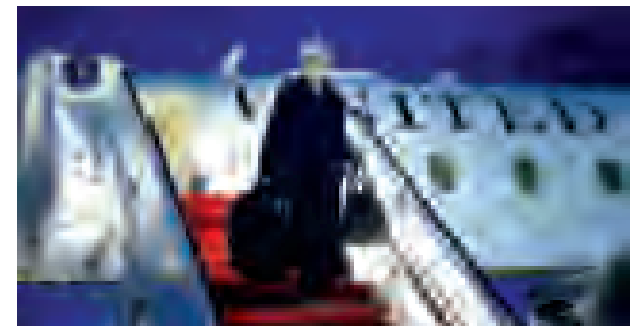
The authorities had stated the hijackers belonged to the Baloch Students Organization.

Officials said Shahsawar Baloch and Sabir

Baloch were sent to gallows in Central Jail Hyderabad in Sindh Province, while Shabbir Baloch was executed in Central Jail Karachi.

Four more convicts were also executed in different areas of the countries for murders. They were executed in Sahiwal and Sargodha in Punjab, one in Karachi and one in Haripur of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Xinhua



US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman arrives at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on 3 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Rolls Royces, movies: private India hospitals go luxe for growth

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, 28 May — Cinemas, Rolls-Royces and rooms so plush they could belong in a five-star hotel: private hospital operators in India are all but rolling out a red carpet to lure affluent locals and tourists to seek medical treatment at their luxe facilities.

Local hospital firms including Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd and privately owned Medanta have built or upgraded facilities to tap the top-end of a private healthcare sector industry body ASSOCHAM estimates would grow 20 percent a year from 2013 to become a \$125 billion (81 billion pounds) market in two years time.

Overseas rivals including Dubai-based Aster DM Healthcare and ABV Group are also investing in luxury healthcare in India, attracted by strong demand for quality medical care which, due to lower costs and a weaker rupee, they can offer to patients at be-



A general view of the lobby area is pictured at the Fortis Memorial Hospital at Gurgaon on the outskirts of New Delhi, India on 20 May, 2015.—REUTERS

low-international prices.

"The fact that you actually come for surgery or medical treatment would be an incidental part of the experience," ABV Group Chief Executive Advet Bhambhani told *Reuters*.

ABV, due to open a luxury hospital in an upscale Mumbai neighbourhood within two years, plans to provide Rolls-Royce cars to ferry its pa-

tients. It plans to invest \$78 million and is also looking at refurbishing hotels, Bhambhani added.

An overcrowded and underfunded state healthcare system makes private healthcare the norm for all but the poorest of Indians.

Those wealthy enough to afford it travel to the United States or Singapore for treatment and these are the patients private hospital

operators want to keep at home by offering top-notch facilities and Indian doctors who have worked or trained abroad.

At the 450-bed Fortis Memorial hospital near New Delhi, for example, there is an inhouse cinema lounge and a food court. And the rooms at Aster Medcity's 575-bed hospital in Kerala have warm lighting and hardwood floors in-

tended to give them the feel of a luxury hotel room.

"We feel that in five years time our Aster Medcity and other hospitals that we will set up will enable us to effectively compete with Singapore," Chief Executive Harish Pillai said.

The hospital operators are also courting medical tourists: visitors who combine surgical procedures with sightseeing, or who let value for money determine where they will seek treatment. The medical tourism sector is expected to grow to \$10.3 billion in 2020, from \$2.8 billion now, consultancy PwC says. A 2014 study by consultants KPMG ranks India as the third top Asian destination for medical tourists after Thailand and Singapore, with 25 percent growth a year, outstripping the 16 percent growth in Thailand. "Medical tourists have a lot of expectations now. The quality is a very critical factor," said Prashant Hedge, group head of marketing at Wockhardt Hospitals, a

unit of one of India's largest pharmaceutical firms Wockhardt Ltd.

Some 1.2 million medical tourists are expected to visit India by the end of this year, and that number is likely to double by 2020, according to PwC.

Popular treatments for these tourists include bone-marrow transplants, cardiac bypass surgery, eye surgery and hip replacements, KPMG says, and costs are below rival destinations. A hip replacement, for example, can cost \$7,000 in India, about \$12,000 in both Singapore and Thailand and more than \$40,000 in the United States.

"A market is evolving for both high-end clinical care and the hospitality that goes with it," said Vishal Bali, Asia Head of healthcare at private equity fund TPG Growth, which is planning to invest in healthcare providers in India.

"It's just the rise of healthcare consumerism.



Friday, 29 May, 2015

A solution to setting minimum wage

By Myint Win Thein

Setting a minimum wage has been under discussion for some time in Myanmar without success, as representatives for employers and employees have been unable to reach an agreement. Some employers say they cannot afford the wage level employees have de-

manded, while employees say the minimum wage they have sought is just enough for their basic needs. As a result, negotiations for the minimum wage have been delayed again and again for some time.

In the United States, employees have demanded a minimum wage of US \$15 per hour, but the federal government is not doing enough to support the claim of employees. Therefore, regional governments are being pressured to pay \$15 per hour and a number of city councils, including that of Los Angeles, have voted to set this as the minimum wage rate. Recently, Los Angeles city council voted for the \$15 per hour minimum wage and employers in the city area with more than 20 employees are required to institute it by 2020. This has encouraged other cities across the

country to follow suit.

Following the US example, the minimum wage here should be set temporarily, region by region, state by state, or industrial zone by industrial zone, where agreements have been reached between employers and employees before the setting of a national minimum wage.

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China's Maritime Silk Road project: What's in it for Myanmar?

By U Khin Maung Lynn

Myanmar stands to benefit from China's plans to expand sea trade in Asia through the creation of Beijing's plan for a Maritime Silk Road, known officially as the 21st Century Maritime Silk Route Economic Belt.

Beijing has pledged to invest US\$40 billion in a Silk Road Fund to promote land and sea trade links to "break the connectivity bottleneck" in Asia, China's state-run Xinhua news agency quoted President Xi Jinping as saying on November 8 last year.

In reality, there will be several maritime "silk roads" radiating out from Chinese ports: one that weaves through Southeast Asia; a second that links the South China Sea with Europe; a third threading northwards through South Korea, Japan and Russia's east coast before crossing the Pacific to the US west coast; and a fourth that links with South America.

A key reason for this plan is Beijing's ambition to expand its trading influence throughout Asia and beyond by recreating modern versions of the ancient Silk Road which flourished 1,000 years ago in a trade route from northern China across central Asia to the Mediterranean. Silk, then made only in China, was a coveted commodity.

China's maritime route through Southeast Asia (see map) would traverse the rim of the Bay of Bengal and include Myanmar's port of Yangon and the industrial ports planned at Kyaukpyu in Rakhine

State and Dawei in Tanintharyi Region.

Plans for the maritime "silk roads" are being drawn up at the same time that China has pushed the creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, that analysts say will lead to greater Chinese access to the Indian Ocean, Central Asia and Southeast Asia for oil and gas exploration and new transshipment infrastructure.

The AIIB was established with 21 signatory countries, including Myanmar, in Shanghai last October. Beijing envisages its rivaling Western-dominated financial lending institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and has pledged US\$50 billion towards a targeted bank fund of \$100 billion.

Financial analysts PriceWaterhouse-Coopers has forecast that Asia will spend \$5.3 trillion on infrastructure between now and 2025. This market will grow at between 7 percent and 8 percent a year, PwC said in a study published in October called "Infrastructure Development in Asia Pacific" economies grow so does the need for transport infrastructure to mobilize workforces, transport products and connect economic centres. And as demand expands, improved capacity in power, gas, water and other utility-related resources becomes increasingly critical, wrote the study's author Mark Rathbone.

The importance of ports at Yangon and Kyaukpyu can be seen in

Beijing's hopes to create an economic corridor originating from its Central Asia land silk road through Yunnan Province and linking Myanmar, northeast India and the Bangladeshi port of Chittagong.

However, the development of a port at Kyaukpyu, where a special economic zone is planned, may hinge on the stalled plans by China to build a railway linking it with the Yunnan Province capital, Kunming.

Nay Pyi Taw and Beijing signed a provisional agreement to build the railway in 2011 but media reports in Myanmar in June 2014 said the plan had been abandoned.

China says it still hopes to build the line.

"Authorities in Yunnan Province will continue to push for enhanced links with Southeast Asia to boost cross-border infrastructure, trade and tourism," the official China Daily reported on January 27.

We will step up the construction of infrastructure linking our province with its bordering countries, including transportation, electricity, information transmission, warehousing and logistics, the paper quoted Yunnan Governor Chen Hao as saying.

"China drafted a preliminary plan in 2013 to build three railway lines connecting Yunnan's capital, Kunming, to Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore," China Daily said.

China's plans for maritime trade "roads" helps to explain Beijing's recent interest in revived proposals

for building a deep-draught shipping canal across the Isthmus of Kra in Thailand. A Kra canal would connect the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea and provide faster shipping connections in the region and beyond.

Thailand's National Committee for the Kra Canal Project is working on feasibility study of the canal with the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

"From being a country which mostly used third-party shipping lines to import and export, China is now aggressively becoming a major international shipper itself and is also hiring out bulk crude [oil] carriers," the China Oil & Gas Monitor said on March 5.

China has more than 240 shipping firms but they carry only a quarter of the country's trade, the Ministry of Transport was quoted as saying last September in a Reuters report.

As the Monitor noted, this situation is changing rapidly.

"Figures recently published by the Chinese Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry show between January and August of 2014 the industry won orders for new vessels with a total combined cargo tonnage of 47.4 million tonnes. That was year-on-year growth of almost 36 percent," it said.

Chinese money is also building ports in the Indian Ocean. In addition to the involvement of China National Petroleum Corporation in an oil transshipment terminal at Kyaukpyu, China's Export-Import Bank financed 85 percent of the

\$361 million first-phase development of Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port, built by China Harbour Engineering.

The Chinese bank is one the three main financial backers of the Silk Road Fund.

China has also built and operates a port at Gwadar in Pakistan.

Although Myanmar would likely gain economically from increased commercial shipping in the Indian Ocean triggered by China, not everyone is enthusiastic about China's maritime plans.

The ports it has built or is developing in South Asia are seen as part of China's "tring of pearls" strategy to encircle the region.

India remains sceptical at best about China's encroachment into the Indian Ocean.

On March 10, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on an unprecedented goodwill tour of several Indian Ocean countries where Chinese influence has been growing.

He was visiting the Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka in what the Hindustan Times on March 9 termed an ambitious maritime security and defence cooperation plan for the Indian Ocean region.

It will be the first visit to Sri Lanka by an Indian prime minister since 1987.

India's wariness of China's silk roads plan was underlined by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj when she said in February that Delhi will not provide any blanket endorsement.

We will look into our interests. Wherever our interests converge we cooperate. No blanket endorsement, Ms Swaraj was quoted as saying by the Economic Times on February 5.

Smaller countries in the maritime silk roads web might be less resistant. As the China Oil & Gas Monitor noted, too much money is being invested in China's new maritime silk roads for them to be allowed to disappear.

U Khin Maung Lynn is Joint Secretary, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Myanmar-ISIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(28-5-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K713,500 per tical: Selling K714,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K713,400 per tical: Selling K714,400

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1096: Selling K 1098

SGD Buying K 810: Selling K 813

Euro Buying K 1,194: Selling K1,198

Energy Ministry opens applications to build LPG terminal, supply chain business

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy announced Wednesday it has invited local and foreign companies to submit expressions of interest for a joint venture project to build a liquefied petroleum gas terminal and LPG supply chain business.

According to the ministry's announcement, investors must have extensive experience in the LPG industry. The scope of the business shall include the construction of a new LPG terminal at No. 1 Refinery in Thanlyin, as well as a supply chain business encompassing importation, storage, wholesale distribution and marketing, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the MPE also announced Wednesday its plan to start a laboratory service project for petroleum

and petrochemical products through the joint venture system, inviting expressions of interest.

According to the announcement, the ministry is planning to establish the joint venture project for laboratory services to analyse petroleum and petrochemical products and certify them in accordance with the International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

Companies with ISO accreditation and experience in analysis of petroleum products may submit expressions of interest for the joint venture project with Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise.

The ministry said detailed information for both joint venture projects is available at its website and has urged those interested to make submissions to the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw by 15 July, 2015.

GNLM

Myanmar, Belarus to promote cooperation between two parliaments

MINSK, 28 May — U Khin Aung Myint, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, held talks with speakers of the Belarus parliaments on 21 May over further cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

During his visit to Belarus, U Khin Aung Myint visited the National Assembly of Belarus and met with Dr Mikhail Myasnikov,

the Speaker of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, and Mr Vladimir Andreichenko, the Speaker of the House of the Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus.

The Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw also held a meeting with Prime Minister of Belarus Mr Andrei Kob-

yakov the next day.

The delegation also held a meeting with President of Belarus Mr Alexander Lukashenko and discussed about friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit, the delegation visited Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War and the National Historical and Cultural

Museum on 23 May.

They also observed the agricultural and livestock farming system at the Agricultural Complex Snov.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint also signed an MoU on friendship between the two parliaments with Dr Mikhail Myasnikov during his visit to the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly on 24 May. —MNA

Yangon to host international film heritage festival

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — A festival of classic films opens Friday at Yangon's Naypyidaw Movie Theatre in Yangon, with several local and international screen stars set to attend,

organizers said.

The Memory International Film Heritage Festival 2015 will screen more than 50 classic films from around the world, as well as four Myanmar golden oldies, un-

til 7 June. Sponsored by the French Embassy, the festival will highlight the lives of women, with international stars including Catherine Deneuve, Michelle Yeoh, Cheng Pei-pei and Mary Lee

in attendance.

Also participating will be renowned Myanmar actresses Swe Zin Htaik, Khin Thida Tun, Nwe Nwe San and Cho Pyone. Admission is free. —MNA

TBS films documentary about Myanmar workers

By Sein Win

Tokyo Broadcasting System filmed a documentary about training for Myanmar workers at Today Top Star training school established by overseas employment agency on 18 May. The trainees were

taking the course to work in Thailand but overseas employment agencies hope that the documentary will enable Myanmar workers to work in Japan.

Myanmar has allowed overseas employment agencies to send Myanmar workers abroad since 1999 by enacting the overseas employment law but a number of Myanmar workers still work abroad illegally.

The Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security and related ministries are exerting efforts to encourage Myanmar workers to work abroad legally and to contribute to the GDP of the country.

The ministry is also urging overseas employment agencies to encourage Myanmar workers to work abroad legally.

The TBS was established in 1951 and it has been broadcasting TV programmes since 1955.

of an effort to improve public transport and entice more commuters to use rail amid growing traffic congestion.

First introduced to Yangon two years ago, the Japanese-made trains have gained commuter satisfaction despite some technical problems.

Authorities are planning to change existing railroad tracks into standard gauges. The newly arrived carriages each have a seating capacity of 53 and a standing capacity of 57.

Saw Lin Let
(Zwegabin)

YANGON, 28 May — Newly purchased air-conditioned train carriages will soon be rolled out on Yangon's circular railway service following their arrival from Japan, officials said Thursday.

The 32 carriages arrived on 12 May and will replace outdated locomotives and carriages, the officials said.

The purchase of new trains from Japan is part

Arrival of
air-conditioned train
carriages at the port.



Air-conditioned train carriages arrive from Japan

KOICA-funded master plan for arterial road network development in Myanmar launched

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May — The Final Report Meeting for the Project on Establishing the Master Plan for Arterial Road Network Development in Myanmar was held on the Ministry of Construction on Thursday.

Yooshin consortium, as KOICA contractor for this project, presented the Mas-

ter Plan for Myanmar Expressway and Arterial Road development for the next 20 years, which has been completed through the close cooperation between Korea International Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Construction from 2013 to 2015 as part of KOICA's grant program.

The Master Plan contains 7x5 Expressway Network (9,470km), Main Arterial Road Network (Union Highway: 13,224km), and Sub-Arterial Road Network (State/Region Road: 11,684 km) with the total length of 34,378km. For the next 20 years, 15,337km, 44.6% of the total length, will be de-

veloped stage by stage according to the Master Plan.

The master plan project also contains a Feasibility Study for Road Improvement from Monywa to Gangaw (180km), which is estimated as economically viable. The Ministry is planning to request a concessional loan to Korea and other donor coun-

tries for the new road construction (15.8km) including Pon Taung tunnel (1.46km) and Ponnya Taung tunnel (0.88 km). U Kyaw Linn, Permanent Secretary of the ministry, remarked "Now we have long-term targets to develop arterial road networks in Myanmar, which will support and lead regional & national economic development of Myanmar." "In order to implement the arterial road network devel-

opment, we need to secure relevant funds, establish laws and regulations related, and reform organizations for making development activities more efficient," he added. Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Mr LEE, Baek-Soon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar, and Mr Nam, Kwon-Hyong, Chief Representative of KOICA, and officials. — GNLM

US military mistakenly ships live anthrax to labs in 9 states

WASHINGTON, 28 May — The US military mistakenly sent live anthrax bacteria to laboratories in nine US states and a US air base in South Korea, after apparently failing to properly inactivate the bacteria last year, US officials said on Wednesday.

The Pentagon said there was no known suspected infection or risk to the public. But four US civilians have been started on preventive measures called post-exposure prophylaxis, which usually includes the anthrax vaccine, antibiotics or both.

Twenty-two personnel at the base in South Korea were also given precautionary medical measures although none have shown sign of exposure, the US military said.

The four in the United States face “minimal” risk, said Jason McDonald, a spokesman for the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC), which has begun an investigation of the incident. They had been “doing procedures that sent the agent into the air,” he said.

When anthrax becomes airborne, it can cause a deadly illness called inhalation anthrax. That occurred in 2001, when anthrax sent through the US mail to government and media targets killed five people.

The anthrax, which was initially sent from a Utah military lab, was meant to be shipped in an inactive state as part of efforts to develop a field-based test to identify biological threats, the Pentagon said.

“Out of an abundance of caution, (the Defence Department) has stopped the shipment of this material from its labs pending completion of the investigation,” said Pentagon spokesman Colonel Steve Warren.

The CDC said it has launched an investigation of the mishap.

All samples involved in the investigation will be securely transferred to the CDC or affiliated labs for further testing, spokeswoman Kathy Harden said, adding that CDC has sent officials to the labs “to conduct on-site investigations.”

The mishap comes 11 months after the CDC, one of the government’s top civilian labs, similarly mishandled anthrax.

Researchers at a lab designed to handle extremely dangerous pathogens sent what they believed were killed samples of anthrax to another CDC lab, one with fewer safeguards and therefore not authorized to work with live anthrax.

Scores of CDC employees could have been exposed to the live anthrax, but none became ill.

That incident and a

similar one last spring, in which CDC scientists shipped what they thought was a benign form of bird flu but which was actually a highly virulent strain, led US lawmakers to fault a “dangerous pattern” of safety lapses at government labs.

In the latest case, the Army’s Dugway Proving Ground in Utah reported in March 2014 that gamma irradiation had inactivated the anthrax stock in question, and along with another Army facility, began shipments that continued through April 2015, a US official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suspected live anthrax samples were sent to US federal, private and academic facilities.

The anthrax was sent to laboratories in Maryland, Texas, Wisconsin, Delaware, New Jersey, Tennessee, New York, California and Virginia,

officials said.

The Maryland laboratory alerted the CDC late on Friday that it had a live sample and by midday on Saturday, the laboratories were notified, the US official said.

The four civilians receiving post-exposure prophylaxis are in Delaware, Texas and Wisconsin. “Workers who were not in the same area at the same time are not at risk,” the CDC’s McDonald said.

The sample sent to South Korea was subsequently destroyed, the Pentagon and the US military there said.

A US emergency team responded to destroy the sample on Wednesday at the US base after what was expected to be an inactive training sample was thought to be live bacteria, the US military in South Korea said.

Precautionary medical measures were given to 22 personnel who may have

been exposed during the training at the base about 35 km (20 miles) south of Seoul and none of them have shown any sign of exposure, it said.

Experts in biosafety were astonished by the lapse.

“These events shouldn’t happen,” said Stephen Morse of Columbia University, a former programme manager for biodefence at the Pentagon’s Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Scientists working with the most dangerous pathogens follow a “two-person rule,” never handling samples alone. The second pair of eyes is meant to insure scientists take proper precautions during experiments.

Two people should also vet shipments of supposedly killed anthrax. “We can put greater safeguards in place,” Morse said.

Reuters

Britons to be asked in referendum to vote ‘Yes’ to stay in EU



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron

LONDON, 28 May — Britons will be asked to vote “yes” if they want to stay in the European Union when a referendum is held in the next two years, the government said on Thursday.

The question they will be asked on the ballot paper will be: “Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union?”

The wording is seen as significant because the

“in” campaign will be able to brand itself as the “yes” campaign — perhaps casting itself in a more positive light than its opponents.

The government made the disclosure as it prepared to publish a law guaranteeing the referendum will be held before the end of 2017 and as Prime Minister David Cameron embarked on a two-day tour of European capitals to win support for his EU reform drive.

He has promised to reshape Britain’s EU ties, reclaiming some powers from Brussels, before allowing Britons to vote on whether to stay or quit the bloc. In last year’s Scottish independence vote the pro-union campaign was described as

too negative, partly because the phrasing of the referendum question meant voters had to say “no” to change. Cameron has said he favours staying in a reformed EU, but will rule nothing out if he does not get the changes he wants. “That Cameron is opting to give the pro-EU side the positive ‘Yes’ suggests strongly that his negotiations are so much fudge,” Nigel Farage, the leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party, complained in a statement. “He has already decided which way he wants the answer to be given, without a single power repatriated.”

A source in Cameron’s office said the question was clear. “It will be for voters

to decide whether to stay or leave,” said the source.

Cameron is due to meet Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in The Hague and French President Francois Hollande in Paris on Thursday before heading to Warsaw and Berlin on Friday for talks with Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. On Monday, the government said citizens of most other EU countries living in Britain would be excluded from voting in the referendum. It has also rejected calls for 16 and 17-year-olds, who could vote in the Scottish referendum, to take part in the EU ballot.

Reuters

Lagarde says still much work to do in Greek debt talks

DRESDEN, 28 May — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a German television interview on Thursday that there was still a lot of work to do before heading to Warsaw and Berlin on Friday for talks with Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. On Monday, the government said citizens of most other EU countries living in Britain would be excluded from voting in the referendum. It has also rejected calls for 16 and 17-year-olds, who could vote in the Scottish referendum, to take part in the EU ballot.

“We are all in the process of working towards a solution for Greece and I would not say that we already have reached substantial results,” IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde told ARD televi-

sion in comments which were translated from English to German.

“Things have moved, but there is still a lot of work to do,” she noted, adding that she believed Greece would fulfil its commitments.

Greece and its EU/IMF lenders have been locked in tortuous negotiations on a reforms agreement for four months without a breakthrough in sight. Without a deal, Athens risks default or bankruptcy in weeks.

Reuters

French FM to head Israel, Egypt in June to revive peace process

PARIS, 28 May — France’s foreign minister said on Thursday he would travel to Israel and the Palestinian territories in June to try to revive the peace process and persuade all sides to accept a French UN Security Council resolution that would set parameters for talks.

“We are for a two-state solution. We need to ensure Israel’s security that’s obvious. There is no peace and security without justice

for the Palestinians, but let’s be frank justice hasn’t been given to the Palestinians,” Fabius told France Inter radio.

France recently handed a working document to Arab League countries in preparation of a Security Council resolution that would set a timeframe and the exact parameters of a new peace talks between Israelis and the Palestinians, French diplomats have said.—Reuters

Italy’s Renzi faces election test as scandals overshadow vote

ROME, 28 May — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi goes into elections this weekend hoping nascent signs of economic recovery after years of recession will outweigh a corruption scandal that has dogged one of the main candidates of his centre-left Democratic Party (PD).

Sunday’s ballots in seven regions and more than 1,000 municipalities, which follow a bruising series of parliamentary battles over

Renzi’s reform agenda, will be his biggest test since a triumph in last year’s European elections.

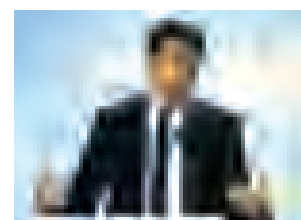
Emboldened by the success of Spain’s anti-austerity Podemos party in their local elections last weekend, the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement is hoping voter disillusion with the mainstream parties will give it a boost.

PD leftwingers are also in rebellious mood over labour reforms and changes

to electoral rules which they say weaken the independence of parliament.

But facing a divided centre-right, where a new generation is fighting to seize the reins from the 78-year-old Silvio Berlusconi, Renzi’s candidates are expected to win in most of the regions being contested. They currently hold power in five of the seven.

The centre-right is confident of keeping the north-eastern region of Veneto,



Italy’s Prime Minister Matteo Renzi

one of the heartlands of the anti-immigrant, eurosceptic Northern League, whose 41-year-old leader Matteo Salvini has emerged as the strongest leader on the right.

Reuters

WORLD

Emboldened in Syria and Iraq, Islamic State may be reaching limits of expansion

LONDON, 28 May — With its two biggest victories in nearly a year in Iraq and Syria, Islamic State has energized its fighters, littered the streets of two cities with the bodies of its enemies and forced Washington to re-examine its strategy.

The near simultaneous capture this month of Ramadi west of Baghdad and Palmyra northeast of Damascus has reinforced the sway of the self-proclaimed caliphate of all Muslims closer to the ramparts of Islam's two great historic capitals.

But although the fighters sound triumphant on YouTube, vowing to press on to Baghdad and Damascus, there appears to be little room for them to expand their territory much further — at least for now.

In both Iraq and Syria they have lost ground in recent months as well as gained it. The weakest targets are already in their grasp, and they will have to devote as much effort to holding and administering the areas that they already control as to attempting to extend their onslaught.



A car is engulfed by flames during clashes in the city of Ramadi on 16 May, 2015.

REUTERS

In Iraq, Islamic State fighters already hold most of the land where their fellow Sunni Muslim Arabs predominate. The Shi'ite-led government has responded to the loss of Ramadi in the Euphrates River valley by dispatching Iran-backed Shi'ite militia, fresh from beating Islamic State fighters in the valley of Iraq's other great river, the Tigris.

In Syria, rival Sunni Arab insurgent groups, once seen as feeble in comparison with Islamic State, have drawn support from

Arab countries and grown stronger, expanding their own territory at the expense of the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

In both countries, Islamic State has also suffered defeats at the hands of Kurds. But even if there are limits to how far Islamic State — also known as ISIS — can expand its territory for now, the victories this month give it crucial momentum, important for maintaining the support of people in the places it rules over.

“The priority for ISIS

now is to capitalise on the momentum that is gained from taking control of Ramadi and Palmyra because this war has been about momentum shifts,” said Ahmed Ali, senior fellow at Washington DC's Education for Peace in Iraq Centre.

“Up until (when) ISIS was able to take control of Ramadi, the momentum was against ISIS. Now this is a prime opportunity for ISIS to keep pushing, because it's trying to regain its reputation as this invincible force.”—Reuters

Iraq rebrands military campaign against Islamic State over fears of sectarianism



Shi'ite paramilitaries riding military vehicles travel from Lake Tharthar towards Ramadi to fight against Islamic state militants, west of Samarra, Iraq on 27 May, 2015. — REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 28 May — A campaign led by Shi'ite paramilitaries to drive Islamic State militants from Iraq's Sunni heartland was rebranded on Wednesday after criticism that the name chosen for the push was overtly sectarian.

The move was a response to fears that Iraq's reliance on Shi'ite paramilitaries to defeat Islamic State fighters, instead of the disordered and demoralized national army, could

alienate Sunni Iraqis and deepen the region's sectarian divide.

The United States said it was “unhelpful” that the militias had dubbed the operation to retake Iraq's western province of Anbar “Labeyk Ya Hussein.” The name translates to “At your service, Hussein,” in honour of one of the most revered figures in Shi'ite Islam. The name also provoked complaints from Iraqis in Anbar.

“This is extremely sectarian,” said unemployed resident Salam Ahmed, 41. “We have no more trust in them (the paramilitaries). They follow a foreign, Iranian agenda.”

State TV said the paramilitaries had renamed the campaign “Labeyk Ya Iraq” (At Your Service Iraq) on Wednesday. A spokesman for the paramilitary groups, known as Hashid Shaabi, said both names had “the same meaning.”

Reuters

Russia masses heavy firepower on border with Ukraine — witness

KHUTOR CHKALOVA, (Russia), 28 May — Russia's army is massing troops and hundreds of pieces of weaponry including mobile rocket launchers, tanks and artillery at a makeshift base near the border with Ukraine, a Reuters reporter saw this week.

Many of the vehicles have number plates and identifying marks removed while many of the servicemen had taken insignia off their fatigues. As such, they match the appearance of some of the forces spotted in eastern Ukraine, which Kiev and its Western allies allege are covert Russian detachments.

The scene at the base on the Kuzminsky firing range, around 50 km (30 miles) from the border, offers some of the clearest evidence to date of what appeared to be a concerted Russian military build-up in the area.

Earlier this month, NATO military commander General Philip Breedlove said he believed the separatists were taking advantage of a ceasefire that came into force in February to re-arm and prepare for a new offensive. However, he gave no specifics.

Russia denies that its military is involved in the conflict in Ukraine's east, where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting forces loyal to the pro-Western government in Kiev.

Russia's defence ministry said it had no immediate comment about the build-up. Several soldiers said they had been sent to the base for simple military exercises, suggesting their presence was unconnected to the situation in Ukraine.

Asked by Reuters if

large numbers of unmarked weaponry and troops without insignia at the border indicated that Russia planned to invade Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said during a conference call with reporters:

“I find the wording of this question, ‘if an invasion is being prepared’, inappropriate as such.”

The weapons being delivered there included Uragan multiple rocket launchers, tanks and self-propelled howitzers — all weapon types that have been used in the conflict in eastern Ukraine between Kiev's forces and separatists.

The amount of military hardware at the base was about three times greater than in March this year, when Reuters journalists were previously in the area. At that time, only a few dozen pieces of equipment were in view.

Over the course of four days starting on Saturday, Reuters saw four goods trains with military vehicles and troops arriving at a rail station in the Rostov region of southern Russia, with at least two trainloads travelling on by road to the base.

A large section of dirt road leading across the steppe from the Kuzminsky range to the Ukrainian border had been freshly repaired, making it more passable for heavy vehicles.

The road leads to a quiet border crossing typically only used by local residents. On the other side is Ukraine's Luhansk region, which is controlled by separatists and has been the scene of intense fighting.

Reuters



Tanks are seen on a freight train shortly after its arrival at a railway station in the Russian southern town of Matveev Kurgan, near the Russian-Ukrainian border in Rostov region, Russia, on 26 May, 2015. — REUTERS



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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (07/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO**

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIPPING AG**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (943) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2015 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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PUTRI ASIA VOY NO (06/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.F.S.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K. MARINE CO. LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (006W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (006W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2015 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.

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Sale of (400) Metric Tons of Cathode Copper in United States Dollar,

RESERVE PRICE : The price of Cathode Copper is not less than the Copper price of London Metal Exchange on the tender opening date.

CLOSING DATE & TIME : 25.6.2015(16:00)Hours

Tender documents are available From the Procurement Department, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Mines, Office Building No.(19) Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to +95-(0) 67-409012 and 409383 within the office hours.

Tender Invitation Committee
No.(1) Mining Enterprise
Ministry of Mines

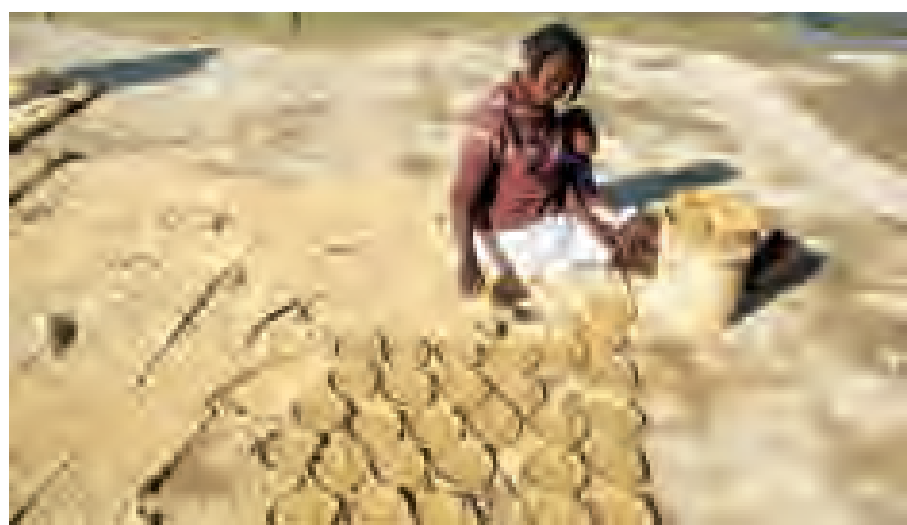
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A woman places mud cookies to sun drying in the city of Port au Prince, capital of Haiti, on 27 May, 2015. The mud cookies represent an alternative to satisfy the hunger in Haiti. Using only three ingredients for processing, mud, salt and butter. Mud cookies somehow cover the food needs of the poorest people. The land can supply calcium to pregnant women, but health experts say that it may also contain deadly parasites or industrial toxins, plus processing conditions are unhygienic and the places where the mud cookies are dried in the sun are surrounded by garbage and ponding water.—XINHUA

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

California oil spill cited by foes of new offshore drilling plan

LOS ANGELES, 28 May — Environmentalists urged California regulators on Wednesday to reject a proposed expansion of the only offshore drilling operation still permitted in state waters along the Santa Barbara coastline, seizing on public outrage over last week's nearby oil spill.

Privately owned Venoco Inc is seeking permission to drill on 3,400 acres (1,400 hectares) of the sea floor within a state-designated coastal sanctuary adjacent to the company's current offshore lease site. It said the plan would increase petroleum production by 6,400 barrels a day.

That additional capacity, like the crude petroleum already being pumped from Venoco's 50-year-old Platform Holly, would ultimately be added to oil supplies carried through the pipeline that burst on 19 May about 20 miles (32 km) west of Santa Barbara.

The breach dumped as much as 2,400 bar-

rels (101,000 gallons, or 382,000 litres) of crude onto a pristine stretch of shoreline and into the Pacific, leaving slicks that stretched over 9 miles (14 km) along the coast. Two state beaches were closed indefinitely, along with fishing in the area.

The spill also prompted the California Lands Commission to postpone its first public hearing on Venoco's offshore drilling proposal, originally slated for Tuesday, to 24 June.

On Wednesday, the conservation group Centre for Biological Diversity sent a letter calling for the Lands Commission to deny Venoco's application to drill on tracts of the sea floor placed off-limits to new energy development under a 1994 state law.

Venoco's proposal cites an exception under the statute that allows for adjustment of an existing offshore mineral lease to encompass oil reserves left out of its

original boundaries.

But opponents said the commission instead should order decommissioning of Platform Holly, which was built in 1965 and sends oil to shore through a subsea pipeline that is itself 45 years old.

Petroleum from Venoco's rig ultimately is added to refinery-bound supplies that get pumped through the failed 28-year-old transmission line owned by Texas-based Plains All American Pipeline.

"It would be a grave mistake for the state to approve a project that will feed more crude into a pipeline system that just spewed thousands of gallons of oil into the Pacific," said Miyoko Sakashita, the Center for Biological Diversity's oceans programme director.

Venoco, which operates mostly in Southern California but is based in Denver, had no immediate comment.—Reuters

‘San Andreas’ to release in Hindi and English on 29 May



WWE wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson's next project "San Andreas" is set to hit theatres in India on 29 May in English and Hindi.—PTI

MUMBAI, 28 May — WWE wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson's next project "San Andreas" is set to hit theatres in India on 29 May in English and Hindi.

The American action-adventure disaster film directed by Brad Peyton, also stars Indian-origin actress Archie Panjabi.

The film releases very close to the devastating earthquake in Nepal, which happened on 25 April.

When asked if there was ever a discussion internally about whether it would seem insensitive to sell a movie about a tragedy that has rendered so many people homeless and dead so recently, Johnson said, "We made the movie knowing and understanding the context—the world we live in and life we have today. These things happen. It was incredibly unfortunate.

"Prayers and thoughts

continue to go out to everybody in Nepal and everybody who was affected by that event. But the truth is you go into a project like this with everything you have got and your heart and your soul, and you just want to make a good movie, and, again, you understand the context," the 43-year-old actor said.

Peyton said that the movie doesn't make light of these things, because the

cast and crew realize there are real world implications to an earthquake.

"I am sensitive to people that have been through tragedies. The movie is really meant to entertain you... Bad things happen. But the most important thing is how you come together with the people that you love to get back up and move on. That is really what the movie is about," the filmmaker said in a statement.

Talking about her experiences while facing an emergency situation, Panjabi said until she came to America, she hadn't really been through any disasters.

"And then, as soon as I moved to New York, I experienced a hurricane. And then Hurricane Sandy hit me in quite a big way. I had twelve days without any electricity, any water, and you start asking deeper profound questions—how powerful Mother Nature is, how short life is, how grateful we should be for things," the actress said.

PTI

Memphis bids musical farewell to blues legend BB King

MEMPHIS, (Tennessee), 28 May — With music, singing and tears, hundreds of mourners in Memphis bade farewell to blues giant BB King as his casket, accompanied by his legendary guitar, Lucille, began a drive to his final resting place in Mississippi.

Intermittent thunderstorms dumped rain on mourners, including local dignitaries and King friends and family, as they gathered for the procession down Beale Street, a historic avenue lined with blues clubs and restaurants.

A brass band marched before the hearse, playing "When the Saints Go Marching In," giving the procession the air of a lively Southern jazz funeral.

Mourners called out "BB," as the procession passed by. In front of the hearse, a weeping Rodd Bland, son of the late blues singer Bobby "Blue" Bland, carried the latest iteration of Lucille, King's famous Gibson guitar.

King died 14 May at age 89 at his home in Las Vegas. His remains were flown on Wednesday to Memphis, where he first

achieved fame as a singer and disc jockey known as the Beale Street Blues Boy in the 1940s.

From Memphis, King's remains will be driven down US Route 61 — often dubbed "The Blues Highway" — to his hometown of Indianola, Mississippi, for a public viewing on Friday and burial on Saturday.

"I had to be here today. It was gorgeous to see all these people out here to see the great man," said Sam Rowe, a 25-year-old law student from Melbourne, Australia, who has been doing an internship in Texas and was touring the blues trail from New Orleans and had just visited Indianola.

"BB King was laying heavy on my mind. I love blues music and I came along to pay respect to an incredible man."

Nevada officials are conducting a homicide investigation into King's death after two of his daughters claimed he was poisoned by longtime associates. An attorney for King's estate has called the allegations unfounded.

Reuters



A painting of Blues legend BB King adorns a building wall on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee on 27 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Twenty One Pilots' 'Blurryface' puts fresh faces atop Billboard

LOS ANGELES, 28 May — Electro-pop pair Twenty One Pilots jumped to the top of the Billboard 200 chart for the first time in their short career on Wednesday, with the new album "Blurryface".

In its debut week, the fourth album from the Ohio duo sold 134,000 albums, 68,000 songs and was streamed 9.7 million times, totaling 147,000 units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. Twenty One Pilots, which broke out with the 2013 album "Vessel", is

a relative unknown compared with other recent chart toppers Mumford & Sons, Josh Groban and David Guetta, all Grammy nominees or winners. According to Billboard, "Vessel" has sold steadily, suggesting the band built up a fan base before the 18 May release of "Blurryface".

Taylor Swift's 1989, out since October, climbed back into the top five at No 2 after the singer won eight awards at the Billboard Music Awards on 17 May. The album sold

91,000 units for the week ending 24 May.

The soundtrack for song-infused comedy "Pitch Perfect 2" slid from No 1 to No 3 after the film's second weekend in theatres.

Another soundtrack, for steamy "Fifty Shades of Grey," dropped from No 3 to No 11.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Actor Jamie Foxx's

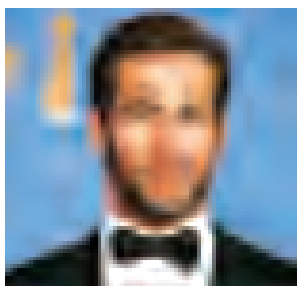
new record "Hollywood: A Storey of a Dozen Roses" debuted at No 10, his fourth album to reach the top 10, according to Billboard.

Russian-German DJ Zedd entered the chart at No 4 with his recent release, "True Colours."

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online sales, Taylor Swift's recent single with rapper Kendrick Lamar, "Bad Blood," moved up 25 slots to No 1, with 385,000 downloads.

Reuters

Chris Pine in talks to play Steve Trevor in 'Wonder Woman'



Chris Pine

LOS ANGELES, 28 May —Chris Pine has reportedly got an offer to join "Wonder Woman". The "Star Trek Into Darkness" actor is in negotiations to

portray Steve Trevor, a love interest to Gal Gadot's super-heroine character princess Diana, reported Ace Showbiz.

Scott Eastwood was originally rumoured for the coveted part. Reports claimed the son of Clint Eastwood was given a choice to test for the Trevor role or sign on for a guaranteed supporting part in "Suicide Squad". He chose the latter.

"Wonder Woman" is set for 23 June, 2017. Patty

Jenkins is set to direct the comic book movie after Michelle MacLaren left due to creative differences. It is expected to be the first blockbuster superhero movie led by a female character since Marvel won't release their first super-heroine movie "Captain Marvel" until 2 November, 2018.

Pine was last seen on the big screen as Cinderella's Prince in Rob Marshall's star-studded "Into the Woods".—PTI

‘Lay Me Down’ changed my life: Sam Smith

LONDON, 28 May —Grammy-winning singer Sam Smith says his song "Lay Me Down" changed his life.

The 23-year-old singer took to Twitter to start the hashtag "HappyBirthdayITLH" to mark the mark the one-year anniversary of his chart-topping album "In The Lonely Hour".

In a series of tweets, he revealed, "Lay Me Down — we end where we began. #HappyBirthdayITLH... This was the first song I wrote for this record and the first song I ever wrote with my writing partner @jimmynapes ...

"This song changed my life and sent me in the direction where it was all about the voice... Lay Me Down continues to

teach me lessons every day... (sic)," he wrote.

The British singer also opened his heart about the song "Not In That Way" and says the lyrics deal with his unrequited love for the man who inspired the record in the most honest way.

The singer-songwriter — who is currently recovering from corrective voice surgery — revealed in more posts. "Not In That Way — now we get deep... All my life I've been looking for a song that hits me in the gut & makes me feel how unrequited love makes me feel. This (for me) is that song... It explains perfectly how you can love someone with all your heart, but just not in that way. That's powerful and real to me. (sic)"—PTI

GENERAL

Arsenal bid to down Villa and become leading FA Cup club

LONDON, 28 May — Arsene Wenger will seek to guide Arsenal to a record 12th FA Cup triumph when they face Aston Villa on Saturday and become the most successful manager in the history of the grand old competition.

Yet as the Frenchman homes in on winning the trophy for the sixth time — one more than his former Manchester United sparring partner Alex Ferguson — Wenger promises the landmark does not concern him.

Pitted against famished Premier League opponents Villa, who are desperate for success after a 19-year trophy drought and faced a relegation battle this side, Wenger's side are ready to retain the trophy they won last year against Hull City.

A sixth FA Cup win for Wenger would create a record in the modern understanding of a manager, though Villa's manager/secretary George Ramsay oversaw six FA Cup victories between 1887 and 1920 and was the driving force behind their success.

Wenger has had the same kind of impact at Arsenal since he arrived in 1996, but says setting an individual landmark does not particularly bother him.

"I'd love to do it but I'm not honestly focussed on that," the Frenchman told reporters in the build-up to the final. "I'm more focussed on the fact that we have fought so hard to get there. We went to Manchester United to qualify (in the quarter-finals) and



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

we had to win big games to get there. Now we want to finish the job."

To do so, though, Wenger will have to get the better of Tim Sherwood, who helped secure Villa's top flight status and has led them to a first FA Cup final in 15 years. Sherwood has brought back a glimmer

of Villa's glory days, especially by masterminding the stirring victory over Liverpool in the semi-final, though it is 58 years since they last lifted the trophy.

This season's competition has echoed Arsenal's road to glory last year as they laboured to overcome second-tier Championship opposition Reading in the semi-final to set up a show-piece match with Premier League relegation escapees.

For Hull last year, now read Villa, who would seal a place in next season's Europa League with a victory at Wembley. Arsenal, though, having broken their own nine-year trophy drought at Wembley last term, are not under quite the same pressure as they were to win it last year. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(29-5-2015 07:00 am~ 30-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Ma Myint Zu" | * News |
| * News | * Continuation In Rural Tradition |
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Bacca double helps Sevilla clinch Europa League

WARSAW, 28 May — Sevilla retained their Europa League title and lifted the trophy for a record fourth time amid a cascade of tears and ticker tape after securing a 3-2 victory over Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk in Wednesday's final.

Carlos Bacca claimed the plaudits with a superb double strike, including a late winner to decide a pulsating clash that began at a hair-raising pace with four goals in the first half.

It was an energetic end-to-end battle for most of the match. Dnipro had grabbed an early lead from Nikola Kalinic before Sevilla hit back with goals by Grzegorz Krychowiak and Bacca.

A free kick from Dnipro captain Ruslan Rotan made it 2-2 just before the break and it looked like the Ukrainians, playing in their first European final, might cause a stunning upset.

But Bacca settled the game for Sevilla and secured the trophy and a precious Champions League place handed to the winners for the first time as they go into the group stage.



Sevilla celebrate with their families and the trophy after winning the UEFA Europa League Final. — REUTERS

Colombia striker Bacca, substituted before the end, broke down on the bench with the emotion of it all as the final whistle sounded and the celebrations began. Sevilla are now the undisputed kings of the competition, having also won it twice in its former guise as the UEFA Cup in 2006 and 2007, and have moved ahead of Juventus, Liverpool and Inter Milan to stand alone with most wins on the honours board. Predictions that this would be a cagey affair were swiftly

confounded as the teams tore into each other from the start.

Within minutes of the kickoff Dnipro landed the first blow. A chip forward found Kalinic and he nodded the ball deftly into the path of Brazilian winger Matheus, whose precise cross was met by the Croatia target man to head low into the net past the sprawling dive of Sevilla keeper Sergio Rico.

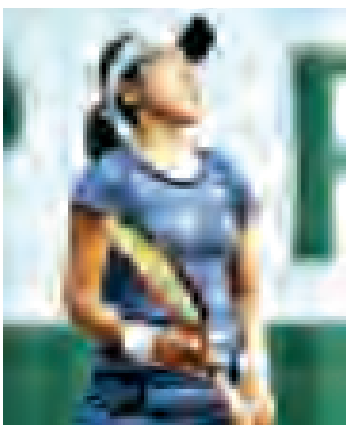
That seemed to spark some life into the wounded Spaniards and Krychowiak levelled after 28 minutes.

The Poland international raised the roof off the stadium in his home country when he received Bacca's knockdown, took a touch to get the ball out of his feet and drove his finish through several Dnipro bodies into the net.

Within three minutes Sevilla were ahead as Reyes set Bacca clear with a perfectly weighted through ball and the Colombian rounded keeper Denys Boyko before calmly slotting home.

Reuters

Doi bows out of women's singles at French Open



Japan's Misaki Doi reacts after losing a point to seventh-seeded Serbian Ana Ivanovic in the second round of the French Open in Paris on 27 May, 2015.

Ivanovic won 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

KYODO NEWS

PARIS, 28 May — Japan's Misaki Doi surrendered a one-set lead and was knocked out of the women's singles by seventh-seeded Serbian Ana Ivanovic in the second round of the French Open on Wednesday.

Unseeded Doi took the first set but Ivanovic hit back to take the match 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 and book her place in the next round.

"I gave it my best," said Doi, who is ranked 112th in the world. "I am disappointed because today in particular I think I could take something from the way I played."

"I have started to deliver on clay court the kind of results that make me think I should be higher than my current world ranking. I want to keep this level up."

Kyodo News

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(29-5-2015, Friday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 1:50 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe (Part-2) |
| 6:35 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Traditional Boxing |
| 7:35 am | 3:00 pm |
| • People's Talks | • News |
| 8:00 am | 3:35 pm |
| • News / International News | • People's Talks |
| 8:30 am | 5:15 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Teleplay |
| 8:35 am | 5:35 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • Current Affairs |
| 9:15 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Launching Ceremony of the Main Census Results (Live) | • News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | 7:35 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Road to Auckland (Myanmar U-20 : Our Team Our Dream) |
| 12:50 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • Clever | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 1:20 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Talk on Old Film (Part-1) | • News |
| | • Teleplay |
| | • Fashion Show |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(29-5-2015, Friday)

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|------------------------|--|
| 6:00 am | 9:15 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Launching Ceremony of the Main Census Results (Live) |
| 6:15 am | 9:25 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 6:40 am | 10:10 am |
| • Song Programme | • Musical Programme |
| 7:05 am | 10:25 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:55 am | 5:45 pm |
| • TV Drama Series | • ABU Radio Song Festival (2015) (Live) |
| 8:30 am | |
| • Musical Programme | |
| 8:45 am | |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | |

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No. 150,
Ngazun Road, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily."

Myanmar Laos Cambodia