

We need to decide how we want Myanmar to appear in the future and work together towards that goal, President says

Main Results of 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census released

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—President U Thein Sein delivered an address at the launching ceremony of the main results of the 2014 population and housing census at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, here, Friday.

On the occasion, the President said: Our Government made a decision in May 2011, just three months after the assumption of the office, to conduct a nationwide census that Myanmar has not been able to undertake for more than 30 years. I approached Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General, for technical support and mobilization of resources to conduct a nationwide census that would not only be in line with international standards but also meet our national needs. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and our development partners heeded our call and made it possible for undertaking the 2014 Census. We managed to conduct census in areas of our country where census has never been done before.

The four-year long undertaking has been implemented in four phases – the preparatory phase;

the data collection phase; the data processing phase; and lastly, the data analysis and dissemination phase. We released the Provisional Results in August 2014 in line with international standards and practices. In keeping with prior commitments, we are launching today the detailed Main Results of the 2014 Census.

Let me apprise you of the benefits and advantages that Myanmar now has due to the detailed nationwide census data.

As you all know, just as it is important for a country to have geographical territory, equally important are the size, distribution and characteristics of its population. The census information will enable us to take evidence-based decisions made on the basis of credible data, both at national and state/regional levels. We will then be able to devise and implement more appropriate and effective policies where no one will be left behind. Every citizen, irrespective of gender, race, status, or disabilities, will have equal access to education, health care and social services. On the other hand, the census information will provide us with an accurate data



President U Thein Sein addresses launching ceremony of the main results of the 2014 population and housing census.—MNA

on potential national human resources that we can utilize in national develop-

ment tasks.

Since we now know the actual data of the peo-

ple who are residing in the country, we no longer need to rely on estimation.

We can now devise necessary projects and plans and implement them accordingly and effectively. The information released today is invaluable not only for the Government but also for the private sector, ethnic national leaders, political leaders, members of parliament, development partners, civil society organizations and for all who are providing public services.

Taking this opportunity, let me link this nationwide census and the reform process that my Government has been undertaking with all efforts and strength. The political, economic and social reforms are directly or indirectly linked with the census results. From a situation where for many years, we had to do with estimation due to inability to undertake even a basic census, we are now in the position where we have accurate data to work out for meaningful results. This is a true value of the nationwide census.

Reliable and accurate census data will provide such information as available human resources, population-based market position on which plans and

(See page 3)

Myanmar delegation attends Special Meeting on Irregular Migration

BANGKOK, 29 May — A Myanmar delegation led by Acting Director-General U Htin Lin of International

Organizations and Economics Department attended the opening ceremony of the Special Meeting on

Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean hosted by Thailand was held at the Anatara Hotel in Bangkok

on Friday morning.

The Myanmar delegation includes officials of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Present at the meeting were the Thai deputy prime minister and foreign minister, senior officials from 17 countries including Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Lao and Cambodia, observers from the United States, Switzerland and Japan, UN agencies and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

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Special meeting on irregular migration in the Indian Ocean in progress in Bangkok.—MNA

Over 700 Bengali boat people rescued in Myanmar waters

PYAPON, 29 May—A 76-foot long iron hull boat with Thai letters saying the boat was in danger at sea was sighted by Myanmar Navy 34 miles southeast of Pyapon in Myanmar waters on Friday morning. A total of 727 people—608 Bengali men, 74 Bengali women and 45 children—aboard the boat were rescued by Myanmar Navy.

According to preliminary investigations, the boat people set out from the sea between Myanmar and Bangladesh in the fourth week of March with three boats to go to Malaysia via Thailand.

On arrival at Thai wa-

ters, they waited for Malaysian boats that would transport them to Malaysia for 45 days and as no one came to fetch them, they sailed back to their original place ten days ago. Bengalis from two boats were moved to the boat now rescued at sea which was operated by one of the Bengalis. About 50 people died on the way. The two boats left for Thailand with about 11 Thais aboard them.

The Tatmadaw is providing humanitarian aids to the boat people and taking them to the Hainggyi Island for necessary investigation before repatriating them to their country of origin.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw turns down new section to mining amendment bill

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday turned down the addition of a new section to the four-point fourth paragraph of the mining legislation

amendment bill, following a heated debate.

The two Houses, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, had held different views on the additional section.

Representatives from Kayin State and Mon State spoke in favour of the new section, stressing the fourth paragraph, if left unchanged, would benefit tycoons and prevent the de-

velopment of small and medium enterprises.

The fourth paragraph does not encompass SMEs, with the Bill Committee saying that the new section in question is not meant to

discourage them. The committee called for its cancellation, saying that the new change has nothing to do with the mining bill and that national business people are to go by the Foreign Investment Law if they want to work with foreign firms.

The proposed section

would require local SMEs to seek permission for working with foreign businesses.

Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung favoured the cancellation, citing the same implication in the foreign investment law.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets political parties



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets leaders of political parties.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met with leaders of political parties at the Pyithu Hluttaw, Hluttaw Complex, on Friday.

The speaker called for participation of all political parties for ensuring peace

and stability for successfully holding the free and fair multi-party democracy general elections in 2015, and cooperation among them for serving the national interest as well as making genuine peace process in the nation.

Leaders of political parties participated in the discussions.

The meeting was attended by leaders of Union Solidarity and Development

Party, National League for Democracy, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, National Unity Party, Rakhine National Party, National Democratic Force, Pa-O National Organization, All Mon Region Democracy Party, Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, Wa Democratic Party, Kayin State Democracy and Development Party, Kayin People's Party, Chin Progressive Party, Chin National Democratic Party, Unity and Democracy Party of Kachin State (SaDaKa), Taaung (Palaung) National Party, Inn National Development Party, and Shan Nationalities Leader for Democracy.—MNA

Yangon General Post Office fitted with blue plaque

YANGON, 29 May — A blue plaque was installed at the Yangon General Post Office on Friday as a product of Yangon Heritage Trust's effort to highlight historical heritage buildings to people of all ages and different social strata.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut, YGPO Manager U Shwe Tun Maung and Yangon Heritage Trust Director Daw Moe Moe Lwin unveiled the blue plaque. "The president gives encouragement to the preservation of ancient buildings," the union minister said, adding most people have little knowledge of what a blue plaque means.

Unregulated urbanization over the past 20 years is to blame for the disappearance of some historical heritage buildings, he admitted.

The post office is the fifth to be fitted with a blue

plaque in Yangon Region. The four others include the Yangon City Hall, the Ayeyawady Bank (previously Rowe & Co Department Store), the Armenian Church and the Central Fire Station.

The building was originally constructed and occupied by Bulloch Brothers Company in 1908, which was owned a Scottish rice dealer. It was later converted into the post office. The post office was previously located at the six-story office on the corner of Strand Road and 32nd Street. An earthquake damaged it in 1930, prompting the post office to move to its current place.

According to Daw Moe Moe Lwin, Yangon Heritage Trust is committed to initiating the preservation of colonial buildings and raise public awareness of their historical significance.

GNLM

Myanmar delegation . . .

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At the meeting, the Thai deputy prime minister highlighted the importance of search and rescue operations, combat against people smuggling and human trafficking and finding the causes of illegal migration at sea.

Then, officials from the IOM, the UNHCR, Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia discussed illegal migrant issues.

Head of the Myanmar delegation clearly stated the view of Myanmar by saying that Myanmar issued a statement on boat people on 19 May to express its concern about the boat people after receiving boat people were drifting at sea and search and rescue operations being carried out and readiness to cooperate the international community. He continued that Myanmar welcomed the joint statement of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand issued on 19 May and Malaysian and Indonesian foreign ministers visited Myanmar

on 21 May and discussed prospects for cooperation. He also added that Myanmar formed the emergency management committee for illegal migrants at sea chaired by a vice president to prevent illegal migration, human trafficking and people smuggling and to effectively search and rescue boat people. Myanmar will also attend the ministerial meeting on trans-border crime and is ready to cooperate with regional and international countries, according to the acting director-general.

Then, participants held discussions on issues of illegal migration at sea.

The meeting approved the draft minute that includes providing care and protection for boat people in countries they arrive, information sharing, mobilization of resources for emergency response and cooperation for combat against human trafficking and people smuggling.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker tours Warsaw, meets high-ranking officials

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint visited Poland through Belarus on 24 May, officials said.

On 25 May, the speaker toured of Warsaw University Library, Royal Museum and Gardens.

He also met Mr Andrzej Rzeplinski, Head of Polish Constitutional Tribunal, and Mr Andrzej Arendarski, President of the Polish Chamber of Commerce.

On 26 May, he met Polish Foreign Minister Mr Grzegorz Schetyna and Mr Bogdan Borusewicz, Speaker of the Senate of Poland, and discussed mat-

ters related to parliamentary relations between the two countries.

After meeting with Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Mr Janusz Piechocinski, the speaker visited Royal Castle.

On 27 May, he met Dr Irena Lipowicz and Mr Marek Ziolkowski, who is Chairman of the National Economy Committee of the Senate of Poland, at Human Rights Defender Office. In the evening, he visited Warsaw Rising Museum.

He also met Mr Eugeniusz Grzeszczak, Deputy Speaker of the Sejm of Poland.—MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint shakes hands with Polish Foreign Minister Mr Grzegorz Schetyna and Mr Bogdan Borusewicz.—MNA

International Film Heritage Festival begins

YANGON, 29 May — International Film Heritage Festival depicting 50 world classics and four Myanmar classics was launched at the Nay Pyi Taw Cinema in Yangon on Friday.

The launching ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut, French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou and ambassadors, actresses including Catherine Deneuve, Michelle Yeoh of Malay-

sia, Cheng Pei-pei of Hong Kong, Mary Lee of Malaysia, Daw Swe Zin Htaik, Daw Khin Thida Tun and Daw Thin Thin Yu of Myanmar. The film festival was jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Film Association, French Embassy in Myanmar and Technicolor Foundation for Cinema Heritage of France. The classic films will be shown until 7 June.—MNA

NATIONAL

We need to decide...

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projects can be devised for effective provisions public services, development of private sector, attract foreign direct investment flows that would ensure economic development for the country.

In the social reform process, population information would enable effective provision of education, health care and development of cultures of ethnic national races.

From the political dialogues that we will be conducting in the very near future to establish a Union based on federal principles, we will certainly encounter issues of categorizing and recognizing the ethnic national races based on political agreement reached. In this respect, census data would facilitate addressing the said issues. Also based on the outcomes of the political dialogues, issues of citizenship will be determined by legislative and administrative means. I am of the view that the census information will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our country and our society. Both my Government and I have placed great emphasis on the nationwide census and worked hard for its successful conclusion as a matter of priority. We feel that we have made a national achievement that we can be proud of.

There are reasons why I have just mentioned that the successful conclusion of nationwide census should be viewed as a national achievement. Last year, during the launching of census publicity campaign I mentioned that census could not be undertaken by one individual or by one organization, but requires combined efforts of an entire national brethren. It is an enormous national task that entails

concerted efforts of all nationals in order to conclude in a timely manner. Today, we have not only demonstrated to the world the combined unity and strength of Myanmar and its national races but also established a milestone in the history of Myanmar.

I wish to extend the sincere appreciations of the Government of Myanmar to the donors, political parties, ethnic national leaders, religious organizations and civil society organizations throughout the country for the support they have rendered to make this task possible. My appreciation also goes to all the Myanmar people who welcomed the census enumerators to their homes and communities and patiently answered their questions.

In addition, I fully appreciate the participation and cooperation rendered in the census process by ethnic national leaders, specifically the ethnic armed groups accepting it as a matter of national duty.

My Government and I also extend our sincere gratitude to the United Nations and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), donors, namely Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, for their support and generous contributions. Their financial, technical and logistical supports are vital for the success of our census. I also acknowledge the work that has been done by a vast number of national and international consultants and our national staff members from different ministries and organizations. Their efforts have made it possible for us to complete this immense undertaking and release the main census results as planned.



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents main results of 2014 population and housing census to Mrs Janet E Jackson (L), UNFPA Director to Myanmar and British Ambassador Mr Andrew Patrick.—MNA

Our special thanks also go to the members of International Technical Advisory Board (ITAB). They played an important advisory role on the technical and quality assurance aspects of the census throughout the census process. They ensured and verified that the census was conducted in line with international standards, which establish scientific criteria for transparency and reliability. This removes any doubt on soundness of the process and trustworthiness of the results. We the people and the Government of Myanmar will always remember your kind help and contribution to our census.

Today is the first step of the dissemination of census data – the activity, which will continue in the next couple of months. I wish to emphasize that we cannot implement development without the participation of community leaders and the people. It must be implemented with the combined efforts of the Government, the development partners and the people to achieve a complete success. We have successfully acquired

data from the areas, where we were unable to collect previously due to various reasons, and have accurately estimated the population based on data collected during mapping and checking with more advanced estimation techniques. The concerted effort exerted by leadership of various sectors can be considered as our country's human resource and human investment.

We will soon be conducting series of workshops to disseminate the results of the main census. We will also be sharing the experiences and knowledge gained from those results. The knowledge is the best instrument that can facilitate changes where it is needed and develop areas that have potentials.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population have made available the result of the census – in print, on internet, and on DVDs. Simplified reports are also prepared for non-technical

users. I wish to urge the media to further publicize the results of the census and to educate people more on the census results. The Government wants the people to know that population information has been made available to the general public accurately and transparently. Let us move forward by using the census data as resources to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of our people and our prospects for the future.

Today, our census reflects the image of Myanmar. We need to decide how we want Myanmar to appear in the future and work together towards that goal. Let each and every one of us play an active role in whatever part we have in the future of our country.

Now, I have a pleasure and honour as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to officially release the Main Results of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census

and declare available to all users in the country and anywhere in the world.

UNSG's special adviser Mr Vijay Nambiar and the UNFPA Asia and Pacific Region Director extended greetings.

Patron of the Central Census Commission Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented main results of the 2014 population and housing census to the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council for region and state chief ministers, the director of UNDP to Myanmar for UN agencies, the British Ambassador for international donors and U Ngwe Then for civil society organizations.

Chairman of the commission Union Minister U Khin Yi explained population, household affairs, migration, education and economic sectors, use of communication devices and disabilities matters.

The president cordially greeted the guests.—MNA

Myanmar-Viet Nam focuses on cooperation in sector-wise development

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, co-chaired the 8th Meeting of Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation at Lake Garden Hotel here Friday.

The meeting discussed cooperation in diplomatic and consular, trade, industrial, investment, financial and banking, transport, post and telecommunication, culture, sports and tourism, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, health and education, defence and security, labour and social, and science and technology sectors.

The ministerial meeting

was proceeded by the Senior Officials' Meeting led by U San Lwin, Director-General of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Nguyen Thanh Tan, Director-General, South East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, at Lake Garden hotel Thursday.—MNA

Thai human trafficking boat owner arrested in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May—Myanmar Navy rescued a human-trafficking boat carrying 208 Bengalis on 21 May and the owner of the trawler was identified as Thai citizen Ou Mint (a) Phimint (a) Soe Win (a) Naingnutpatunsantun who lives at No.246, Mosaung Street, Banun Ward in Rangoon after interrogating 17 sailors and 3 interpreters.

He was said to have contacted human trafficking gangs in Bangladesh and trafficked people into

Thailand and Malaysia. It was also learnt that he might have fled.

To arrest the 53-year old suspect, Myanmar Police Force contacted Thai police. After exchanging information with Thai police, members of MPF arrested the suspect at Maha Nwe Tea House at the junction of Laydauntkan Street in Mingaladon, Yangon. The police are trying to arrest the other people involved in the case, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—MNA



Thai Citizen Ou Mint (a) Phimint (a) Soe Win (a) Naingnutpatunsantun.
MNA

Health workers, community members aim to prevent malaria



MYANAUNG, 29 May — A meeting to prevent the spread of malaria recently took place at the

Township People's Hospital in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region. Township medical

officer Dr Maung Maung Chit called for effective dissemination of health and disease-control

knowledge in cooperation with local people.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Ministry opens basic tourist guide course

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Shwe delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of a tour guide course at Panda Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw recently.

A total of 130 trainees studied tourism subjects under instructors and officials of the ministry.

The training course is being conducted at Yatha Condominium at the corner of Maha Bandoola and 31st streets in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, from 25 May to 17 July.—MNA

Workshop highlights HIV/AIDS



NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — A workshop to disseminate the latest information on HIV/AIDS, including the rights of sufferers and responsi-

bilities of the media, was staged at Hotel Mandalay in Mahaaungmye Township on 28 May.

UNAIDS adviser Geraldine Cazorla and Dr Sai Lone Tip spoke about the spread of HIV/AIDS in Myanmar, as well as

around the world.

Officials gave talks on HIV and human rights, prevention of illegal drug use, Myanmar's response to drug abuse and media ethics in reporting about HIV/AIDS.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons discussed

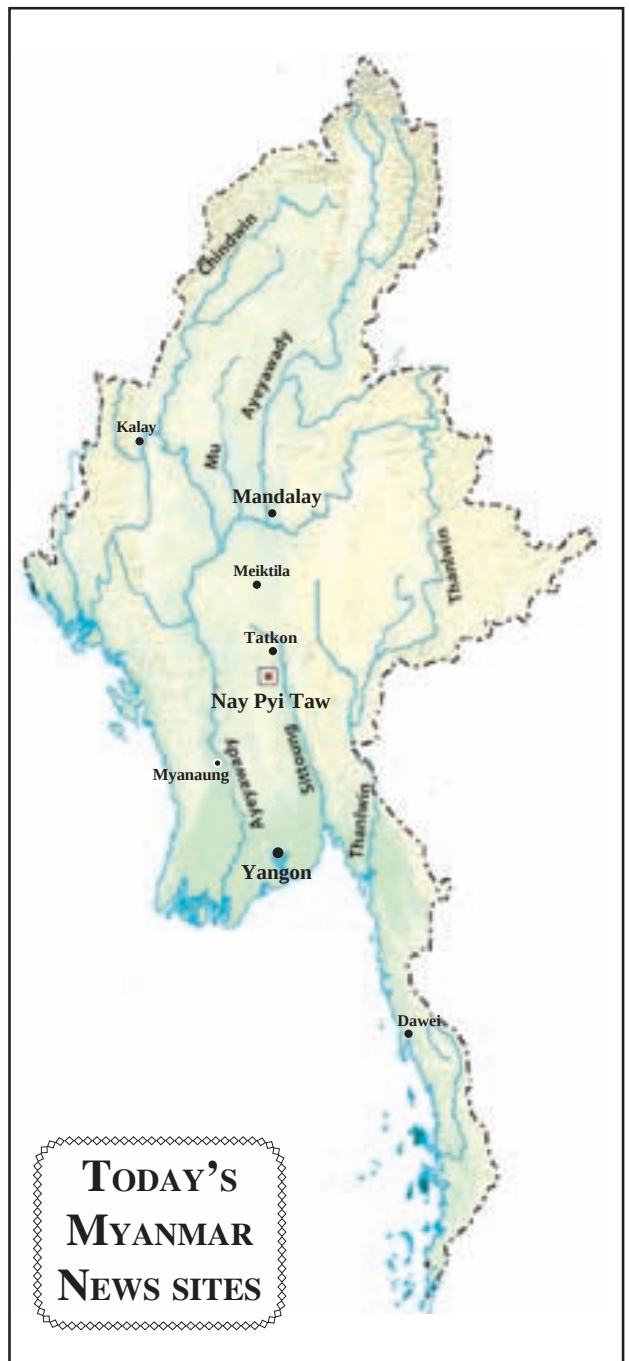
MANDALAY, 29 May — Under the arrangement of the Central Committee for Prevention of Human Trafficking, the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons held an explanatory meeting in Chanayethazan Township on 26 May.

During the meeting at the Shwepyitha Hotel, Australian representative Mr Neale Fursdong discussed cooperation between the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Corps and local stations.

Monitoring and assessment officer U Thiha Swe spoke about combating trafficking in person.

Secretary of Mandalay Region Government U Win Shein, Commander of Region Police Force Pol Col Han Tun, Police Lt-Col Mi Ni Oo of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Corps (Nay Pyi Taw), Head of Region Social Welfare Department U Kyaw Win and officers participated in the discussions.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Traditional medicine kits provided to villages

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Emergency traditional medicine kits were distributed to villages in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Friday.

At the office of the Township General Administration Department, district deputy commissioner U Zaw Lwin Oo gave a

speech, while head of the district Traditional Medicine Department U Hla Maw explained the distribution of the kits, including the types of medicine and their usage.

The deputy commissioner and officials handed over the traditional medicine kits to village-tract administrators.—Shwe Kokko



Mandalay news in brief

Korea Expo 10-14 June

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, the Korea Expo will be held at the city hall in Mandalay from 10 to 14 June. More than 40 companies will showcase products at more than 120 booths.

SME Business Networking (B2B) 31 May

Mandalay Region Small-and-Medium-scale Enterprises Subcommittee plans to hold a SME Business Networking (B2B) event on 31 May on board a ship on the Ayeyawady River while enjoying the scenic beauty of the river.

Mdy Agricultural Development Bank disburses loans

The Mandalay Region Agricultural Development Bank is disbursing agriculture loans to local farmers as of 21 May. A total of 23 bank branches in the townships of the region will deliver K75,292.68 million to local farmers with a plan for K100,000 per acre of paddy and K20,000 per acre of crops.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

REGIONAL

“60 Years anniversary of friendship between Myanmar and Israel”



U Nu, Prime Minister of Burma (now Myanmar), was greeted by Prime Minister Moshe Sharret at Lod Airport

YANGON, 29 May — marks an important day. The 29th of May 2015 in the ongoing friendship

between Myanmar and Israel. 60 years ago, on the 29th of May 1955, prime minister of Myanmar U Nu, landed in Israel for an official state visit.

It was the first official state visit to be held in the young state of Israel.

The visit left a remarkable impact and unforgettable memory on the people and state of Israel.

The ties between the two countries grow stronger and deeper since then.

GNLM

Thai gov't aims for reconciliation with new constitution

BANGKOK, 29 May — Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said on Thursday in an interview with *Kyodo News* that reconciliation between the country's opposing political forces requires the drafting of a new constitution that both sides agree to.

On the ongoing conflict between supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and their opponents, Prawit said, “There is little meaning in discussions between rival forces having differing views.”

“If both sides accept a new constitution that is the supreme law in the country, reconciliation will be achieved,” he said during the hourlong interview.

Thailand's provisional Cabinet earlier this month agreed to pave the way for holding a public referendum on a new constitution, which means the general election slated for early next year will likely be delayed by some months.

Amid a long-standing political gridlock, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha came to power in a coup in May last year shortly after the civilian government of Yingluck Shinawatra, sister



Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan

of Thaksin, was ousted by a court ruling. Thaksin was ousted in a military coup in 2006.

With Japan's easing last year of its arms exports ban, Prawit said discussions are underway in the Thai air force on the purchase of Japanese aircraft.

Although he did not mention specific models being considered, he expects the planes to be used for non-military applications such as extinguishing forest fires.

“It's necessary to make a comprehensive assessment based on such factors as price and convenience,” he said, indicating that it is unclear whether or not the

government will begin to consider such a purchase.

“We would buy whatever is best and most useful for Thailand,” he said.

On tensions in the South China Sea, he said a resolution through negotiations is necessary, calling on the countries involved to exert self-restraint.

“Thailand does not want to see violence in the South China Sea, and we encourage all concerned parties for talks and cooperation for mutual benefit,” he said.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea. But Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taipei and Vietnam also have overlapping claims in the waters.

On the economic front, Prawit urged more Japanese investment into Thailand, particularly the special economic zones near its border area.

“Thailand is an agricultural country and is full of resources,” he said. “Japanese investors can explore various industries such as processed foods, Halal foods and rubber. We have enough land for industrial estates and provide tax exemption to investors.”

Kyodo News

Death toll in heat wave across India reaches 1,700

NEW DELHI, 29 May — The death toll in the heat wave across India in the last one week has risen to 1,700, an official said on Friday.

“Most of the deaths have happened in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Some 100 people have died of heat stroke in Telangana in the last 24 hours,” he said.

Both the states have been recording around 47 degrees Celsius while the temperature in the Indian

capital has been hovering around 45 degrees Celsius, according to weather officials.

Fatalities have also been reported from the western state of Gujarat as well, the official said, adding that most of those who died were homeless people and labourers.

Meanwhile, the weather department forecast that the heat wave will continue till Sunday.

“The heat wave warn-

ing has been extended for two more days,” YK Reddy, who heads the weather office department in Hyderabad, the capital of both the southern states, told the media.

The government of the both the southern states have urged people not to go out during peak summer hours while health officials have suggested people to drink plenty of fluids before venturing out. —Xinhua

Volcano eruption evacuates all on small southwestern Japan island

TOKYO, 29 May — A volcano erupted on Friday morning on Kuchinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, prompting authorities to evacuate everyone on the island by sea and air.

The 9:59 am “explosive” eruption of Mt Shindake, which rises about 650 meters above sea level, sent a plume of black smoke over 9 kilometres above the crater and caused a pyroclastic flow to reach the coast, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

All the 137 islanders have been confirmed safe and left the island, including a 72-year-old man who received a burn on his forehead but is conscious and could walk by himself, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and other authorities said.

The residents and visitors of Kuchinoerabu, about 1,000 km southeast of Tokyo, where access is limited to two ferry routes, were transported by ferry and coast guard to nearby Yakushima Island by Friday evening.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters after the eruption, “I have instructed the relevant personnel to do all they can to ensure the safety of the islanders.”

A 64-year-old guesthouse manager on the island in the East



Sadayuki Kitagawa, chief of the department for volcanic affairs at the Japan Meteorological Agency, holds a Press conference at the agency in Tokyo on 29 May, 2015, following the eruption of a volcano on Kuchinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan. The 9:59 am “explosive” eruption of Mt Shindake caused a plume over 9 kilometers above the crater and a pyroclastic flow to reach the coast, the agency said.—KYODO NEWS

China Sea told *Kyodo News*, “The sound (of the blast) was tremendous this time” and that she immediately ran to a shelter.

Another evacuee Yukina Masuda said, “The scale is far larger than last year's eruption,” referring to the volcanic island's previous eruption last 3 August that had a plume of more than 800 meters and led to 87 people leaving the island the next day.

The island is also about 100 km south of the southern tip of Ja-

pan's southwestern main island of Kyushu.

Following the latest eruption, the prime minister's office set up a crisis response office and sent a fact-finding team, and the Japan Coast Guard and the Self-Defence Forces sent ships and aircraft to gather more information while the Kagoshima prefectural government sought an SDF disaster mission.

The evacuation warning comes as the Japan Meteorological

Agency's alert for the island has been upgraded to the highest level of 5 — hitting the level for the first time since the volcanic alert system was introduced in 2007 — and up from 3, which imposes restrictions on climbing the volcano.

Eruptions of similar size could occur again, an agency official told a Press conference, noting that the latest one that lasted for five to six minutes and was followed by smaller eruptions may have been caused by magma rather than water vapor.

Kuchinoerabu has repeatedly seen eruptions and earthquakes, some of which have turned deadly. In 1841 Mt Shindake erupted, burning villages and resulting in many deaths, while a series of eruptions from late 1933 to early 1934 left eight people dead and 26 injured.

Experts had seen some unusual signs on the island for about a decade before last year's eruption, and the latest eruption could be a relatively large, prolonged one, said associate professor Ryusuke Imura of Kagoshima University.

Japan lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire and experts have warned that the magnitude-9.0 earthquake that hit northeastern Japan in March 2011 may have cranked up volcanic activity.— *Kyodo News*

Cambodia rescues another 199 trafficked labourers from Thai fishing boats in Indonesia

PHNOM PENH, 29 May — Cambodia has saved another 199 Cambodian people, who were trafficked to work as illegal fishermen in Indonesia, Koy Kuong, spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Friday.

“With the cooperation from the Indonesian authorities, the Cambodian Embassy (to Indonesia) has rescued 199 Cambodian labourers from Thai fishing vessels in the Indonesian island of Ambon,” he said in a news statement.

The group will return to Cambodia in late June, said he.

On Wednesday, the spokesman said that another group of 59 Cambodian trafficked workers, who were also rescued from fishing boats in Indonesia, will arrive in Cambodia this week and next week.

Trafficked fishermen are frequently forced to work long hours and physically and psychologically abused. They are often unpaid and forced to serve on voyages for months or even years.

Xinhua

US to reiterate base relocation plan in meeting with Okinawa governor

WASHINGTON, 29 May — A US official will meet with the Okinawa governor next week but the event will only illustrate differences over the issue of US military posture on the Japanese island, a State Department spokesman suggested on Thursday.

Joe Young, head of the department's Office of Japanese Affairs, will meet with Gov Takeshi Onaga at the department during his upcoming visit to Washington, the spokesman Jeff Rathke told reporters.

Onaga will arrive in the US capital on Saturday from Hawaii to promote his staunch opposition to the plan to transfer the function

of the Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station within the southern island.

Rathke said, however, that both US and Japanese governments last month reaffirmed the current Futenma relocation plan will be "the only solution that addresses all of the operational, political, financial and strategic concerns."

"So we welcome the steady and continuing progress toward that end," Rathke said. Both governments plan to move the function of the Futenma base from a crowded area in Ginowan to a newly built seaside facility in the Henoko area in Nago, using part of the land of the

Marine's Camp Schwab. Onaga, who was elected in November last year, has demanded the function of the Futenma base be transferred outside Okinawa, which already hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.

Onaga will stay in the US capital until 4 June but no other meetings with US government officials have been published so far.

While Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has pushed ahead preparatory work in the sea for the construction of the relocation facility, protestors and coast guard officials frequently clash and have tussles on boats.

Kyodo News

Iran's Zarif hopes for nuclear deal within 'reasonable period of time'



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif gestures after a joint news conference with his Greek counterpart Nikos Kotzias in Athens on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 29 May — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Thursday he hoped Teheran and world powers would reach a final nuclear deal "within a reasonable period of time" but this would be hard if the other side stuck to what he called excessive demands. Iran, the Unit-

ed States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China reached a tentative framework for a nuclear pact on 2 April but several issues remain unresolved. They have a self-imposed June 30 deadline to arrive at a comprehensive agreement.

"If the other side respects what has been agreed in Lausanne and tries to draft, based on mutual respect, a comprehensive agreement with Iran that is sustainable..., then we can meet any deadline," Zarif said after meeting his Greek counterpart. "If people insist on excessive demands, on renegotiation, then it will be difficult to envisage an agreement even without a deadline," he said in Athens. France warned on Wednesday it was ready to block a

final breakthrough deal unless Teheran provided UN nuclear inspectors access to all installations, including military bases.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, last week ruled out international inspection of Iran's military sites or access to nuclear scientists under any agreement. Iran's military commanders echoed his remarks. Iranian state television reported on Wednesday that the 30 June deadline might be extended. But the United States said it was not considering an extension despite comments from France and Iran indicating there was wiggle room. Zarif is expected to meet his US counterpart John Kerry in Geneva on Saturday.

Reuters

US defence aid to Israel to rise over Iran deal fears — sources



Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon (L) speaks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a session of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem on 1 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

TEL AVIV, 29 May — US defence aid to Israel is likely to increase after 2017, sources on both sides said on Thursday, seeing a possible link to Washington's efforts to assuage its ally's fears over nuclear diplomacy with Iran.

A current package worth \$3 billion (£1.9 billion) a year expires in 2017. A US official, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said negotiators were close to a new deal that would bring annual payouts to \$3.6 billion to \$3.7 billion on average.

An Israeli official, who also declined to be named, put the expected aid at between \$3.5 billion and \$4 billion. "They (the United States) are trying to douse the fires after our flare-up about the Iran deal," the official added, referring to curbs being negotiated on Teheran's disputed nuclear programme, which Israel has condemned as insufficient. Responding to the Reuters

report that an increased defence aid package was in the works, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed there were such discussions with the Americans but said he would keep campaigning against Iran.

"There is no trade-off requiring I agree to this (nuclear) deal with Iran. The deal is bad and we will continue to oppose it," Netanyahu said in remarks quoted by Israeli broadcasters. In Washington, White House National Security Council spokesman Alistair Baskie said: "These reports are wholly inaccurate."

"While we anticipate discussions in the coming period between the US and Israeli governments about how long-term security co-operation between the two countries can be further strengthened, no such detailed discussions at a senior level have occurred recently," Baskie said in a statement.

The Pentagon had no

immediate comment.

The previous US administration signed a 10-year deal with Israel in 2007 giving it \$30 billion, most of which must be spent on American military products. Washington has earmarked hundreds of millions more dollars for Israeli missile defences.

A year ago, with talks about the new aid package under way, a US official said Israel was seeking a significant increase but that the Obama administration, beset by domestic cost-cutting, was unlikely to agree beyond adjusting for inflation. Since then, the United States and five other world powers have pressed ahead with the Iran negotiations, setting a 30 June deadline for a final accord.

Teheran denies seeking nuclear weapons. The talks have been dogged by disputes about the degree to which projects with bomb-making potential should be capped.

Israel's worries about the diplomacy have been echoed by Gulf Arab leaders, whom US President Barack Obama hosted on 14 May and sought to reassure with offers of boosted defence. Such aid to Gulf Arabs has often ushered in increases in aid to Israel, whose military "qualitative edge" in the region successive US administrations have pledged to preserve.

Asked if the expected hike in defence grants to Israel was linked to Washington's recent dealings with Iran and the Gulf Arab states, the US official said: "Could be."—Reuters

One of longest shots, Republican Pataki announces White House bid

EXETER, (NH), 29 May — Former New York Governor George Pataki announced on Thursday he will run for the White House in 2016, becoming one of the longest shots in a crowded Republican presidential nomination contest.

The three-term governor has not held office since 2006 and barely registers in opinion polls on more than a dozen Republican presidential hopefuls.

Announcing his candidacy in the town of Exeter, New Hampshire, Pataki took a swipe at Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton for charging high speaking fees. "She speaks for the middle class? They are

the party of privilege, we are the party of the middle class," he said.

Pataki, 69, represents a moderate voice in the Republican presidential field.

As governor of one of the most Democratic-leaning states, he supported abortion rights and signed tough gun control legislation. But on Thursday he said his "conservative policies" had slashed the number of people on welfare.

Lacking name recognition, Pataki might struggle to make it into the first Republican debate in August on Fox News, which will be limited to the top 10 Republicans in national opinion polls.



Republican presidential candidate and former New York Governor George Pataki (L) greets supporters after formally announcing his candidacy for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination in Exeter, New Hampshire, on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Pataki, the eighth Republican to formally enter the White House race, said

his time as governor during the 11 September, 2001, attacks in New York and

Washington had given him valuable insight into the fight against Islamic State.

"I will never forget the lesson of September 11th. We will destroy radical Islam's ability to attack us over there before they have the chance to attack us here," he said in Exeter, where the Republican Party was founded in 1853.

Pataki told CNN this month that the United States should deploy ground troops against Islamic State in a limited way, and referred to that idea again on Thursday.

"And yes, if necessary, American forces will be used to actually defeat and destroy ISIS so they can

pose no threat to us here," he said.

Pataki called for a simplification of the US tax code and a ban on former members of Congress becoming lobbyists, and vowed to repeal Democratic President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law. The former governor has been carrying out low-key campaigning in recent months, especially in early voting state New Hampshire and Florida.

Pataki was a first-term state senator in New York when he beat Democratic Governor Mario Cuomo in a national wave of Republican victories in 1994.

Reuters

German vice chancellor says Europe may need to move at different speeds



Sigmar Gabriel, German Minister for Economic Affairs

BERLIN, 29 May — German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said that Europe may have to move at different speeds in the future, with Germany and France taking the lead and leaving others to follow later.

“We need in Europe more courage for different speeds in co-operation,” Gabriel wrote in an opinion piece published in Germany’s mass-selling *Bild* on

Friday. “Some — especially France and Germany — need to lead the way, for example in energy policy or in the co-operation of economic and finance policy. Others can follow when they are ready,” he wrote.

“Not everyone needs to do everything. But we need deeper co-operation under the roof of the European Union.”

His comments come on the day that British

Prime Minister David Cameron holds talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin as part of a whirlwind European tour to try to drum up support for European Union reform. Cameron has various demands, the thrust of which are to take back powers from Brussels to allow Britain to opt out of what he sees as a dangerous shift to greater political integration.

Gabriel said Europe needed to reform to become more social and fair, and called for more investment and growth to create jobs, as well as a fair distribution of migrants from North Africa. “The tasks that lay before us are so big, that every country is too small to solve them alone. Even strong Germany. For this reason it’s time for Europe to reform,” he said.

Reuters

Outgoing UN aid chief paints harrowing portrait of Syria war

UNITED NATIONS, 29 May — The United Nations’ outgoing humanitarian chief on Thursday painted a harrowing portrait of savagery in Syria’s civil war, now in its fifth year, and urged the Security Council to take collective action to put an end to the carnage.

The Syrian war has killed more than 220,000 people. Of the country’s roughly 23 million people, some 12.2 million are in need of humanitarian aid, including 5 million children.

“For more than four years, we have watched Syria descend into deeper depths of despair surpassing even what the most pessimistic observers thought possible,” Valerie Amos said in her final briefing to the UN Security Council before handing over the post to her fellow Briton Stephen O’Brien.

“In the past weeks, we have seen more and more heinous acts. Innocent men, women and children killed, maimed, displaced, and subjected to a savagery that no human should have to endure.” She cited an aerial bomb attack on a market in Darkoush late last month which killed between 40 and 50 civilians and referred to reports of Islamic State militants executing dozens of civilians over the past week

Outgoing United Nations’ humanitarian chief Valerie Amos speaks to the media during her final news conference at United Nations Headquarters in the Manhattan borough New York on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS



after capturing Palmyra.

“The use of chlorine continues to be reported, killing, injuring and terrorizing civilians,” she said. “Schools and hospitals continue to be attacked.”

She urged the council to take action to protect civilians and end the sieges, ensure aid workers have access, and bring war criminals to account. Last month she called for an arms embargo and sanctions on Syria.

Amos said aid workers were unable to access any of the 422,000 people under siege in Syria in April. She accused the government of introducing new rules and regulations, causing unnecessary delays in delivery of urgently needed aid.

“ISIL’s (Islamic State) advance brings with it new depths of depravity to Syria with indiscriminate killing and maiming, raping and

destroying,” she said. “They have forcibly recruited children and made the delivery of humanitarian assistance more and more difficult.”

Amos said the warring sides have “ignored practically all aspects” of a February 2014 Security Council resolution authorizing cross-border aid access and requiring parties to the conflict to allow aid workers to help those in need.

Syria’s UN Ambassador Bashar Ja’afari dismissed Amos’ criticism of his government, saying the real problem was terrorist groups getting support from the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. US, European and other unilateral sanctions were making the humanitarian situation worse, he said, adding that “such unjust measures must end.”

Reuters

Mexican president misrepresented personal land deal, records show

VALLE DE BRAVO, (Mexico), 29 May — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto misrepresented to authorities the circumstances under which he acquired one of his properties, public documents reviewed by Reuters show, a discrepancy that could add to a controversy surrounding his personal finances.

According to an official asset declaration first made in 2013, Pena Nieto stated that he acquired the property through a “donation” or gift from his father. Pena Nieto, who made his asset declaration public in 2013 as part of a transparency and accountability push, has since updated and ratified this declaration twice.

Under a public information request, Reuters reviewed documents showing that Pena Nieto actually purchased the property in question — a 1,000 square metre piece of land in the town of Valle de Bravo — in 1988 from a third party. He paid 11.2 million pesos, equivalent to about \$5,000 (3,261.58 pounds) at the time, the registry shows. His wealth declaration lists the property as being valued at just 11,200 “old” pesos, the equivalent to about \$5 at the time.



Mexico’s President Enrique Pena Nieto

Reuters was unable to determine why Pena Nieto’s declaration mischaracterised the purchase as a gift and understated the price. The declaration lists eight other real estate properties, five of which are also listed as donations. Reuters could not determine if those five properties, which include houses and land, are accurately characterized.

Mexican public officials face no requirement to explain the source of any funds used to obtain properties they receive as gifts, but they are required to accurately declare how they acquire their properties.

The president’s office, asked to explain the discrepancies in the documents, declined repeated requests to comment.

Several hours after Reuters published its story, the president’s spokesman publicly released a letter on the presidential website addressed to Reuters reporter

Simon Gardner.

It asserted that the property was a donation and that Pena Nieto’s father had purchased it in his son’s name.

Pena Nieto has been under pressure in recent months over a series of conflict-of-interest scandals centred on properties he, his wife Angelica Rivera and Finance Minister Luis Videgaray acquired from government contractors.

Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui and her colleagues reported last year that Rivera was acquiring a multi-million dollar home from a unit of a government contractor which was part of a Chinese-led consortium that had won a \$3.75 billion high speed rail contract. *The Wall Street Journal* later reported that Pena Nieto purchased a home from a developer which, the newspaper said, went on to win millions of dollars in state public works contracts.

The president has denied any wrongdoing. But the scandals have overshadowed a major economic reform drive that Pena Nieto was hoping would boost the world’s 15th biggest economy.

Reuters

Hundreds seek safety from Texas floods, severe weather kills 16

AUSTIN, (Texas), 29 May — Hundreds of people fled areas near Texas rivers that overflowed their banks on Thursday as the state reeled from severe storms this week that killed at least 17 people, flooded cities and set a record for the wettest month.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch stretching from south of San Antonio to Dallas, through Oklahoma, where severe weather this week

killed an additional six people, and into Kansas. Thunderstorms pelted large parts of the affected region.

The city of Wharton, about 60 miles (100 km) southwest of Houston, issued a voluntary evacuation notice for about 300 homes along the Colorado River, where water was expected to rise through Friday.

The Brazos River flooded about 30 miles (50 km) west of Fort Worth and was expected to crest on Thurs-

day evening. Hundreds left their homes on Wednesday as the waterway began breaching its banks, Parker County officials said.

State climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said the average rainfall across the state was 7.54 inches (19 cm) in May, breaking the record of 6.66 inches (17 cm) set in June 2004, according to records that date to 1895.

“It has been ridiculous,” Nielsen-Gammon said.

The body of a man was

found on the banks of the Blanco River in San Marcos, authorities said late on Thursday, bringing the number of fatalities to at least 17.

The man, who was discovered among flood debris, was not yet identified, according to Hays County officials.

The body of a boy was recovered on Wednesday near San Marcos, Hays County officials said. The boy was thought to have been swept away in Blan-

co River floods that ripped houses off their foundations.

The new storms could hinder rescue workers searching for those washed away along the river.

“We are not expecting another surge of the river, but it is going to shift debris piles,” Kharley Smith, the county’s emergency management coordinator, told a news conference.

President Barack Obama has pledged federal support and said the government

had been working with local officials.

“They appear to have the assets they need at this stage to respond, but there’s going to be a lot of rebuilding,” Obama said in Miami on Thursday during a tour of the National Hurricane Centre.

There was no damage estimate available for Texas, which has a \$1.4 trillion-a-year economy and is the country’s leading domestic source of energy.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 30 May, 2015

Nationalism is an infantile disease

By Myint Win Thein

When Myanmar was under British colonial rule for more than a century, nationalism was employed as a political ideology to rally the people toward independence. It was powerful enough to unite the

people across the country and eventually force the British out. As a result, many people in Myanmar, as in other formerly colonised nations, fail to see the dark side of nationalism.

First of all, nationalism can incite hatred toward some other countries and peoples, even today, in this era of unparalleled international co-operation. It is the cause of wars and conflicts that every reasonable person wants to avoid.

Nationalism is sometimes exploited by politicians or political groups for their own ends. While these politicians and groups can benefit from exploiting nationalism, people are left to suffer from the resulting social woes. Politicians, however, will use nationalism for their political interests for as long as it helps them exert control over the people.

Albert Einstein once called nationalism an infantile disease, describing it as the measles of mankind. It is true that it is an infantile disease, but it has worst consequences like wars and conflicts for mankind. People must inoculate themselves from the infantile disease of nationalism, for it has the power to create hell on earth.

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Merit sharing ceremony of 500 million kyats as eternal fund of Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills

By Sayar Mya

YANGON, 24 May: A communal merit sharing ceremony of well wishers and donors was held to mark the achievement and realization of 500 million kyats as eternal fund of Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills at the Zabuthiri Beikman Taw in Mayangon Township on Sunday afternoon.

The ceremony was organized by Executive Committee of Upper Myanmar and Executive Committee of Lower Myanmar.

It was graced by (12) well-known and prominent Sayadaws from various monasteries in lower Myanmar and upper Myanmar.

First, the attending congregation paid respect and reverence to the Sanghas and observed the Five Precepts. Next, a Sayadaw spelt out an admonishment to the laypersons by saying to be cohesive and united in philanthropic health care work of the Wachet Hospital. After that a Sayadaw paid profuse tribute to the dignified and noble work of late Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Lakkhana, the founder of Wachet Hospital in Sagaing Hills.

A short chronicle of Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital was explained in touching perspectives by Chairman of upper Myanmar EC, Chairwoman of lower Myanmar EC and Honorary Secretary of lower Myanmar EC.

The Jivitadana Sang-

ha Hospital sounds very much Pali or Sanskrit in the olden days, but now it is a buzzword all over Myanmar and also in some foreign countries. "Jivitadana" means act of sparing or saving of life and "Sangha" stands out for "member of Buddhist order".

For many decades, despite rural development and primary health care were being carried out through successive governments, the health needs of many communities in the Sagaing Hills were not adequately fulfilled. Residents of rural and remote communities continue to show poorer health outcomes than residents in metropolitan centers.

Therefore, the health of rural communities remains poor in the past. Many rural and remote communities experience in facing difficulties in recruiting and retaining an appropriate and adequately trained medical and health workforce for their locality. Health authorities and funding remains oriented to treatment and curative care services, rather than prevention. The rural and remote Sagaing Hills have no adequate access to appropriate primary health care (PHC) services as and when they are required. For many years, significant impediments prevent the quest to ensure equitable access to appropriate primary health care.

There have been



(Photo by Sayar Mya)

spates of questions cropped up and, therefore, venerable and leading monks and local elders find solution to address them. Due to the meager budget allocation in the health sector in the country in the past decades, monks and nuns were mostly left neglected without any medical care or primary health service for those living in very ascetic life in the remote places among the hills.

With these backdrops, a group of thoughtful "da jakas" (lay devotees and donors) planned to set up a free service hospital at Sagaing Hills. Then they started in lobbying and soliciting charity and donation from the well-wishers. After receiving initial funds, they built a ten-bed-

ded hospital through the collection of donations. The hospital was founded on 20 October 1984 at Wachet Village at the foot of the Sagaing Hills on the west bank of the mighty Ayeyawaddy River, opposite to Metropolitan Mandalay City. Mandalay is the third-largest city and the last royal capital of Myanmar.

Though the hospital was small in size, but it was cost-effective. It could serve four to five thousand people every year. As the sweet smell of success and fragrance of good news of the hospital spread beyond the Sagaing Hills, the number of patients goes up high every year, and the sufferer, invalid, and sick patients increased. The demand, request, call and

claim indicated for hospital expansion.

The primary purpose and principal objective of this hospital is to offer free medical services to the monks, nuns, lay persons especially poor, marginalized and vulnerable patients residing in the area of Sagaing Hills. At the hospital, there is no unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex, social or religious discrimination.

Accordingly, the Supervisory and Logistic Committee prepared to raise funds. Receiving the required amount of Kyats 6,000,000 the committee started to build 50-bedded hospital. The whole establishment was completed in May 1990.

The conditions of the hospital have improved much in every aspect. A team of general practitioners, specialists, senior physicians, surgeons, skilled technicians and trained nurse was constituted. Moreover, additional program in some cases to attend the aged and feeble

monks is also arranged. Door to door home care / monastery care visit on the Sagaing Hills is indeed a vigorous and tiring work for the doctors and nurses to be at the bedside to offer medical treatment with meticulous attention, courtesy and consideration.

The encouraging and heartwarming news was that the "Eternity Fund" reached MMK 200 million on 1 January 2014 and MMK 300 million on 16 March 2014. MMK 400 million was realized in December 2014. It was due to the benevolence, generosity and goodwill of the well-wishers.

Now, the eternal fund hits the level of 500 million kyat and communal libation was successfully held at Zabuthiri Beikman Taw in Mayangon Township on Sunday 24 May 2015.

As the actual amount stands out at 557 million kyats as of 24 May 2015, the next ceremony for communal libation of 600 million kyats is just around the corner which is sure to be poured in by the well wishers and donors.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(29-5-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K713,500 per tical: Selling K714,500

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1096: Selling K 1098

SGD Buying K 812: Selling K 815

Euro Buying K 1,199: Selling K1,203

NATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS

Third batch of Myanmar fishery workers arrive home by chartered flight of KBZ Bank



YANGON, 29 May — The third batch of Myanmar fishery workers comprising 129 people out of about 500 enslaved in Indonesia arrived back home at Yangon International Airport on Thursday evening by chartered flight arranged by Kanbawza Bank Ltd.

The fourth batch of

Myanmar fishery workers arriving from Indonesia seen with officials and staff of Kanbawza Bank Ltd at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Myanmar fishery workers will also be repatriated by the chartered flight of the bank on 5 June.

The bank, which donated cash for 11 charter flights for 3,000 Myanmar people in Malaysia in co-operation with Sitagu Organization and flights to repatriate about 500 Myanmar fishery workers in India, arranged chartered flights for the first batch and the second batch of the workers.

The bank also provided cash for the workers, according to sources.—MNA

MCWA members learn advanced tailoring techniques

NAY PYI TAW, 29 May — Dekkhinathiri Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area opened an advanced tailoring course at the Dhammayon in Shwethana Ward on 28 May.

Speakers at the course included District Association Chairwoman Daw Kyi Kyi Yin and Township Association Chairwoman Daw Shwe Sin Win.

Chairwoman of Nay Pyi Taw MCWSC Daw Aye Aye San and officials

presented teaching aid to 22 women trainees to attend the course up to 11 June.

The association aims to create job opportunities for local women to help them improve their standard of living.—Shwe Ye Yint



New power line, transformer brings 24-hour electricity



TATKON, 29 May — Hsinthay Village in Tatkon Township is receiving electricity around the clock following the installation of a new power line and transformer on 28 May.

Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Phone Zaw

Han and U Myint Shwe spoke about efforts by the council to provide assistance for equitable development of education, health, transport, water supply and electrification to urban and rural areas in Tatkon Township.

Deputy Chief Engineer U Than Tun Aung of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area reported on installation of power lines, the supply process and the dangers of electricity.

The council members and the deputy chief engineer switched on the power lines for local people.

The council allocated K80 million in fiscal 2014-15 for 24-hour power supply in Hsinthay Village. As of 30 December 2014, officials installed one transformer, an 800-foot-long 11 KV power line and an 800-foot-long 400 volt power line for the village.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Rain aids waterway transport on Chindwin River

KALAY, 29 May — Daily rain in upper Sagaing Region raised the water level of the Chindwin River by more than a foot in the last week of May, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology in Kalay, Sagaing Region.

An official of the department said, "The water level in the Chindwin River is rising day by day in Kalay, as we have forecast. The water level in the river was 169 centimetres in depth on 20 May but 204 cm on 27 May. We forecast the water level will continue rising in coming days. Likewise, the water level is rising in Hkamti and Mawlaik."

"A higher water level in the river opens the waterway for inland transport

ships," head of Shwenadi waterway transport terminal U Tin Tun Lwin said. "But cargo boats need to

wait for the level to rise by at least three feet."

Waterway transport in Chindwin had been heavily

restricted after the water level fell dramatically in this year's hot season.

Lin Let Kyel Sin



Needy primary students receive stationery and equipment

YANGON, 29 May — Shwepyitha Township Education Department organized school enrolment week for the 2015-16 academic year at Shwepyitha Yadana Hall of No 1 Basic Education High School on 26 May.

After giving an address, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, presented

K500,000, school equipment and stationery to the school.

Well-wishers recently donated K500,000, 50 baskets, 50 water bottles, 50 umbrellas, 175 dozens of notebooks, 350 ball-pens, 350 pieces of erasers, 10 raincoats, eight knapsacks and 350 pencils for 350 needy children.

Myint Than Kyi (Shwepyitha)

Yemen border strikes kill two Saudis, Yemen death toll near 2,000 — WHO

CAIRO/ADEN, 29 May — Two Saudi border guards were killed and five wounded by shells fired from Yemeni territories, an Interior Ministry spokesman said late on Wednesday, as the United Nations said the war's death toll was close to 2,000.

Saudi forces and the Houthis have been trading fire across the border since an Arab alliance began military operations against the Iranian-backed Shi'ite group in March to try to restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

Saudi state news agency SPA said the border guards were killed at a military post in Dhahran al-Janoub, along the border with Yemen, when projec-



People gather at a site hit by a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 27 May, 2015. — REUTERS

tiles fired from the Yemeni side struck. Two of the soldiers died on the spot while

five others were wounded and taken to a hospital, the agency said.

The Saudi-led coalition says it began their campaign heeding a call by

Hadi after the Houthis started advancing south towards the port city of Aden, where the president was based.

The Houthis, who captured the Yemeni capital Sanaa last September, say they are fighting against Sunni Islamist militants using areas outside their control as staging grounds for attacks. They also accused officials in Hadi's government of siphoning public funds.

On the ground, southern opposition fighters allied with Hadi said they had ambushed and killed six soldiers allied with the Houthis stationed in the south-eastern city of Zinjibar. The World Health Organization (WHO), which compiles figures on casualties in Yemen,

said its latest figures show that 1,942 people had been killed between 19 March and 22 May. It said 7,870 people were injured in the same period.

Residents of the southern city of Aden said Houthi fighters at checkpoints outside the city had been preventing trucks carrying basic foodstuffs and qat — a narcotic leaf many Yemenis chew daily — from entering.

They said they believe the measures were a punishment after local fighters ejected the Houthis from the nearby city of Dhalea in the most serious setback for the group since March.

Houthi officials were not immediately available to comment on the reports.

Reuters

Rebels capture last Syrian town in Idlib Province

AMMAN, 29 May — The Syrian army has pulled back from the northwestern city of Ariha after a coalition of insurgent groups seized the last city in Idlib Province in northwestern Syria near the Turkish border that was still held by the government.

A coalition of rebel groups called Jaish al Fateh, or Conquest Army, said it had taken over the city. Syria's al-Qaeda offshoot Nusra Front is a major part of the coalition.

The coalition said it had overrun several checkpoints that defended the city. The Syrian army said intense fighting was going on with Nusra forces that had infiltrated Ariha.

"There are heavy clashes between the army and the terrorists of Jabahat

al Nusra who infiltrated inside the city," said an army statement released on state television.

Later the army admitted its forces had pulled back from the city, the latest string of defeats by the Syrian army and a big blow to the morale of President Assad's government forces who have vowed to defeat Sunni militants financed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey who seek to overthrow his rule.

"Units of our armed forces evacuated their positions in Ariha and withdrew to defensive positions in the vicinity of the city after battles it fought facing large number of Nusra terrorists," the army source was quoted as saying.

A rebel source from Ahrar al Sham confirmed

that street fighting was going on inside the city between army fighters and the insurgents. "There are many bodies that litter the streets," he said, adding that the rebels were searching for Assad's government forces inside the city.

Many civilians have hidden inside shelters.

Syria accuses Turkey of financing and aiding rebels seeking to topple the government. Damascus says foreign jihadi fighters allowed into Syrian territory by Turkey have played a pivotal role in recent rebel gains.

Rebel sources say they have secured more US-made TOW missiles in recent months that have helped them to gain a military edge over the Syrian army. —Reuters



Members of al-Qaeda's Nusra Front ride on a tank as they head towards their positions during an offensive to take control of the northwestern city of Ariha from forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, in Idlib Province on 28 May, 2015. — REUTERS

Islamic State settles into Ramadi, but the lull unlikely to last



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

BAGHDAD, 29 May — The blind man with just one hand arrived at the main mosque in the centre of the Iraqi city of Ramadi at dusk on Wednesday, flanked by Islamic State fighters.

When the evening prayer was over, the man, whose head was shrouded in black, delivered a speech to the faithful, hailing the Islamic State's capture of the capital of Anbar Province — its greatest victory over Iraqi forces in almost a year.

Ali Attiya al-Jubouri, widely known as "the blind judge", is one of Islamic State's most senior figures and his presence in the mosque signalled the group's dominance over the city, which it seized on 17 May from hapless government forces. "By the blessing of God, we now have an open road between Ramadi

and Raqqa," he said, referring to the ultra hardline group's de-facto capital in neighbouring Syria.

"You are free to travel there and work in trade, and we will help you by all means," he said, according to a resident of the city who was in the audience.

The Sunni Muslim group has declared a caliphate, or Islamic state, across wide areas of Syria and Iraq, defying hostile government forces and US-led airstrikes in both countries. Despite a fearsome reputation for inflicting savage violence on foes, Islamic State militants have gone out of their way to try to win over residents of Ramadi, providing basic services and governance, said locals speaking to Reuters by telephone.

Most residents have fled, but those who stayed

are savouring what they describe as a semblance of order and tranquillity in a city that had been a war zone for more than a year.

"We are having a pleasant dream now of living in peace without hearing gunfire or bombs and walking freely through open streets," said teacher Abdul Wahab Ahmed, 45, who compared the new order to "passing a glass of chilled water to the thirsty".

However, the lull is unlikely to last, with government security forces and Shi'ite paramilitaries already preparing to launch a counter-offensive to retake the city. "The dream won't last long, and soon we'll wake up to the bitter reality of being stuck in the cross-fire between government forces and (IS) fighters," he said.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google shows off virtual reality collaboration with GoPro

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 May — Action camera maker GoPro Inc and Google Inc introduced a virtual reality system using 16 cameras and Google software, sending GoPro shares up nearly 7 percent on Thursday.

GoPro's helmet- and body-mounted video cameras are popular with adventure sports enthusiasts, and the new GoPro system will use Google's new Jump technology to help create a 360 degree view.

Google showed off the GoPro system at its developer conference in San Francisco. It did not say when the system will go on sale.

Google also announced a new Photos app that helps users store and organize their images. Set to be released on Thursday, the app will let us-

ers back up and store unlimited photos and videos for free, said Anil Sabharwal, Google's director of product management.

The app also makes it easy for users to post their photos through social media and messaging services such as Twitter and WhatsApp.

"We firmly believe you should be able to share photos and videos any way you want," Sabharwal said.

Available on Apple's iOS system, Google's Android system and the web, the app automatically organizes photos by the people, places and things depicted and also helps users create collages and movies.

Google shares were nearly unchanged, down 7 cents to \$554.18, whilst GoPro shares rose 6.6 percent to \$56.81.

Reuters



A GoPro Hero 3+ camera is seen at the Nasdaq Market Site before GoPro Inc's IPO in New York City, on 26 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Temperature's rising: expert says dinosaurs were warm-blooded

WASHINGTON, 29 May — Dinosaurs, those bygone masters of the planet, were warm-blooded just like today's mammals, according to a scientist who judged their metabolism using body mass and growth rates deduced from fossils of species including Tyrannosaurus rex.

Paleontologist Michael D'Emic of Stony Brook University in New York took issue with the conclusion of other researchers last year that dinosaurs were neither cold-blooded nor warm-blooded, but had a metabolism somewhere in between.

Scientists have debated since the 19th century whether dinosaurs were slow, lumbering, cold-blooded creatures, as originally thought, or boasted a more warm-blooded physiology allowing for a vigorous lifestyle.

"The main point of my study is that the dinosaurs that have been studied so far were on average as warm-blooded as mammals living today," said D'Emic, who argued that the 2014 study under-estimated dinosaur growth rates and should have analyzed dinosaurs statistically within the same group as today's birds.

Birds, which evolved from small feathered dinosaurs roughly 150 million years ago, are warm-blooded.

The researchers in last year's study evaluated the metabolism of 21 dinosaur species using a formula based on their body mass, as revealed by the bulk of their thigh bones, and their growth rates, indicated by growth rings in fossil bones akin to those in trees. The species included predators like



Vertebrate paleontologist Michael D'Emic is shown in this undated handout photo provided by Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York, on 28 May, 2015, with a fossil of the meat-eating dinosaur Majungasaurus, dug up by Stony Brook University field crews.—REUTERS

T rex, long-necked and duck-billed plant-eaters and others.

They compared this information to data on living mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.

D'Emic re-analyzed the same data to reach his conclusions, published in the journal *Science*.

The authors of last year's study on Thursday disputed D'Emic's conclusions. "We disagree with his central criticisms and we emphasize that all of our original conclusions stand," said University of New Mexico biologist John Grady.

"Comparing dinosaur growth with the observed growth rate of living vertebrates clearly shows that non-avian dinosaurs were mesotherms," added Grady, using the term for an intermediate metabolism.

Warm-blooded land animals like mammals and birds have never achieved the size of the biggest dinosaurs. But D'Emic said merely being warm-blooded would not have prevented dinosaurs from getting large although they may have needed adaptations to prevent their huge bodies from over-heating.

"The Earth was generally warmer during the time of the dinosaurs, and so overheating could have been a problem for them. However, most large dinosaurs had some hollow, air-filled bones in their skeleton and likely had large air sacs in other parts of their bodies, just like birds today," D'Emic said.

This provided a "natural ventilation system" within their bodies that helped to keep them cool, D'Emic said.—Reuters

Apple fails to disqualify antitrust monitor in e-books case

NEW YORK, 29 May — A federal appeals court on Thursday rejected Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) bid to disqualify an antitrust compliance monitor appointed after the technology company was found liable for conspiring with five publishers to raise e-book prices.

Whilst saying some allegations against the monitor Michael Bromwich "give pause," the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York said a lower court judge did not abuse her discretion in rejecting Apple's bid to end his two-year appointment early.

US District Judge Denise Cote installed Bromwich through a permanent injunction in October

2013, three months after she ruled in favour of the US Department of Justice by finding that Apple had played a "central role" in conspiring to raise e-book prices and impede rivals such as Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O).

The Cupertino, California-based company is appealing that decision. Apple separately entered a \$450 million settlement of related claims by 31 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and consumers, contingent on the decision being upheld.

Apple had claimed that Bromwich collaborated improperly with the Justice Department and the states, was too aggressive in demanding interviews with executives, and



An illustration picture shows application icons on an Apple Ipad tablet held by a woman in Bordeaux, Southwestern France on 4 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

charged hourly fees that began at \$1,100 before being cut to \$1,000, an amount revealed on Thursday.

For his part, Bromwich, a lawyer, has faulted Apple for refusing to pro-

vide access and adopting an "adversarial tone" toward him.

Writing for the appeals court, Circuit Judge Dennis Jacobs criticized Bromwich for submitting an affidavit supporting the

plaintiffs when they opposed Apple's request to halt his work.

"Bromwich's submission in conjunction with a litigant's brief was the opposite of best practise for a court-appointed monitor," and may raise "an appearance of impropriety," Jacobs wrote.

But Jacobs said Cote's injunction "contemplates at least some interaction" between Bromwich and the plaintiffs, and that Cote need not disqualify him for that or for his billing rate, "rich as it may be."

Apple spokesman Josh Rosenstock, Apple's lawyer Theodore Boutros, and Bromwich's spokeswoman declined to comment.

In a concurring opin-

ion, US District Judge Jesse Furman faulted Apple for being slow to object to Bromwich's actions.

"The company largely sat on its hands, allowing issues with the monitor to fester and the relationship to deteriorate," he wrote.

A Justice Department spokesman welcomed Thursday's decision, and said Apple "could have obviated this entire appeal" by raising concerns about Bromwich faster.

The publishers are Lagardere SCA's (LAGA.PA) Hachette, News Corp's (NWSA.O) HarperCollins, Penguin Group, CBS Corp's (CBS.N) Simon & Schuster and Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH's Macmillan.—Reuters

African migrants risk all in Sahara to reach Europe

AGADEZ, (Niger), 29 May — In a sandy compound in the Niger desert town of Agadez, a white-turbaned imam blesses a circle of African migrants, some of them little more than boys, to protect them on the journey across the Sahara toward Europe.

A smuggler then gives a signal and the migrants scramble onto a white Toyota Hilux, jostling for a place on the 1,200-km journey to Sabha in southern Libya — a route plagued by bandits and the pitiless desert sun.

Nineteen men pack into the truck for the three-day ride. Those on the edge sit astride a long wooden stick, to prevent them falling off during the night into the Sahara.

Some 2,000 migrant deaths in Mediterranean waters between the Libyan and Italian coasts this year have prompted alarmed European governments to tighten maritime patrols to stem an influx of migrants in boats from Libya, which has been in widespread chaos since rebels toppled Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Yet the International Organization for Migration (IOM) warns that at least as many migrants may die during the long desert crossing from Niger, the main staging post for West Africans seeking to cross the Mediterranean.

Despite Niger's passage of a

tough new law against people trafficking, some 100,000 migrants fleeing desperate poverty at home in hopes of a better life in Europe are expected to cross the West African state's borders this year. Many will pass through smugglers compounds known as "ghettos".

"It's a bit frightening but I have to deal with it because in life you have to be brave," said migrant Fousseni Ismael, 16, wearing a blue headscarf to protect him from the sun as he waits to board a truck.

As night falls, the pickup rolls out of the metal gates of the compound and snakes through the sandy backstreets of Agadez, passing groups of Muslim men knelt in the evening prayer. It drives unhindered past a police checkpoint on the outskirts of town and into the blackness of the vast desert.

The risks are high. Mohamed, a driver, said he was attacked last week by Touareg bandits wielding AK-47 assault rifles who opened fire on his pickup when he refused to stop, wounding a migrant in the leg.

For protection, scores of trucks follow a military convoy that heads north each Monday towards the oasis town of Dirkou.

The death of 92 migrants from thirst — mostly women and children — when their vehicle



Migrants sit on their belongings in the back of a truck as it is driven through a dusty road in the desert town of Agadez, Niger on 25 May, 2015.—REUTERS

broke down en route to Algeria, to Libya's west, in 2013 prompted Nigerien authorities to briefly crack down on the corridor — but the lucrative trade quietly returned.

"The desert has always been a cemetery for immigrants, in silence and complete indifference. Travellers tell us they often find bodies — skeletons ravaged by the sands," said Agadez Mayor Rhissa Feltou.

Smuggling has long been a way of life in Agadez, an ancient caravan town. The streets are full of cars stolen from Libya, whose borders are largely unsecured, and locals speak in hushed tones

of drug convoys that traverse the desert.

This month's law, approved under pressure from European Union donors, includes sentences of up to 30 years in prison for those profiting from migrants.

But with the collapse of foreign tourism due to the rise of armed Islamist groups in the Sahara, smugglers say there is nothing much else they can do to earn money.

The law has prompted smugglers in Agadez to hide their operations, but there is no sign of the migrant flow subsiding.

"The ghettos? You cannot count them on the fingers of your

hand. Everyone is doing it because it is the only thing that works," said David Ousseni, 34, who runs the compound.

"We give people a place to rest before they leave. As soon as we have a full cargo of people, we call a driver," he said.

People smuggling brings millions of dollars to Agadez. The 30 or so men leaving from Ousseni's "ghetto" paid 150,000 CFA francs (\$250) each to travel to Sabha.

Including food, lodging and bribes, migrants will spend some 250,000 CFA francs just to cross Niger, he said.

Lamine Bandaogo, a 17-year old from Burkina Faso, said police extorted money from migrants at checkpoints during the bus journey from Niger's capital Niamey to Agadez, demanding up to 10,000 CFA francs to let them pass.

Although West Africans have the right to travel freely in Niger, many migrants refuse to show their documents for fear they will be confiscated by police.

Bandaogo has seen migrants dying at sea on television, but would rather risk his life than face grinding poverty at home.

"We have seen that but what can we do? Everyone has their destiny. You don't know where you are going to die," he said.

Reuters

EU, Burundi's Catholic Church pull out from observing elections



A man works at his street workshop in front of a burning barricade during a protest against President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 27 May, 2015.—REUTERS

BUJUMBURA, 29 May — The European Union and Burundi's influential Roman Catholic Church on Thursday pulled out from observing elections in the African country, saying that next month's vote cannot be fair because of daily unrest and a crackdown on media.

More than a month of demonstrations against President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term in office has sparked the biggest political crisis since an ethnical-

ly-charged civil war ended in Burundi in 2005.

The EU said it had suspended its observer mission as the electoral process was "seriously marred by restrictions on independent media, excessive use of force against demonstrators (and) a climate of intimidation for opposition parties and civil society".

The Catholic Church, representing more than two-thirds of the population in the central African nation, criticized the closure of private radio sta-

tions and said it would "no longer be able to support the electoral process".

The government said both the EU and the church had erred in withdrawing ahead of the elections. "They should stay and wait for the process to begin and report anything that comes from them," said Gervais Abayeho, the president's spokesman.

He said parliamentary and local council elections would go ahead on 5 June. A presidential vote is scheduled for 26 June.

A coup attempt by elements of the army failed in mid-May but sometimes violent protests have continued amid opposition accusations that Nkurunziza is violating the constitution by seeking a third term, something his supporters deny.

Rights groups say at least 20 people have been killed in the capital Bujumbura, where the police have at times shot at protesters who were barricading roads and hurling rocks.

In a radio statement, Bishop Gervais Banshim-

iyubusa said: "If this situation continues, the elections which we expected — peaceful for all, transparent, inclusive — are not possible."

The church also called for the reopening of shuttered private radio stations and said state radio only heaps praise upon the ruling party.

"It's hardly conceivable that we would be able to conduct fair and transparent elections for all," Banshimiyubusa said.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said there was a "lack of confidence in the election authorities" but added that the European suspension could be lifted if conditions improved.

Abayeho said the EU announcement was surprising but the government remained open to having foreign monitors and that other "able" Burundians would replace priests as observers at polling stations.

The opposition has called for the elections to be postponed. —Reuters

Boston bomber to face victims when death sentence handed down in June

BOSTON, 29 May — Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev late next month will confront people who lost limbs and loved ones in the deadly 2013 attack when he is scheduled to be formally sentenced to death for his crimes, a judge said on Thursday.

The same federal jury that found Tsarnaev, 21, guilty of killing three people and injuring 264 in one of the highest-profile attacks on US soil since 11 September, 2001, last month voted to sentence him to death. US District Judge George O'Toole will formally hand down the sentence on 24 June.

Tsarnaev's trial evoked memories of the darkest days in recent memory in Boston as victims testified of being hurled through the air by the twin pressure-cooker bombs, struggling to save the lives of those who had lost limbs amid screams of pain and fears that additional explosions would follow.

Survivors of the attack and family members of the three people who died in the bombing, as well as the fam-

ily of a university police officer who was shot to death three days later, will have an opportunity to speak at the sentencing.

Martin Richard, 8, 23-year-old Chinese exchange student Lingzi Lu and 29-year-old restaurant manager Krystle Campbell were killed in the attack. Tsarnaev was also convicted in the slaying of Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier, 26.

Tsarnaev, who did not testify in his own defence during the guilt or sentencing phases of his trial, will also have the right to speak, though he is under no obligation to do so.

Defence attorneys, who are expected to appeal the death sentence and conviction, argued that Tsarnaev was the junior partner in a scheme hatched and driven forward by his 26-year-old brother, Tamerlan, who died four days after the bombing following a gunfight with police that ended when Dzhokhar inadvertently ran his brother over with a stolen car. —Reuters

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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.

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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.

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Vietnam's HCM City seeks more skilled workers

HO CHI MINH CITY, 29 May —Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City has 25,000 positions to be filled in June, 35 percent of which require manual laborers and 65 percent skilled workers with training at vocational schools, colleges or universities, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Friday.

The Ho Chi Minh City Centre for Human Re-

source Forecast and Labour Information said most jobs needing trained workers are in the fields of information technology, electronics, electricity, food technology, textile, garment, construction and services.

In May, the centre conducted a survey of 1,852 enterprises, which showed a need for more than 7,100 employees. Trained workers made up 70 percent of

recruitment needs, an increase of 20 percent against April. Many positions require fluency in English, Korean or Japanese, as well as professional knowledge and skills.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community, which will be established by the end of this year, will speed the growth of many fields in Vietnam,

including textile and garment.

Nearly 20,500 employees will be needed each year after 2015. However, only 11 educational establishments offer textile studies. Each year, nearly 1,900 students receive training, of whom, only 200 graduate from universities, said Tran Anh Tuan, the center's vice director.

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 30th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah 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: Continuation of thundery activities in the Central Myanmar areas.

Security Council renews mandate of UN mission in South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 29 May — The UN Security Council on Thursday extended the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for a period of six months until 30 November this year.

In a resolution unanimously adopted here, the council decides to renew the mandate of UNMISS and authorizes the mission to use all necessary means to protect civilians, investigate human rights, help with the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and

support the implementation of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

Alarmed by the worsening political, security and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, the Security Council expressed serious concern over the more than two million displaced persons in the country, according to the resolution.

The Security Council "urges all parties to engage in an open and fully inclusive national dialogue seeking to establish lasting peace, reconciliation and

good governance," said the resolution.

UNMISS was established by the council on 9 July, 2011, the day when South Sudan became an independent country after decades of civil war between the north and south of Sudan, which ended in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Political in-fighting between South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar, started in mid-December

2013 and subsequently turned into a full-fledged conflict.

There have been alarming reports of gross violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law since the escalation of fighting on 29 April, including killings, rapes, abduction and the burning and destruction of towns and villages in various counties, according to Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Xinhua

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Trevor Noah to take over 'The Daily Show' on 28 September



Television personality Trevor Noah arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala 2015 celebrating the opening of 'China: Through the Looking Glass,' in Manhattan, New York on 4 May, 2015. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 29 May — Jon Stewart as the host of South African comedian Trevor Noah will replace

28 September, Comedy Central said on Thursday.

The Viacom Inc.-owned cable network made the announcement on its website and with a brief video of Noah, 31, testing out the set in the studio and sitting in the chair as Stewart came up from behind him.

"Welcome to 'The Daily Show.' Welcome with me Trevor Noah. I am 'The Daily Show'" Noah said in the brief video clip.

The network announced that Noah, the son of a black South African mother and a Swiss father, would replace Stewart in May.

Stewart's last show will be on 6 August after hosting for 16 years in which he became one of America's most popular political satirists.

Noah's arrival marks

another major shift for the comedy cable network. Comedian Larry Wilmore replaced Stephen Colbert earlier this year. Colbert left the network to succeed David Letterman, who retired from CBS's "Late Show," with a celebrity sendoff last week.

Shortly after Noah's appointment was announced he faced a backlash of criticism for comments he made on Twitter about Jews and women.

But the comedian played down the controversy.

"To reduce my views to a handful of jokes that didn't land is not a true reflection of my character, nor my evolution as a comedian," he said on Twitter. Noah joined the show as a contributor in late 2014.—Reuters

Actress Lindsay Lohan taken off probation in driving case, prosecutor says

LOS ANGELES, 29 May — Actress Lindsay Lohan has completed her community service in a 2012 reckless driving case, a judge found on Thursday, allowing her to leave probation for the first time since 2007, a prosecutor said.

The 28-year-old "Mean Girls" star was required to finish more than 100 hours of community service in the case in addition to rehabilitation and therapy.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mark Young found Lohan had completed that obligation and ended her probation, Santa Monica chief deputy attorney Terry White said in an email.

Lohan agreed to a

2013 plea deal after she crashed her Porsche into a dump truck in Santa Monica, a community near Los Angeles, en route to the set of TV movie "Liz & Dick" and later lied to police.



Judge Young had warned Lohan in March that the clock was running out for her to complete community service as an alternative to a jail sentence in the case, according to City News Service.

Lohan's career has been largely sidetracked since her 2007 arrest for driving under the influence and possession of cocaine. She had been on probation since she pleaded guilty in that case later in the year.

Reuters

Singer Ed Sheeran and his 'lazy eye' immortalised in wax



Musician Ed Sheeran poses with his wax figure at Madame Tussauds museum in the Manhattan borough of New York on 28 May, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 29 May — After six Grammy nominations, several hit songs and numerous sold-out concerts, singer Ed Sheeran donated a few hours to Madame Tussauds sculptors who worked to create his likeness, revealed on Thursday.

"They put you in grey underwear and a grey vest. And you stand there for two hours whilst strangers poke you. And hopefully it comes out looking alright," Sheeran said of the sitting.

After the unveiling at the New York tourist attraction, the English singer said seeing himself in wax was "weird."

He then added, "They even got my lazy eye in."

Over 250 measurements were taken during the sitting, which included

matching his eye and hair colour and tattoos exactly.

The team of artists were treated to a special concert by Sheeran during the sitting. The 24-year-old is best known for his hit songs "Sing," "Don't" and "Thinking Out Loud" and is currently on tour.

Sheeran's figure will be a part of the attraction's collection of music stars and is styled in clothes donated by the singer, down to the socks. He also gave his Martin guitar.

Sheeran said it was his first time visiting Madame Tussauds and he is keen to see his parents' reaction to the creation.

"I think it will be quite weird for me, but I think it will be cool seeing what my own parents created," he said.—Reuters



William Shatner

William Shatner could play Captain Kirk again: Simon Pegg

LONDON, 29 May — Actor-filmmaker Simon Pegg says William Shatner could play Captain Kirk in a future "Star Trek" film.

Pegg, 45, is currently co-writing the third movie since the reboot of the franchise and will also reprise his role as Scotty, reported *Digital Spy*.

Shatner did not feature in "Star Trek" or "Star Trek Into Darkness", but has been tipped for a role in the third movie.

His original series co-star Leonard Nimoy, who passed away earlier this year, appeared in both.

Pegg said the title of the film — rumoured to be "Star Trek Beyond" — was still "all to play for".

The writer also dismissed reports that he had been brought on the project to make it "less Star Trek-y".—PTI

'We were awful': Pink Floyd's Waters on band's early days

LONDON, 29 May — Pink Floyd founding members Roger Waters and Nick Mason joked whilst unveiling a memorial plaque on Thursday that they were so bad at first that they wouldn't have passed an audition on a talent show.

The pair, together with the late Richard Wright, formed the group whilst studying architecture at the former Regent Street Polytechnic in central London between 1962 and 1965.

The psychedelic and progressive rock band went on to become one of the most commercially successful groups in popular music.

Returning to the site of the polytechnic to unveil the plaque, they talked about their time as students and about the early days of Pink Floyd.

Asked how good the group was when it started out, drummer Mason said: "Put it like this: if we'd gone up for 'Britain's Got Talent', I don't think we

would have made it past the audition stage. We weren't terribly good." "We were effing awful," added Waters, Pink Floyd's bassist and the band's main lyricist during their peak years. Pink Floyd, which racked up record sales exceeding 250 million, had an initial line-up that included guitarist and songwriter Syd Barrett, another student, who left in 1968. Lead guitarist David Gilmour became the fifth member in late 1967.—Reuters

Happy Mondays making music with tribes



Happy Mondays, Scouting for Girls and ex-Busted singer Charlie Simpson are collaborating with tribes around the world.—PTI

LONDON, 29 May — Happy Mondays, Scouting for Girls and ex-Busted singer Charlie Simpson are collaborating with tribes around the world.

As part of Watch's new documentary series "Singing in the Rainforest", the three acts will compose music in remote areas, reported *Digital Spy*.

The aim of the show is to get artists to make music with tribes that embodies elements from both of their cultures.

Happy Mondays will write with Embera Drua people of the Upper Chagres River in Panama, while Charlie Simpson will collaborate with the San Bushmen in Southern Africa. Elsewhere, Scouting for Girls visit the Huli Wigmen in Papua New Guinea.

Myleene Klass and Glasvegas will also star in the five-part series. "Singing in the Rainforest" will air on Watch later in the year.

PTI

GENERAL

Nishikori reaches 4th round of French Open after Becker pulls out

PARIS, 29 May — Japanese ace Kei Nishikori advanced to the fourth round of the French Open by default on Thursday after his scheduled German opponent Benjamin Becker withdrew with a right shoulder injury.

Fifth-seeded Nishikori, who advanced to the third round with a straight-sets win over Brazil's Thomaz

Bellucci on Wednesday, makes the fourth round for the first time in two years.

Nishikori will face either Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic or Russian Teymuraz Gabashvili for a place in the last eight.

Becker upset 32nd seed Fernando Verdasco of Spain 6-4, 0-6, 1-6, 7-5, 10-8 in the third round.

Kyodo News



Kei Nishikori of Japan plays a shot to Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil during their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, on 27 May, 2015. — REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(30-5-2015 07:00 am~ 31-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Live: U-20 World Cup 2015 (Myanmar Vs. USA) | A Living Literary Legend of Myanmar) |
| * News | * Myanmar Masterclass "Aung Thiha" |
| * Great Shwedagon: The Planetary Posts | * News |
| * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision" | * Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive |
| * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train | * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Ma Myint Zu" |
| * News | * News |
| * Myanmar Traditional Festival | * Indian Footsteps |
| * News | * Charming & Fragrant Sabai |
| * Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business | * Grow Back for Posterity "The dawn of development" |
| * Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics | * Kid's Home |
| * Inspiration | * News |
| * News | * Wedding Planner "Aye Thida Win Aung" |
| * A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine | * Travel to The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw) |
| * Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts) | * Thread Charm "A Kayin Threading Ceremony" |
| * News | * News |
| * Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-2) | * Ambassador's View: Singapore-Myanmar Bilateral Ties |
| * News | * Let's Enjoy Fish Crispy |
| * The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin- | |

Missouri, Kansas students co-winners of National Spelling Bee

OXON HILL, (Md), 29 May — Eighth-graders Gokul Venkatachalam of Chesterfield, Missouri, and Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe, Kansas, were co-winners of the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday.

Gokul ended a tense standoff before a packed hotel ballroom and an ESPN television audience by spelling "nunatak," an Inuit word for an exposed ridge in a glacier.

He stood with hands at his side when pronouncer Jacques Bailly told him that if he spelled the word correctly, he and Vanya would share the title. He then raced through the correct spelling, and the hotel ballroom erupted in cheers.

"This is the culmination of six years of work. I'm finally happy to have success," said Gokul, 14, after he and

Vanya raised the championship trophy.

Their win was the eighth in a row by Indian-Americans and the 12th in 16 years.

Vanya, whose sister Kavya won the Bee in 2009, said she was dedicating the shared win to her grandmother, who died in 2013.

"This is a dream come true. I can't believe I'm up here," said Vanya, 13, who attends California Trail Middle School.

The co-victory is only the fifth in the 88-year history, with the last time in 2014. Each will receive \$35,000 in cash along with other prizes.

Contest rules call for co-champions to be declared when a 25-word championship round is completed.

Vanya and Gokul became the last remaining contestants when Cole Shafer-Ray, a 14-year-old eighth-grader from Nor-



Vanya Shivashankar (L) of Olathe, Kansas, and Gokul Venkatachalam, St Louis Missouri lift the trophy after becoming co-champions after the final round of the 88th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee at National Harbor, Maryland on 28 May, 2015. — REUTERS

man, Oklahoma, misspelled "acritarch," a kind of fossil.

Vanya and Gokul displayed differing spelling styles during the two-hour finals, with Vanya writing out words on her hand. Gokul, whose idol is basketball player LeBron James, kept his head down, eyes sometimes closed and hands at

his side. Vanya and Gokul, who attends Parkway West Middle School, were among 10 finalists among the 283 contestants in the Bee, held outside Washington, DC. The finalists chatted on-stage between rounds and exchanged hand slaps when they got a word right.

Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(30-5-2015, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|--|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 1:30 pm | • Round Up of The Week's Local Hluttaw News |
| 7:35 am | • Hyper Sports | 3:35 pm | • Hyper Sports |
| 8:00 am | • News / International News | 4:35 pm | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Third Year (Chemistry) |
| 8:45 am | • Road to Auckland | 5:35 pm | • Documentary |
| 9:35 am | • MRTV's Youth Programme | 6:30 pm | • Head Line News |
| 10:15 am | • FIFA U-20 World Cup (2015) (Live) (Myanmar & USA) | 7:00 pm | • News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | • News / International News / Weather Report | 7:35 pm | • Business News |
| 12:35 pm | • Hluttaw Image | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:50 pm | • Round Up of The Week's Local TV News | 9:00 pm | • News |
| | | | • Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |
| | | | • Fashion Show |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(30-5-2015, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| 6:00 am | • Classical Songs | 9:55 am | • Musical Programme |
| 6:15 am | • Teleplay | 10:10 am | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:10 am | • Myanmar Series | 10:15 am | • U-20 World Cup Football (Live) Myanmar & United States of America |
| 7:25 am | • Fashion Show | | |
| 8:40 am | • Dramatic Arts | | |

Alberta wildfires burn for 6th day, 10 percent of oil sands crude offline

CALGARY, (Alberta), 29 May — Firefighters battled wildfires in northern Alberta, Canada's biggest crude-producing region, for a sixth day on Thursday, with two blazes near oil sands facilities still out of control.

The wildfires have forced producers in the Western Canadian Province, the largest source of US crude imports, to shut in 233,000 barrels per day of crude production, around 10 percent of total oil sands output. The biggest fire, on the Canadian military's Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, had grown in size to 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres) from 17,000 hectares on Wednesday. That blaze has forced Cenovus Energy Inc and Canadian Natural Resources Ltd to shut down production



Smoke rises from a wildfire north of Cold Lake, Alberta on 27 May, 2015 in a photo supplied by the Alberta Wildfire Info department. — REUTERS

and evacuate staff from their Foster Creek and Primrose oil sands projects.

Janelle Lane, a wildfire information officer at the Alberta government, said the fire had advanced to roughly 15 kilometres (9.3 miles) away from Cenovus's Foster Creek site.

Although the two oil sands facilities are not threatened directly by the wildfire, it has closed the only access road to the projects. Both Cenovus and Canadian Natural said the status of their operations was unchanged on Thursday.

Rich Kruger, chief ex-

ecutive of Imperial Oil Ltd, told reporters on Thursday the blaze was just six kilometers away from one of the company's wells but there was as yet little risk to Imperial's extensive operations in the region.

"We're monitoring it very carefully," he said. "It's had a minimal impact on our operations to date but as winds change, I find myself praying for rain more often than I used to." A separate wildfire north of the hamlet of Conklin forced MEG Energy to evacuate nonessential staff and halt planned maintenance work at its Christina Lake oil sands project earlier in the week. That blaze has grown to 3,300 hectares and was still classed as out of control, Lane said.

Reuters

Day 5 Roundup: Scaries for Serena, Murray, end of road for Lu, Wozniacki



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves during the men's singles second round match against his compatriot Nicolas Almagro at 2015 French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros, in Paris, France on 28 May, 2015. Rafael Nadal won 3-0.—XINHUA

PARIS, 29 May — Serena Williams and Andy Murray survived big scares here on Thursday, advancing to respective last 32 after a fight, while No 5 seed Caroline Wozniacki and Chinese Taipei's Lu Yen-Hsun were ousted at Roland Garros.

The top rated Williams, a 19-time major winner, dropped the first set and faced break points against her 21-year-old

challenger before coming back to see off world No. 105 Anna-Lena Friedsam of Germany 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

"I know I'm capable of playing great tennis, just haven't seen it yet," said the 33-year-old who suffered a second-round exit last year.

"I feel like one thing Venus always tells me: A win is a win, and as long as you live to survive the next day, you can always

improve. I know my level is literally a hundred times better than I played today," she added.

Williams will next play Belarus' Victoria Azarenka as the two-time Australian Open champion eased past Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3.

Murray, seeded the third, had not face real challenges at this year's French Open until Thursday's second round encounter against Portugal's Joao Sousa. The 28-year-old Scotsman overcame his little crisis to beat the first Portuguese Tour winner 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

What No 1 seed Novak Djokovic survived from was an injury scare, as the Serb slipped in late second set before coming back from medical treatment on his right groin to beat Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Both Djokovic and Murray will take on young Australians for berths in the fourth round, with the former facing 19-year-old Thanasi Kokkinakis and Murray meeting 20-year-old Nick Kyrgios.

Also Czech Petra Kvitová had a fright before the fourth seed pulled back from one set down to overcome Spaniard Silvia Soler-Espinosa 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2 in the women's draw.

Fifth seed Wozniacki

suffered more than a scare, however, but packed home after the Dane lost 6-4, 7-6 (4) to Julia Goerges of Germany.

Lu from Chinese Taipei was also sent packing after the last Asian player in the upper half of men's draw 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile, top seeds Sania Mirza and Bruno Soares of Brazil crashed out in the first round of the mixed doubles after losing 2-6, 2-6 to unseeded Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Jean-Julien Rojer.

Three women's doubles matches featuring Chinese players on Thursday saw Wang Yafan and Liang Chen both tumbled in their respective first-round play.

Wang partnering with Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer lost 6-3, 6-4 to American Madison Bregle and Germany's Tatjana Maria while Liang,

together with Serb Bojana Jovanovski, was beaten by Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia and Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik 6-2, 6-2.

Australian Open finalist Zheng Jie, paired with Chan Yung-Jan of Chinese Taipei, came out the only Chinese having won on Thursday, breezing past Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski and Alicja Rosolska of Poland 6-4, 6-1.

Elsewhere, defending champion Rafael Nadal joined Djokovic Murray and fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the third round with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 easy win over compatriot Nicolas Almagro.

The nine-time Roland Garros "King", seeded just sixth this year, will next play Russian Andrey Kuznetsov after the latter ousted Austrian Jurgen Melzer 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (0), 7-5.—Xinhua



Andy Murray of Britain hits a return during the men's singles second round match against Joao Sousa of Portugal at 2015 French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros, in Paris, France on 28 May, 2015. Andy Murray won 3-1.—XINHUA



USA's Serena Williams

Mourinho keen to keep title-winning Chelsea squad intact

BANGKOK, 29 May — Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has no plans to let any of his English Premier League title-winning squad depart Stamford Bridge in the close season.

The Portuguese, who steered Chelsea to a fifth English title earlier this month, said his focus was improving the players he had for the expected charge from a revitalized chasing pack come the start of the new campaign in August.

"The players I am looking for are my players," Mourinho told reporters in Bangkok ahead of Saturday's exhibition match against the Thai All-Star.

"They are the players I don't want to lose, the players I don't want to sell, the players I want to keep, the players I want to improve."

Despite Mourinho's claims, back-up goalkeeper Petr Cech is expected to depart after losing his place in the first team to Thibaut Courtois, while the Portuguese boss has seen player of the year Eden Hazard linked with a move away.

Chelsea moved on a number of players last season including Frank Lampard, Ashley Cole, Andre Schurrle, Ryan Bertrand, David Luiz and Romelu Lukaku amongst others but Mourinho said that was the end of the wholesale changes.

"Last season was a different picture because I had players in my squad that I was really keen to sell," the Portuguese said.

"I thought they were not the right people in our group for different reasons. Some 'footballistically' and some also by human qualities."

But he did not rule out the possibility of making summer signings, saying it would be normal for the club to bring in "two or three players," to stay ahead of the chasing pack.

"It's very difficult to win back-to-back titles," said the former Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto boss.

"We know all the big clubs, Liverpool, Tottenham, Man United, Man City and Arsenal, are not happy and they will try to react, so obviously we need to be better next season than we were this season."—Reuters

Benitez to leave Napoli amid Real speculation

NAPLES, (Italy), 29 May — Napoli coach Rafa Benitez has announced he is leaving after two years with the Serie A club amid widespread expectation he is poised to replace the sacked Carlo Ancelotti at Real Madrid.

Spaniard Benitez, 55, who had a stint in Real's youth set-up in the 1990s, made the announcement at a news conference on Thursday with Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis.

As the club had made clear on Wednesday, Benitez declined to answer questions about his future, saying he had taken the decision to leave after Sunday's final Serie A match

of the campaign at home to Lazio "for family reasons".

"I want to thank the president, the club and all the fans because after two years my experience here at Napoli is coming to an

end," Madrid-born Benitez said.

Spanish media have made the former Liverpool, Inter Milan and Chelsea coach the favourite to replace Ancelotti, who was



Napoli's coach Rafa Benitez waves at the end of his Italian Serie A match against Livorno at the San Paolo stadium in Naples on 6 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

fired by Real on Monday after a season without major silverware.

Benitez has had mixed fortunes during his stint with Napoli and if he does join Real he will be taking on one of the most challenging coaching jobs in club football.

Italian Ancelotti was dismissed a year after he ended 12 years of Champions League failure and led Real to a record-extending 10th European crown, as well as a King's Cup triumph.

Napoli won the Coppa Italia last term and finished third in Serie A but have been unable to use that as a platform for greater success.

They started this campaign by losing a Champions League qualifier to Athletic Bilbao and missed out on the lucrative group stage. Beaten in the semi-finals of the Coppa Italia and Europa League, they are fourth in Serie A and need to beat third-placed Lazio to earn a place in next season's Champions League playoff round.

"On Sunday we have an extremely important match and I want to end my two years with a win," Benitez said. "My focus is solely on the Lazio game."

De Laurentiis gave no word on who might take over from Benitez, saying only that they would be named "soon".—Reuters