THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Bronze Bell for Shwetaungsa Pagoda arrives in Dawei

Maha Wizaya Khemathitala Neibbutaghawtha bronze bell arrive in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

REGION IPRD

DAWEI, 31 May — A big bronze bell named Maha Wizaya Khemathitala Neibbutaghawtha was brought to Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 29 May, with officials saying it was brought from Mandalay three days ago and would be placed at a local pagoda.

The bell weighs 11,777 viss, with 12 feet in height, 7 feet and 5 inches in diameter and one foot in thickness.

Decorated with Myanmar traditional crafts, Maha Mingala Bell will be placed at Shwetaungsa Pagoda in Dawei. The bell is similar in shape with the Bell of King Thayawady placed at northeast Corner of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, which is ranked as the second largest bell in Myanmar.

The bell was cast in Mandalay with the donations contributed by pious people under the patronage of Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla. —*(Taninthayi Region IPRD)*

President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 1 June — A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 2 and 3 June 2015.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.

The dailies issued on 2 June will carry the full text of the radio message.—*MNA*

2015 matriculation results to be announced on 6 June

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — Results for matriculation examinations held in March, 2015 will be announced at 6 am on 6 June, 2015, according to the Myanmar Examinations Department of the Ministry of Education.

The exam results will be announced at respective schools of exam centres in states, regions and townships at the same time.

The results will also be available at district, state and region education departments.

In addition, results for states and divisions will also be announced at No. (1) Basic Education High School in Yankin Township, BEHS (3) in Kamayut Township, BEHS (1) Lanmadaw Township, BEHS (2) in Dagon Township and BEHS (1) in Thingangyun Township.

The results will also be announced online at the same time and will be available at www.moemyanmar.net.—*MNA*

Japanese banking giant Mizuho to open Yangon branch in August

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 31 May — Major Japanese lender Mizuho Bank will open its first Myanmar branch in Yangon on 3 August, a bank official said Friday.

Mizuho will open the branch on the fourth floor of the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and has recruited talented Myanmar staff in preparation, said Daw Mie Mie Nay Min Win of the bank's Yangon Representative Office.

Mizuho was one of nine foreign banks granted approval by the Central Bank of Myanmar in September 2014 to operate in the country,

Mizuho's Yangon Representative Office announced Friday it will award scholarships to 50 students as part of its contribution to human resource development of Myanmar.

Mizuho will present the awards to 25 students from the Yangon University of Economics on 3 June and to 25 students from the Monywa University of Economics on 5 June this year, said Mr Tetsuro Nonaka, Chief Representative of Mizuho Bank.

The bank will provide each student with US $300 per person per year until they finish university.

The bank also awarded the same scholarship to 25 students from the Yangon University of Economics last year. On 30 September last year, the Central Bank of Myanmar awarded banking licenses to Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ), Bangkok Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (BTMU), Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank), Mizuho Bank, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and United Overseas Bank (UOB).

It was first time Myanmar had approved foreign banks opening their 100-percent-owned branches inside the country.—*GNLM*

Myanmar delegation refutes false accusations against Myanmar

YANGON, 31 May — Leader of Myanmar delegation to the emergency meeting on irregular migration managed to refute accusations that boat people were from Myanmar, U Htin Lin, the leader of the delegation, told MNA.

The delegation attended the emergency meeting to show that Myanmar is a responsible country and to allay the concern of regional countries but the meeting resulted in two positive outcomes for Myanmar, according to the delegation leader.

The accusation that Myanmar was the original country of boat people was refuted by the delegation, which clearly explained the participants that they were from a neighbouring country and that Myanmar was just a transit country.

The delegation told the meeting that Myanmar rescued the boat people on humanitarian grounds and would repatriate them.

U Htin Lin

U Tin Chel

Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun.

One of the members of the delegation, Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun of Anti-Human Trafficking Unit told MNA that other focuses of the meeting included cooperation for combat against human trafficking and people smuggling and search and rescue efforts of boat people.

Daw Yu Yu Swe

U Moe Hein

Another delegation member blamed human trafficking gangs for the plight of boat people. Director of Rakhine State General Administration Department U Moe Hein, a member of the delegation, said that real culprits of the plight of boat people were human trafficking gangs and pointed out that all regional countries were necessary to cooperate in the fight against human trafficking.

Later at the meeting, the discussions no longer blamed Myanmar by saying that boat people were from Myanmar as the delegation leader had already provided the evidence of the origin of boat people, another delegation member U Tin Chel, the director-general of Immigration and National Registration Department said.

Daw Yu Yu Swe, director of the Social Welfare Department also explained the rehabilitation efforts of her department for the human trafficking victims at the meeting.—*MNA*

Puppet course improves skills of enthusiasts

MANDALAY, 31 May — A short-term course on arts of puppet concluded at the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, recently.

Chairperson of Myanmar Puppeteers Association Daw Ma Ma Naing and secretary Daw Kyaw Myo Ko presented gifts to contributors to the training course and outstanding trainees.

The trainees demonstrated their skills at the graduation ceremony.

Secretary of the association U Kyaw Myo Ko explained future tasks of the association.

Altogether 21 trainees attended the five-day course from 23 to 27 May.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Nyaungshwe Township Information and Public Relations Department stages wall magazine and photo show in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at its office recently for public observation.

NAY MYO THUREIN

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Action taken against cattle smugglers

Photo shows buffaloes and cows on board truct seized by officials of Mobile Team in Kyangin Township.

KYANGIN, 31 May — As a truck carrying buffalos and cows did not obey to orders of a mobile team at Okpon checkpoint in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 29 May. Acting on a tip-off, a police squad seized the vehicle near Okpon rice mill on Pathein-Monywa road.

According to the investigation, owners of cattle Win Zaw, Nway Oo, U Sein Lay, Aung Naing Soe, Myint Aung, Wai Lwin Myo, Thein Shwe, Myint Oo and Myint Shwe brought the cattle without permission. They smuggled 11 buffalos and cows worth K4.9 million from Pauknwesan Village in Kyangin Township to Peinnekhon Village in Padaung Township.

Betye police station opened files of lawsuit against those who smuggled cattle without permissions under Section 5 of the Important Commodities and Services Law.

Ayeya U Thar

Farmers receive agricultural loans from Myanma Agricultural Development Bank

MYANAUNG, 31 May — Myanma Agriculture Development Bank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation started disbursement of agricultural loans to more than 17,000 local farmers from 57 villages in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, as of 29 May.

Township Manager Daw Khin Myint Yi of the bank said, "The bank will deliver K100,000 per acre to local farmers, totally amounting to K 9.9 million in 2015-16 cultivation season. However, the farmers must have farming certificates."

The township manager spoke about disciplines of the contracts for the loans.

The bank has disbursed K51.7 million for 517 acres of farmlands to 114 farmers from Shadaw Village.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Abstain from abuse of narcotic drugs; keep up spirit by promoting the sport sector.

Japan, Myanmar sign MoU on cooperation in postal services

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein and his Japanese counterpart signed an MoU on cooperation in postal services on 26 May in Japan.

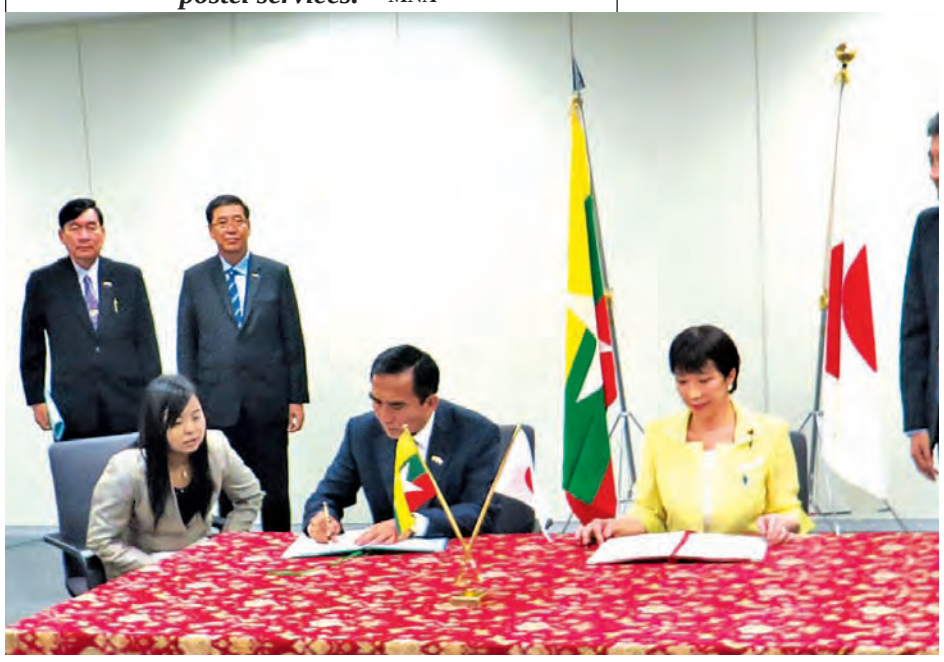
The Myanmar delegation also visited post offices in Tokyo and viewed the provision of banking, insurance and customer services there, before discussing application of online money order system software instead of fax machines manufactured by Hitachi Company.

The delegation also visited the Cyber Security Factory of NEC Company and viewed mobile test vehicles.

The delegation also met with officials of Libral Democratic Party before returning home on 30 May.

MNA

***Union Minister U Myat Hein and the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications sign MoU on cooperation in postel services.*—MNA**



MJA announces winners of National Press Awards

YANGON, 31 May — The Myanmar Journalist Association (MJA) on Sunday announced the winners of its third National Press Awards in four categories.

The News Hero award went to Pho Thaukkyar (Khit+Moe), a veteran journalist, and the Press Cartoonist award to U Shwe Htoo (Pyay). U Soe Zeyar Tun and the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) won the Press Photojournalist award and the Press Broadcaster award respectively.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut delivered an opening speech at the awards event.

MJA organized its first awards ceremony on 18 March 2012 and the second on 3 May the following year.

The National Press Awards Committee was formed on 11 April 2015. According to the committee, the "National News Hero Award" was a brand new category.—*MNA*

***Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut speaking at presentation of third National Press Awards of Myanmar Journalist Association (MJA).*—MNA**

Public Awareness on Diarrhea and Dysentery held in Yangon

YANGON, 31 May — The Public Health Department held a seminar on the Public Awareness on Diarrhea and Dysentery at National Health Museum in Yangon on Saturday.

Dr Hla Mya Thway Eaindra, the director of Public Health Department, said, hygienic should be kept to prevent diarrhea and dysentery especially in rainy season, while food and water as well as their surroundings like schools and homes to be clean.

The department under the Ministry of Health is conducting public awareness programmes to prevent from the diarrhea and dysentery along the rainy season, said the health official.

The ministry has set Raid Response Team to address outbreak of diarrhea and dysentery across the country, including medical treatments around the outbreak areas.

The Public Health Department launched these awareness programs starting during hot season.

GNLM

Union Industry Minister joins ASEAN SME Showcase & Conference

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May— Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint attended the ASEAN SME Showcase & Conference 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 26 to 28 May.

The union minister joined the ASEAN Minister's Conversation in Kuala Lumpur, on 26 May, together with ministers and deputy ministers of Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, aimed at establishing ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015. It was attended by about 1,500 delegates from stakeholders, ASEAN partnership organizations and international organizations.

Minister YB Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar at the Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia spoke on the opening of ASEAN SME Showcase & Conference 2015. Another speakers were ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh and Deputy Prime Minister YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin of Malaysia who kicked off the conference.

The ASEAN ministers viewed round products of ASEAN SMEs and partnership countries.

In the evening, the ASEASME Gala Dinner 2015 was held at Grand Hyatt Lumpur in Kuala Lumpur.

The union minister visited Tan Chong Group Automobile Factory and Largest Autoparts Manufacturing Group Factory in Selangor city. Tan Chon Group will establish an automobile factory in Bago.

On 28 May, the union minister received officials of GTC ideal for security company at Grand Hyatt Hotel.—*MNA*

Myanmar athletes leave for Singapore

YANGON, 31 May — A group of Myanmar athletes to participate in the 28th SEA games hosted by Singapore from 5 to 17 June left for Singapore on Sunday morning.

The group, which comprises a management team, an information team and a sailing team, was led by Deputy Director-General U Thet Lwin of the Sports and Physical Education Department and it was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials.

Another group of Myanmar athletes will leave Singapore on 1 June.

MNA

Mekong states seek "high quality" development aid from Japan

HAMAMATSU, (Japan), 31 May — Five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River asked on Sunday that Japan boost aid for "high quality" infrastructure to the region at a time when China has been increasing its clout in the broader 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations with its economic might.

The request came as senior officials from Japan and the five Mekong states — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam — met in the central Japan city of Hamamatsu to prepare for a new strategy for Japan-Mekong cooperation, a guideline the two sides will adopt during a 4 July summit of their leaders in Tokyo.

"We appreciate Prime Minister (Shinzo) Abe's policy of quality growth," Sok Siphana, adviser to the government of Cambodia, said, referring to Abe's recent announcement of a $110 billion, five-year "high quality" infrastructure investment initiative for Asia in partnership with the Asian Development Bank.

"To be competitive, you have to have quality because growth without quality is not sustainable," Sok Siphana said, calling for Japanese investment in areas such as environmentally friendly technology and human resources development, as well as in hard infrastructure.

Senior officials from Japan and five Southeast Asian countries along the Mekong River pose for a group photo at a hotel in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture in central Japan on 31 May, 2015. They held a preparatory meeting for a Japan-Mekong summit slated for 4 July in Tokyo. The five Mekong states are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.—KYODO NEWS

"We, particularly Cambodia and Laos, want to bridge the development gap. We want to catch up with more advanced ASEAN countries," he told *Kyodo News*. "And it's only quality investment growth that we can catch up."

Chutintorn Gongsakdi, director general of the International Economic Affairs Department at the Thai Foreign Ministry, expressed a similar view, saying, Japan's provision of high quality investment to less developed ASEAN states will help boost regional connectivity for higher growth.

"Japan has been very important in development of countries like Thailand (with high quality investment)," Chutintorn said. "We would like that model to be replicated in neighboring countries because it will reinforce the economic future of the Mekong Subregion but also ASEAN integration."

Asked how the Mekong states view Abe's initiative and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to be launched by the end of the year, Sok Siphana said the two "complement each other."

"Maybe Japan and China view differently, but for Mekong countries, we find demand for infrastructure is so much that Japan alone cannot do, the ADB alone cannot do. So China can complement," he said.

The Mekong states and five other ASEAN members — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore — have signed up to become founding members of the AIIB, which will have an initial capital of $100 billion.

"Let's say we need five bridges, three highways, five hydroelectric powers, there is no way the World Bank and the ADB can do alone," Sok Siphana said.

Minoru Kiuchi, Japan's state minister for foreign affairs and a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, hosted the meeting in his constituency of Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, in the hope that Japan and Mekong — and Japan and ASEAN — will develop relations "beyond government-to-government level to more multifaceted one, through more involvement of local regions."

Suzuki Motor Corp, a Hamamatsu-based motorcycle and automobile manufacture, for example, is a major investor in ASEAN. Suzuki has just opened a new automobile assembly plant in Indonesia.

"In this context, I strongly hope that leaders of the Mekong region countries will have opportunities to visit and see local areas of Japan during their stay on the occasion of the summit meeting in July," Kiuchi said.

Kyodo News

Police arrest suspected IS 'coordinator' in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 31 May — Police in Bangladesh arrested a suspected member of Islamic State (IS) in Dhaka, a senior officer said on Sunday, following the detention days earlier of two other suspects, including an IT manager at a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Co.

The suspect picked up on Saturday night was a coordinator for IS in Bangladesh, Shaikh Nazmul Alam, a deputy commissioner of Detective and Criminal Intelligence Division, told *Reuters*.

"We arrested him with hundreds of training related videos for Islamist extremists, and also a large number of books on al-Qaeda and IS translated into Bangla," Alam said. Police said the detained man was Abdullah Al Galib, a former member of Hizbut Tahrir, and a follower of Ansarullah Bangla Team, two militant Islamist groups in Bangladesh.

"We have been following him for a long time and arrested him yesterday night from Banani, a posh area of the city," Alam said.

Police have arrested more than a dozen people suspected of links with Islamic State, amid growing fears that the group could be extending its influence among Muslims in South Asia.—*Reuters*

Singapore police kill man near US defence chief's hotel

SINGAPORE, 31 May — Singapore police shot and killed one person and detained two others early in the morning after the car they were travelling in crashed past police barricades near a hotel where US Defence Secretary Ash Carter was staying.

Police said the incident happened in the vicinity of the Shangri-La Hotel where a three-day meeting of top defence officials is taking place. Carter was in the hotel at the time, conference organizers said, but was in no danger and neither were any other delegates.

US officials travelling with the secretary said they were unaware of the incident until hearing news reports several hours later.

Carter and his delegation left later in the morning for Vietnam. The police said the car was stopped at a checkpoint but when the driver was asked to open the rear of the vehicle for checks, he accelerated away, crashing through barriers. The police said they opened fire on the vehicle and it came to a stop on a road adjacent to the hotel. Substances believed to be drugs were found on one of the persons detained, the police department said in a statement on its Facebook page.—*Reuters*

Bombs in southern Thailand kill one police officer, wound seven

PATTANI, (Thailand), 31 May —Roadside bombs in southern Thailand killed one police officer and wounded seven members of the security forces in a region scarred by a long-running Muslim separatist insurgency, police said on Sunday.

The dead officer was part of a bomb disposal team that caught in a secondary blast while attending the site of an earlier bomb attack on Saturday night, police Lieutenant Preecha Prachumchai told *Reuters*. Four of his colleagues were wounded in the explosion.

The first bomb had wounded three paramilitary rangers out on patrol in the Paklor district of Pattani province, the officer said.

Since 2004, more than 6,500 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in violence in Thailand's three southernmost provinces, where members of the local Muslim Malay population are waging an insurgency against rule by Buddhist-majority Thailand.

Reuters

Drought-hit North Korea seen able to avoid food crisis

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at the 810 army unit's Salmon farms in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 31 May — North Korea has updated farming methods and switched crops that could help soften the blow of drought and avert a disastrous food shortage, an aid worker and an analyst said on Sunday, after a UN official warned of another "huge food deficit".

Impoverished North Korea, which suffered a deadly famine in the 1990s, has seen international food aid fall sharply because of its restrictions on humanitarian workers and reluctance to allow monitoring of food distribution.

Food supplies had since improved and production has been at the highest levels, resulting in the lowest shortfall last year since the mid-2000s, according to independent South Korean studies.

"Supply this year will be even more stable and any shortfall is likely to be met sufficiently by imports," said Kwon Tae-jin of the GSnJ Institute in Seoul, an expert on North Korean agriculture.

"Improvement in the supply of food isn't likely by chance or a temporary situation," he said, crediting an increased allocation of resources in agriculture.

Linda Lewis, of the American Friends Service Committee, an NGO running farm projects in North Korea, said she had heard the new farm management system was helping.

"The production was okay last year, despite the drought, and there are more coping mechanisms in place this year," she said.

North Korea now allows smaller groups of farmers to keep a greater share of their crops, which they are allowed to sell in markets, which in turn improved distribution.

The optimistic outlook follows a warning by the top UN official in North Korea of a looming crisis due to last year's drought, caused by the lowest rainfall in 30 years.

"It is going to create a huge deficit between the needs and what is available," the UN resident coordinator for North Korea, Ghulam Isaczai, said.

North Korean state media last week highlighted the push to step up rice production with "a scientific farming method including the water-saving farming method", *KCNA* news agency said. It didn't elaborate.

Kwon said part of the success had been in diversifying crops, with wheat, barley and potatoes planted after the fall rice harvest.

Isaczai said farmers had no choice but to diversify, because it was too dry to plant rice.

Daniel Pinkston of the International Crisis Group told *Reuters* in Singapore that the North was "living on the edge".

"They might have had four, five decent years of decent output but you need only one disaster, one flood or one El Nino pattern that could have a negative impact," he said.—*Reuters*

Cuban official daily says removal from US blacklist "act of justice"

HAVANA, 31 May — Removing Cuba from a US blacklist the island country should have never been on is a "simple act of justice," Cuba's official Granma daily said on Saturday.

"Cuba has waited 33 years for a simple act of justice that took place on Friday, when the US State Department made the official announcement to remove our country from the list of countries sponsoring terror," said Granma in an article titled "Cuba out of a list where it should have never been."

The decision by US President Barack Obama's administration has its positive effects, especially on the improvement of Cuba's financial interactions with other countries, the article noted.

Cuba was put on the blacklist in 1982. The US State Department said Cuba was put on the list partly because of its support for members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Colombia's largest rebel group.

Havana now serves as a key player facilitating peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has expressed gratitude to Cuba on various occasions.

Since December, Cuba and the United States have been negotiating the resumption of their diplomatic ties and the eventual normalization of relations. Cuba has demanded it be taken off the list.

Obama notified Congress of his decision to take Cuba off the list on 14 April and the 45-day review period for Congress to challenge Obama's decision expired on Friday.

"The Secretary of State has made the final decision to rescind Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism, effective today, 29 May, 2015," said State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke on Friday in Washington.

Though the de-listing was a positive step in the ongoing talks, said a Cuban TV commentator, Cubans should not anticipate sudden major breakthroughs in the normalization of ties, as other factors remain to be resolved, such as the lifting of the US trade embargo against Cuba.

Other priorities Havana wants to discuss with Washington include the closure of the US Naval Base in Guantanamo, the end of US-run propaganda machines in Cuba and compensation "for the damage caused by US policies in the past five decades," according to Josefina Vidal, general director for US affairs at the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, observers worldwide have pointed to the credibility of the very list and its composer, noting that the list is merely a political tool driven by the Cold War mindset and its criteria can be changed at any time to make sure that it serves Washington's own agenda.—*Xinhua*

700-kg giant kite crashes into crowd, injures 4

OTSU, (Japan), 31 May — A giant kite flown at a festival in Shiga Prefecture in western Japan crashed into a crowd of spectators on Sunday, injuring four people, a local fire department said. The kite, flown at a park in Higashiomi, was about the size of 100 "tatami" mats, measuring 13 metres by 12 metres and weighed around 700 kilograms, according to festival organizers.

A 73-year-old man was severely injured, while a 7-year-old boy and two other people sustained injuries, the fire department said.

Higashiomi is known for large kites, and the festival is held every year.

A local weather observatory said it had issued a strong wind warning for some parts of Shiga including Higashiomi in the early afternoon, around the same time as the accident.

Kyodo News

China says South China Sea air defence zone depends on security

SINGAPORE, 31 May — China will take a decision on establishing an air defence identification zone around disputed waters in the South China Sea based on its assessment of the security situation, a senior Chinese military official said on Sunday.

Land reclamation work by China around disputed islands has led to speculation it will declare an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ), which will require overflying aircraft to identify themselves to Chinese authorities. The United States has expressed concern that China's actions threaten freedom of navigation and security in the Asia-Pacific.

Admiral Sun Jianguo, a deputy chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army, told a regional security forum that China's actions are peaceful and legitimate, calling on other countries to stop trying to "sow discord" over the matter.

"There is no reason for people to play up this issue in the South China Sea," Sun said at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, adding that an ADIZ depends on any threats to air or maritime security.

He rebuffed comments US Defence Secretary Ash Carter made on Saturday that China's construction projects in the waters boost the risk of "miscalculation or conflict" but refrained from answering several questions on the issue.

The Chinese delegation of military and defence officials held 13 bilateral meetings with their foreign counterparts on the sidelines of the forum and many attendees said they had aired concerns to China about the South China Sea.

"Since this is an international conference, I think China will return home having heard the honest opinions and views of various countries," Japan's Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters.

"I think it should take firm steps from now on as a state in the international community, to gain the trust of various countries so that the region's peace and stability won't be broken".

Tension over the South China Sea has ratcheted up in recent months after satellite images showed the scale of China's reclamation.

An aerial photo taken though a glass window of a Philippine military plane shows the alleged ongoing land reclamation by China on mischief reef in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, west of Palawan, Philippines on 11 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Rhetoric at the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's biggest security forum, was more measured though than in 2014 when the Chinese, Japanese and US delegations exchanged sharp words. "This year it was more reserved and carefully calibrated," said Tim Huxley, Asia director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies which organizes the forum.

Sun refrained from singling out the United States for criticism and emphasized China's commitment to peaceful relations.

"China has always kept in mind the larger interests of maritime security," he said, reiterating that his country's "indisputable" claims over the waters were based on legal and historical evidence.

"We hope relevant countries will work together in the same direction to build the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and co-operation".

The proceedings on Sunday were overshadowed by news that police had shot dead one man and detained two others in a car that tried to crash through barricades around the venue before dawn. Police said it was unrelated to the conference.

The shooting happened yards from the hotel where dozens of defence leaders and military heads, including Carter, were staying although none were in any danger.

All three men were Singaporean and they weren't carrying any weapons, although the two arrested were carrying substances believed to be drugs, Singapore Police Force said.

Reuters

Italy votes on Sunday in test for PM Renzi's reform agenda

ROME, 31 May — Italians go to the polls on Sunday in local elections that will be the biggest test for Prime Minister Matteo Renzi since his centre-left Democratic Party (PD) triumphed in a vote for the European parliament a year ago.

Some 22 million voters will elect new governments in seven of Italy's 20 regions and more than 1,000 municipalities following a campaign dominated by corruption allegations against one of Renzi's most prominent candidates.

The 40-year-old premier needs a convincing result to maintain momentum for labour and education reforms which have met fierce resistance from trade unions, the political opposition and the left wing of his own PD.

The centre-left currently holds power in five of the seven regions. If Renzi maintains or improves on that tally against a divided opposition he will continue to look unassailable some 15 months after he come to office following an internal party coup.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi

The PD is unlikely to repeat its record performance at the European elections when it won 41 percent of the vote, but opinion polls, which have a poor track record in Italy, suggest it will remain easily the country's biggest party.

However, internal PD tensions erupted on Friday just two days before the election when parliament's anti-mafia committee released the names of 16 local election candidates suspected of corruption or organized crime links.

The so-called "impresentabili" or "unpresentable" candidates were from various parties but by far the most high-profile was Vincenzo De Luca, Renzi's candidate for president of the southern Campania region around the crime-ridden city of Naples.

Renzi accused the anti-mafia committee's chairwoman Rosy Bindi, who comes from the left-wing of his increasingly divided PD, of using the committee "to settle scores inside the party". De Luca, a powerful local party baron, is accused of graft and also has a conviction for abuse of office which may prevent him from taking his seat even if elected. He denies wrongdoing and threatened to sue Bindi after he was included in the list.

Renzi is hoping that signs of economic recovery after a three year recession will outweigh the furor over De Luca and other controversial candidates.

However, with the opposition aiming for a surprise result, Renzi said on Saturday the vote was pegged to local issues and would have "no consequences" for the stability of his government.

The anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, which polls say is the second largest party, believes it can capitalize on scandals surrounding mainstream parties and repeat the success of Spain's anti-austerity Podemos party in local elections last weekend.

The PD should win comfortably in its strongholds of Tuscany, Umbria and Marche in central Italy as well as in Puglia in the south-east, while the anti-immigrant Northern League is likely to keep power in the northeastern region of Veneto.

That means the main battle grounds are likely to be in north-western Liguria, where the PD vote may be weakened by a breakaway left-wing candidate, and in Campania, where De Luca is in a tight race with the centre-right incumbent.

No exit polls will be released when polls close at 11 pm and results are likely to trickle in early on Monday. —*Reuters*

Russian aircraft head off US destroyer in Black Sea —RIA

MOSCOW, 31 May — Russian military aircraft were scrambled to head off a US warship that was acting "aggressively" in the Black Sea, state news agency *RIA* reported on Saturday, but the Pentagon denied any unusual behaviour. *RIA* quoted an anonymous source in Russia's armed forces in Crimea as saying that the guided missile destroyer USS Ross was moving along the edge of Russia's territorial waters and heading in their direction.

"The crew of the ship acted provocatively and aggressively, which concerned the operators of monitoring stations and ships of the Black Sea Fleet," *RIA* quoted the source as saying.

"Su-24 attack aircraft demonstrated to the American crew readiness to harshly prevent a violation of the frontier and to defend the interests of the country."

Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said the USS Ross was "well within international waters at all times, performing routine operations." "The US Navy operates routinely in the Black Sea, in accordance with international law," Lainez said, noting the Ross's deployment to the Black Sea had been publicly announced. Russia's Defence Ministry was not immediately available to comment on the report.

The incident is the latest example of encounters between Russian and Western militaries, as tensions continue over the crisis in Ukraine and Russia's annexation of the Crimea peninsula, home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet, last year. Earlier this month, both Britain and Sweden said that they had scrambled fighters to intercept Russian bombers near their territory.

The United States said last month that it was filing a complaint to Russia over a Russian fighter's "sloppy" and unsafe interception of a US reconnaissance plane in international aerospace over the Baltic Sea.—*Reuters*

US Secretary of State Kerry stable after bicycle accident

GENEVA, 31 May — US Secretary of State John Kerry is in a stable condition in a Geneva hospital after being injured in an accident while bicycling near Scionzier, France, his spokesman said on Sunday.

Kerry was transported via medical helicopter to a hospital in Geneva, where he is being examined, spokesman John Kirby said.

"Secretary Kerry is stable and likely suffered a leg injury. He did not lose consciousness," Kirby added.

Reuters

Rollback of US spy powers would mark post-9/11 watershed

WASHINGTON, 31 May — At 3:59 pm EDT on Sunday, the National Security Agency and telecommunications companies will begin mothballing a once-secret system that collected Americans' bulk telephone records, shutting down computers and sealing off warehouses of digital data.

If the US Congress fails to act, key provisions of the USA Patriot Act will lapse in a watershed moment in the post-11 September, 2001, era. Intrusive government powers, created and wielded in the name of preventing another mass-casualty terrorist attack, would be at least partly scaled back, proponents and critics of the surveillance say.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, for instance, will no longer be able to employ "roving wiretaps" aimed at terrorism suspects who use multiple disposable cell phones, and will have more difficulty seizing such suspects' and their associates' personal and business records.

"We're past the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attack. And we can look at these issues more calmly," said Peter Swire, who served on a review panel appointed by President Barack Obama after former contractor Edward Snowden's 2013 revelations of vast NSA surveillance.

With the clock ticking, a coalition of Senate Republican libertarians and security hawks has blocked action on new legislation known as the USA Freedom Act that would reform the bulk telephone data programme but not kill it. Libertarians want the programme ended altogether, while the hawks argue it should be maintained as it is now. Currently, telecom providers are legally required to send phone records to the government. The USA Freedom Act would require private firms to hold the data, which the NSA could search with court authorization.

The US Senate is scheduled to hold a special session to consider the legislation at 4 pm (2000 GMT) on Sunday — just as security officials say they have to begin shutting the NSA programme down to meet a midnight deadline. The USA Freedom Act already has passed the House of Representatives and has Obama's strong support.

It is unclear if supporters of the Freedom Act can get the 60 votes needed in the Senate to move forward. A previous attempt on 23 May fell short, 57-42, but the bill's backers have been pushing hard to win over three more senators. How badly US counter-terrorism efforts would be disrupted by even a temporary suspension of the telephone data collection and other legal authorities is disputed. The Obama administration is issuing increasingly dire warnings, sometimes citing Islamic State's calls on its supporters to conduct attacks wherever they live.

The word 'password' is pictured on a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

"The intelligence community will lose important capabilities," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in a statement. "At this late date, prompt passage of the USA Freedom Act by the Senate is the best way to minimize any possible disruption of our ability to protect the American people."

But many experts and civil liberties advocates say that US intelligence and law enforcement authorities have other powerful — and less objectionable — tools to investigate and prosecute militant plots. Those include court orders, subpoenas and other forms of electronic surveillance.

"The government still has expansive ... law enforcement tools that will remain in place," said Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Groups as diverse as the left-leaning ACLU and the conservative Tea Party Patriots argue the telephone data programme in particular is unconstitutionally broad, targeting the communications of millions of innocent Americans.—*Reuters*

Syrian air raids kill dozens of civilians in north

BEIRUT, 31 May — A Syrian air force raid killed at least 59 civilians at a market in a town held by Islamic State militants in northern Syria on Saturday, according to a monitoring group.

The strike on the town of al-Bab, northeast of Aleppo, used barrel bombs, which are steel drums full of shrapnel and explosives, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has denied the air force uses such devices.

Dozens of people were also wounded in the attack, according to the monitoring group, which gathers information from sources on the ground. The town has been the focus of several heavy bombardments by the military since late last year.

A second Syrian air force raid in a rebel-held part of Aleppo killed at least 12 civilians on Saturday, the Observatory said.

Smoke rises from the national hospital, after what activists said was shelling by warplanes loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in the town of Jisr al-Shughour, Idlib Province in this file photo taken on 22 May, 2015.—REUTERS

The United Nations strongly condemned the bombing, which it said killed at least 70 civilians, citing news reports.

Staffan de Mistura, the UN's special envoy for Syria, said it was "totally unacceptable that the Syrian air force attacks its own territory in an indiscriminate way, killing its own citizens, as it brutally happened today in Aleppo."

"The use of barrel bombs must stop," he added.

State news agency *SANA* did not report on these raids but, citing a military source, said the armed forces had targeted Islamic State in Aleppo province's eastern countryside and hit insurgents on a road running north to the border with Turkey, as well as to the south of Aleppo and within the city itself.

The military has been hit by a series of recent setbacks. Insurgents, including al-Qaeda's Syrian wing Nusra Front, celebrated inside the last government-held town in Idlib Province on Friday after capturing it the night before, while Islamic State has secured its grip on the ancient central city of Palmyra.

In Syria's northeast, clashes erupted between the military backed by allied militias and Islamic State to the south and southeast of Hasaka, the Observatory said on Friday, after the al-Qaeda offshoot planted a bomb on the edge of the city.

The Observatory said the blast killed a number of pro-government fighters while at least 10 died in subsequent clashes. An Islamic State statement posted online described the blast as a suicide attack and said it had killed more than 30 of its opponents.

Hasaka Province lies next to Islamic State-held territory in Iraq, where the group is back on the offensive after losing the city of Tikrit at the start of the month.

SANA said the Syrian military had foiled an attack on Hasaka and had killed dozens of militants in the province. It said it had been targeting Islamic State in the provincial countryside with the help of Kurdish YPG militia. The YPG, which has fought the fiercest battles against Islamic State in the northeast, says it does not coordinate with the Syrian military.—*Reuters*

Saudi-led coalition warplanes hit bases in Yemeni capital Sanaa

A Houthi militant stands amidst debris from a house of a Houthi leader Rafiq Rafiq, which was destroyed by a Saudi-led air strike, near Sanaa on 30 May, 2015.
REUTERS

SANAA, 31 May — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition struck military bases aligned with Yemen's Houthi rebels in the capital Sanaa overnight and early Sunday morning, residents said.

The raid hit an air base near Sanaa airport and a military installation overlooking the presidential palace compound.

The Saudi-led coalition began air strikes in Yemen in March in a campaign to restore Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power. He fled in March, after Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa in September and then thrust into central and south Yemen.

Houthi television reported that the rebels fired 20 rockets at Saudi Arabia's southwestern border city of Najran on Saturday.

A Saudi Ministry of Interior spokesman said a border guard was killed and seven others were wounded on Saturday in the Najran region due to rocket attacks from inside Yemen.

"At 18:30 on Saturday as a border guard patrol was on duty at Al-Harth sector in Jazan region, it was hit by military shells launched from Yemeni territory," the spokesman said.

The United Nations has said that more than 1,870 people have been killed and more than 7,000 wounded in the conflict since 19 March.—*Reuters*

Egypt deploys scholars to teach moderate Islam, but scepticism abounds

CAIRO, 31 May — In his battle against militant Islam, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is relying not just on bomber planes and soldiers but on white-turbaned clerics from Al-Azhar, Egypt's 1,000-year-old centre for Islamic learning. He wants clerics to counter radicalism in the classroom.

In a televised speech in January at an Al-Azhar conference centre in Cairo, Sisi called for "a religious revolution" in Islam. Radicalized thinking, he told the audience of Islamic scholars, had become "a source of anxiety, danger, killing and destruction for the rest of the world."

That had to change — and the scholars had a leading role to play, in schools, mosques and on the airwaves.

"You, imams, are responsible before Allah. The entire world is waiting. The entire world is waiting for your next word because this nation is being torn apart."

Surprised by the president's bluntness, the scholars went "white as sheets," some of those in the audience told a Western official.

The president's warning is part of a much larger project. To contain the radical Islamist movement roiling his nation, Sisi has most conspicuously been using the law and brute force. But he is also promoting a more moderate and less politicised version of the faith.

In that struggle the Al-Azhar institution is one of the most important fronts for Sisi — and for the wider region. The outcome of the struggle in Egypt, the intellectual and cultural capital of the Arab world, has ramifications far beyond its borders.

The Al-Azhar mosque was built in the 10th century and is one of the oldest in Egypt. It opened a university that spread Shi'ite Islam until the end of the Fatimid Caliphate in 1171. It later turned into a Sunni mosque and university that taught the four schools of mainstream Sunni Islam.

Today the university's various faculties and research centres have 450,000 students, many from countries across Asia and Africa. It also has a network of more than 9,000 schools across Egypt attended by more than 2 million students. Al-Azhar's teachers, preachers, and researchers have so far introduced a few small changes. They include tweaking text books and setting up an online monitoring centre to track militant statements on social media so the institute can better refute them. But there is no detailed reform programme yet, and Al-Azhar officials openly acknowledge the magnitude of the challenge ahead.

To be successful, Sisi will need to achieve what many before him have not: balancing tough security measures with education to encourage a more moderate version of Islam. Past experiences in Egypt, Syria, Algeria, and Iraq show that attempts to crack down on extremism can also stoke it. So far the results of Sisi's drive have been mixed.

Reuters

Students revise for a Koran verbal recital exam in one of the Al-Azhar institutes in Cairo, Egypt, on 20 May, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 1 June, 2015

Economic boost through private sector development

By *Kyaw Thura*

For Myanmar to become an emerging economy, more encouragement should be given to the private sector to get involved in areas including education, energy, agriculture and infrastructure.

According to economists, the private sector can generate 80% of jobs in developing countries and is seen as an essential tool in the fight against unemployment and poverty. Clearly, unemployment and poverty goes hand in hand, often sparking social and political instability.

The government should therefore set out plans that focus on employment creation and poverty reduction depending on local conditions. To stimulate greater private sector involvement in economic growth, the government needs to commit itself to provide training and expertise to small businesses, encourage safety at work and create easy access to markets and financial institutions so that they can expand with time.

There is every reason to believe that the expansion of the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises, is not only a major source of employment creation but also a driving force of economic boost. In other words, the private sector can help start-ups enjoy economic opportunities and arm the grass-roots with the ability to help themselves out of poverty.

A hungry man is an angry man, so goes a saying. The onus is on the government to play a leading role in channeling sustainable investment into small markets in order that the private sector has positive effect on economic development across the nation.

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

Character & Competence

Kyi Mun

Character is what you are; Competence is what you can do.

Man is a two-legged creature. A human being is endowed with two legs, two hands, two eyes, two ears, and two nostrils. If we can add to these invaluable natural endowments a pair of two characteristic qualities of Heart and Head of a human being, that human being is bound to be a very admirable and trustworthy person. The two characteristic qualities are :

- **Character, and**
- **Competence**

Since these two human qualities of Emotional Quotient (EQ) and Intelligence Quotient (IQ) are very important for a person to be successful as well as happy, let us explore the wider meanings of CHARACTER & COMPETENCE, as follows:

First, the Dictionary meaning of Character: CHARACTER means : (1) All the qualities and features that make a person, groups of people, and places different from others : To have a strong/weak character; character traits, defects. e.g. *The book gives a fascinating insight into Mrs. Obama's character; Generosity is part of American character; the character of the neighborhood hasn't changed at all.*

(2) The way that something is, or a particular quality or feature that a thing or an event or a place has, synonym is Nature: e.g. *the delicate character of the light in the evening; Buildings that are very simple in character.*

(3) Strong personal qualities such as the ability to deal with difficult or dangerous situations: e.g. *Everyone admires her strength of character and determination. He showed great character returning to the sport after his accident. Adventure camps are considered to be character-building (= meant to improve somebody's strong qualities.)*

(4) The interesting or unusual quality that a place or a person has: e.g.*The modern hotels here have no real character; a face with a lot of character.*

COMPETENCE means : (1) The ability to do something well : To get a high level of competence in English; professional/technical competence.

(2) The power that a country, an organization or a person has to deal with something : e.g. *The judge has to act within the competence of the court; outside somebody's area of competence.*

(3) A skill that you need in a particular job or for a particular task : e.g. *The syllabus lists the knowledge and competences required at this level.*

Now to analyze the meanings of CHARACTER & COMPETENCE:

C *for* Courage
H *for* Honesty
A *for* Active
R *for* Respectability
A *for* Accountability
C *for* Caring & Sharing
T *for* Thoughtful
E *for* Earnest
R *for* Responsible
**& **
C *for* Committed
O *for* Outstanding
M *for* Mature
P *for* Purposeful
E *for* Expert
T *for* Tough-minded
E *for* Energetic
N *for* Never-quitting
C *for* Conviction
E *for* Enduring Patience

*** COURAGE**

Courage means : The ability to do something dangerous, or to face pain or opposition, without showing fear. Moral/physical courage : courage in the face of danger.

Synonyms are : bravery, boldness, fearlessness, audacity, valor, temerity.

A person of character must have good courage. He or she should be aware of the advice from the Bible : "**be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed."**

*** HONESTY**

Honesty means :

(1) Always telling the truth, and never stealing or cheating,

(2) Not hiding the truth about something;

(3) Showing an honest mind or attitude.

Synonyms are : Integrity, straightforwardness, righteousness, probity, uprightness.

A person of sound character should have honesty of the high caliber.

ACTIVE

Active means : (1) Always busy doing things especially physical activities.

(2) Taking part or involved in something; making a determined effort and not leaving something to happen by itself.

(3) Doing an activity; doing something regularly, functioning: sexually active teenagers.

(4) Living and full of ideas : The child has a very active imagination.

A person of good character should be active, alert and agile.

RESPECTABILITY

Respectability means: (1) Considered to be acceptable, good or correct: A highly respectable neighborhood; A respectable married man; Go and make yourself look respectable :

(2) Fairly good; that there is not reason to be ashamed of.

(3) Worthy of respect or regard or esteem or admiration.

A person of superior character must have respectability.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability means: (1) Taking responsibility for your actions or decisions, and expectation to explain them when you are asked; being proactive.

A person of impeccable character must have a sense of accountability.

CARING & SHARING

Caring & Sharing means: (1) Kind, helpful and showing that you care about other people. Caring & Sharing is inclusive of lovingkindness, compassion and sympathetic joy.

A person of superb character must have a good spirit of caring and sharing.

THOUGHTFUL

Thoughtful means : Showing that you think about and care for other people. It is being considerate and kind.

People with strong character are thoughtful people.

EARNEST

Earnest means : Very serious and sincere. It also means being fervent and enthusiastic, arduous, ardent, determined, resolute and decisive.

People of high character are earnest people.

RESPONSIBLE

Responsible means : Having the job or duty of doing something or taking care of something or somebody. It also means reliable, dependable and trustworthy.

People of good character are usually experts in respective fields.

COMMITTED

Committed means : Willing to work hard and give your time and energy to something; Believing strongly in something. It also means keeping your promise or being true to WALK THE TALK.

People of high character are committed people—people with a sense of commitment.

OUTSTANDING

Outstanding means : Extremely good, Excellent; very obvious or important; being able to stand out from the crowd.

People of strong character are usually outstanding people.

MATURE

Mature means : (1) Behaving in a sensible way, like an adult; fully grown or developed; not being over-sensitive or to be resilient.

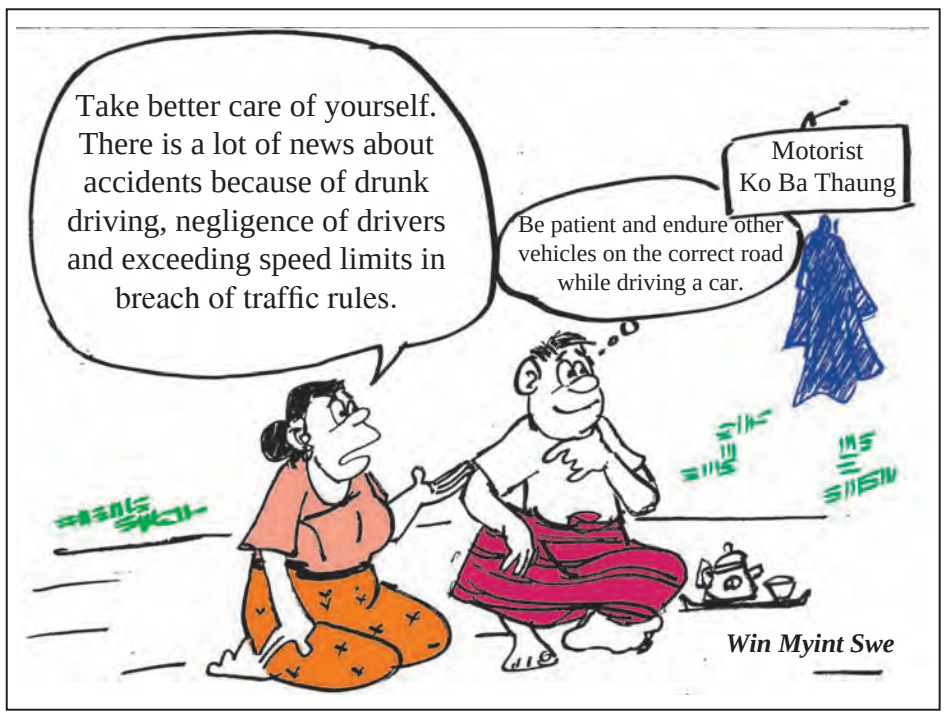
People of lovely character are usually mature people.

PURPOSEFUL

Purposeful means : Having a useful purpose; acting with a clear aim and with determination. It also means having a goal to achieve something.

People of valuable character are purposeful people.

(See page 9)



Win Myint Swe

Police carry out sanitation at Jade Pagoda in Amarapura Tsp

AMARAPURA, 31 May—Members of No 14 Security Police Branch led by Police Major Kyaw Win Hlaing carried out sanitation on the platform and around Wairawsana Jade Pagoda in Amarapura Township, Mandalay, on Sunday.

Well-wisher of the pagoda U Soe Naing and local authorities provided necessary assistance to the police servicemen.

The ceremony to enshrine religious objects to the pagoda will be held on 4 June in conjunction with the merit sharing ceremony for all meritorious deeds. The umbrella hoisting ceremony for the pagoda will be held on 5 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Offspring of staff receive school uniforms, cash assistance

MUSE, 31 May—A ceremony to provide school uniforms, stationery and cash assistance for offspring of staff was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Muse, northern Shan State, on 29 May.

After delivering a speech, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw presented school uniforms, stationery and cash assistance to students at primary, middle and high school students while Deputy Township Administrator U Naw Thwe gave cash assistance and stationer to university students.

The township department provided K180,000 to university students and uniforms, stationery and cash assistance worth K369,100 to 19 basic education students.

Ko Mong (IPRD)

10 new hostels for female staff under construction in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May—Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt and officials inspected progress of 10 two-storey hostels for female staff in Bawga Theikdi Ward in Zabuthiri Township on Sunday.

The hostels are being constructed by Building Department under the Ministry of Construction with the fund of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in 2015-16 financial year. The council member met wardens and officials of Thazin Hostel No 1, 2,3 and Thabyay Hostel and explained plans for building the hostels.

New apartments of the hostels will consist of kitchens, bathrooms and toilets. The council member urged officials to timely complete the hostels meeting set standards and install the fire extinguishers at all hostels.—*District IPRD*

Departmental officials assigned duty for 2015-16 financial year

MUSE, 31 May—A ceremony to assign duty of projects for 2015-16 financial years was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Muse, northern Shan State, on 29 May.

On the occasion, Muse Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw spoke about cooperation in political and economic sectors to achieve success in development of the State. Staff Officer U Maung Maung Hlaing of Township Planning Department reported on progress of the township from 2014-15 to 2015-16 fiscal years.

It was also attended by Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw, township departmental officials and members of social organizations totalling about 120.

Ko Mong (IPRD)

Natogyi-Myotha road ready to give transport service to locals

NATOGYI, 31 May—Department of Rural Development has built a 20-mile Natogyi-Myotha road. A ceremony to commission the road into service will be held soon.

At present, skilled workers and engineers are carrying out asks of landscap, road signs and pavements on both sides.

Thanks to Natogyi-Myotha road, local people will have a shortest access to Mandalay and Myingyan and can undertake development tasks of more than 30 villages in Natogyi and Ngazun townships.

The department has spent K1,163.34 million on construction of a 20-mile Natogyi-Myotha road in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Htay Myint Maung

Character & Competence

(from page 8)

EXPERT

Expert means : A person with special knowledge, skill or training in something : a computer/ medical expert. It also means specialist.

People of good character are usually experts in respective fields.

TOUGH-MINDED

Tough-minded means : Dealing with problems in a determined way without being influenced by emotions.

People of tremendous character are usually tough-minded people.

ENERGETIC

Energetic means : Having or needing a lot of energy and enthusiasm. *He knew I was energetic and dynamic and would get things done.* It also means fervent, arduous, ardent, zealous.

People of active character are every energetic people.

NEVER QUITTING

Never quitting means : Very resolute and determined. It is said that a quitter never wins and a winner never quits.

People of strong character are people who never quit.

CONVICTION

Conviction means : (1) A strong opinion or belief. Strong political or moral convictions.

(2) The feeling or appearance of believing something strongly and of being sure about it. *"Not true", she said with conviction; He said he agreed but his voice lacked conviction; The leader's speech in defense of the policy didn't carry much conviction.*

ENDURING PATIENCE

Enduring Patience means: Patience lasting for a very long time. And patience means : (1) The ability to stay calm and accept a delay or something annoying without complaining or without losing temper. (2) The ability to spend a lot of time doing something difficult that needs a lot of attention and effort.

People of high character are usually people with enduring patience.

CONCLUSION

TRUST is built by Character & Competence.
CHARACTER is built by Integrity & Intent and
COMPETENCE is built by Tract Records & Results.
Ref: Oxford Dictionary

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Swiss franc overvalued but set to weaken

*Swiss 100 franc bank notes are withdrawn from an ATM in the northern Swiss town of Kreuzlingen in this picture illustration, on 16 Jan, 2015.—*REUTERS

ZURICH, 31 May — The Swiss franc is too strong but should weaken, the Swiss National Bank's chairman has told a Swiss newspaper, adding that the bank was ready to intervene in foreign exchange markets if necessary, to influence the currency.

"The franc is significantly overvalued and should therefore weaken over time," Thomas Jordan said in a discussion with readers of Schweiz am Sonntag, according to an article due to be published in the newspaper on Sunday.

"In addition, we have emphasized we will become active in foreign exchange markets if required," Jordan said.

The SNB abruptly abandoned a 1.20 francs per euro cap on 15 January, sending the currency soaring and raising concerns about Switzerland's export-reliant economy.

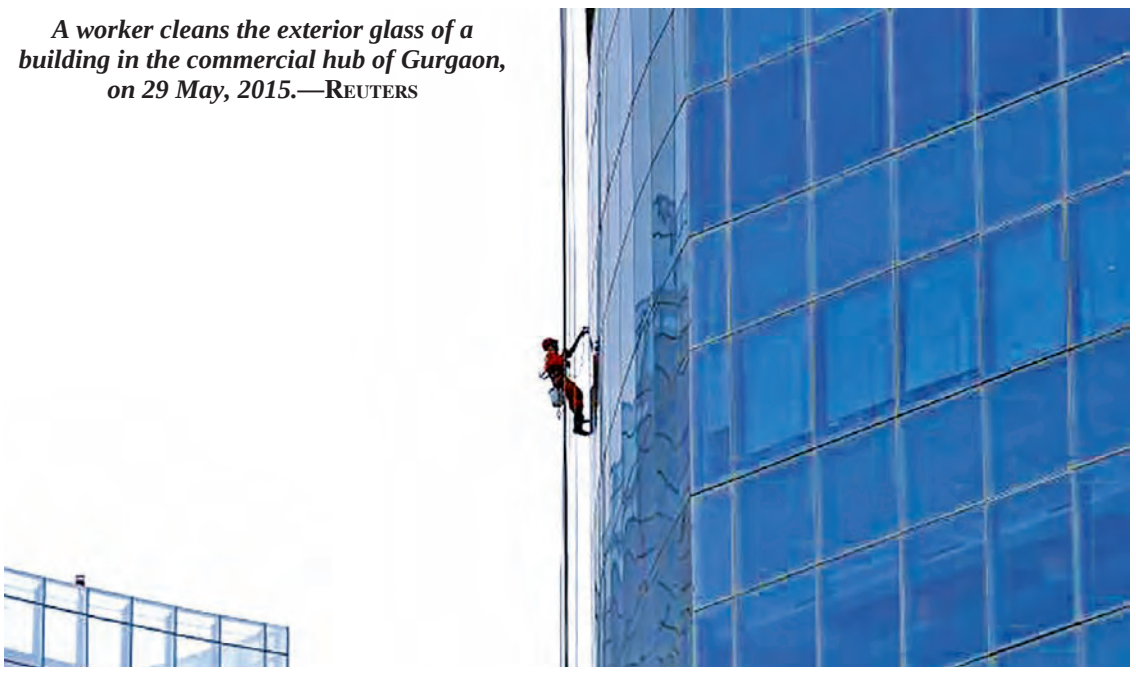
It has replaced the cap with negative interest rates and a charge on major cash deposits held with the central bank.

The Swiss franc closed at around 1.034 per euro in European trade on Friday.

Reuters

Data shows Indian growth outstrips China's but economists doubtful

*A worker cleans the exterior glass of a building in the commercial hub of Gurgaon, on 29 May, 2015.—*REUTERS



NEW DELHI, 31 May — India's economy grew faster than China's in the quarter through March, data showed on Friday, but a sharp downward revision for the previous quarter fuelled doubts about the accuracy of a new method used to measure economic activity.

Asia's third-largest economy grew 7.5 percent year-on-year in the last quarter, according to the data, outstripping China's 7 percent growth in the same quarter and beating a *Reuters* poll of economists who forecast 7.3 percent growth.

India also celebrated faster growth than its larger neighbour in the December quarter, but on Friday the Central Statistics Office sharply revised growth down to 6.6 percent from 7.5 percent, further distorting the picture.

"At face value, today's GDP figures for (January-March) suggest that India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world," said Shilan Shah, India Economist at Capital Economics.

"In reality though, the GDP data remain wildly inconsistent with numerous other indicators that point to continued slack in the economy."

Economists were already having a hard time reconciling the headline numbers with dismal corporate earnings, weak industrial activity and an elusive recovery in bank credit.

Full-year growth for the fiscal year ending in March came in at 7.3 percent, data on Friday showed, up from 6.9 percent in 2013/14, a tad lower than an official estimate of 7.4 percent.

Back in December, the government estimated growth for the year would be 5.5 percent using the old methodology. That would have represented a modest improvement after two successive years of growth below 5 percent — the worst in a quarter century.

But the Statistics Office's reworking of the numbers has transformed India's official growth pace under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who made economic reforms a priority during his first year in office.

Reuters

China capital to roll out tough anti-smoking laws

BEIJING, 31 May — Beijing will ban smoking in restaurants, offices and on public transport from Monday, part of unprecedented new curbs welcomed by anti-tobacco advocates, though how they will be enforced remains to be seen.

Health activists have pushed for years for stronger restrictions on smoking in China, the world's largest tobacco consumer, which is considering further anti-smoking curbs nationwide.

Under the rules, anyone in China's capital who violates the bans, which include smoking near schools and hospitals, must pay 200 yuan ($32.25). The current fine, seldom enforced, is just 10 yuan ($1.60).

Anyone who breaks the law three times will be named and shamed on a government website. And businesses can be fined up to 10,000 yuan ($1,600) for failing to stamp out smoking on their premises.

"Restaurant staff have a duty to try to dissuade people from smoking," said Mao Qunan, of the National Health and Family Planning Commission. "If they don't listen to persuasion, then law enforcement authorities will file a case against them."

The government will also no longer allow cigarettes to be sold to shops within 100 metres of primary schools and kindergartens, according to state media.

Smoking is a major health crisis in China, where more than 300 million smokers have made cigarettes part of the social fabric, and millions more are exposed to secondhand smoke. More than half of Chinese smokers buy cigarettes at less than five yuan (80 US cents) a pack.

Parliament passed legislation last month banning tobacco ads in mass media, public places on public transport and outdoors. Many Chinese cities have banned smoking in outdoor public places, but enforcement has been lax.

Bright red banners, typically used to display government slogans, have been posted around Beijing with anti-smoking messages. The city has also set up a hot line on which violators can be reported, the *China Daily* reported.

The names of people and companies who violate the rules more than three times will be posted on a government website for a month, state radio said.

Anti-tobacco advocates said they were more confident in the government's will to enforce the bans after a series of tougher measures in recent months, including a bigger tobacco tax. "We couldn't say this is the strongest law in the world," said Angela Pratt, of the World Health Organization's Tobacco Free Initiative. "But it's certainly up there with the strongest, in that there are no exemptions, no exceptions and no loopholes on the indoor smoking ban requirement."

*A man smokes a cigarette outside an office building in Beijing, China, on 29 May, 2015.—*REUTERS

Reuters

WB cooperates with Chinese firm to develop low-cost houses in Africa

NAIROBI, 31 May — The World Bank's private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), on Friday inked a new partnership with Chinese construction and engineering company to develop low-cost houses in three African countries.

IFC and CITIC Construction Co, Ltd will set up a joint venture and inject 300 million US dollars to develop 30,000 homes in Kenya, Rwanda and Nigeria in the next five years.

"As Sub-Saharan Africa becomes more urbanized, the private sector can help governments meet the critical demand for shelter," IFC director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Oumar Seydi told a news conference in Nairobi.

Seydi added the joint venture with Chinese construction firm will transform housing market across Sub-Saharan Africa by providing high quality, affordable homes, creating jobs and demonstrating the viability of the sector to local developers.

Construction Chairwoman Hong Bo said her company has a proven track record in the implementation of large scale housing schemes in Africa.

"CITIC will take advantage of our engineering experience and delivery capability to develop more affordable houses for Africa through the platform with IFC," she said, adding that new housing units will be built in accordance with IFC's green building standards.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) said Africa is currently the most urbanizing continent with 40,000 people streaming into cities daily, looking for job opportunities, raising a housing crisis in many African cities.

Seydi emphasized that propoor investments are crucial to promote access to cheaper and high quality houses for the burgeoning urban population across Sub-Saharan Africa.

"IFC will partner with financial institutions to deliver affordable homes for middle income earners in African cities. A home is a source of pride and security for any individual," Seydi said, adding that IFC will lend technical assistance to ensure new housing units meet environmental standards.

IFC settled for the Chinese company to develop low cost houses in Africa owing to its engineering prowess, global reach and grasp of market dynamics. Seydi added IFC shares identical social and ecological values with the Chinese construction firm. A joint IFC-CITIC venture will not only revitalize Africa's housing market but also unleash job opportunities for the youth.—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Solar plane departs from China to Hawaii

NANJING, 31 May — Swiss-made solar-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 departed from the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing on Sunday morning to fly across the Pacific, the toughest segment in its round-the-world trip.

Solar Impulse 2's departure from China to Hawaii at 2:40 am Sunday morning came more than a month after it landed in Nanjing on the night of 21 April.

The plane delayed its originally planned departure from Nanjing on 5 May as its two pilots waited for the right weather conditions.

The journey from Nanjing to Hawaii is expected to take six days and six nights, with Andre Borschberg, 62, at the controls.

When he crosses the ocean, Borschberg will only be able to nap for 20 minutes at a time, the maximum amount of time the solar plane can navigate automatically.

Bertrand Piccard, the plane's other pilot, said during his stay in Nanjing that the flight across the Pacific requires a period of clear weather, and forecasts predicted typhoons on the ocean over the past couple weeks.

Photo taken on 31 May, 2015 shows the Swiss-made solar-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 at Nanjing Lukou International Airport in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province. The solar-powered plane left China for Hawaii on Sunday. It will fly across the United States and make several stops before finally reaching Abu Dhabi.—XINHUA

Powered by more than 17,000 solar cells installed on its wings, Solar Impulse 2 is circumnavigating the globe to promote green energy.

The solar plane has been featured in a number of events during its stay in China to promote new energy and materials.

The plane has 12 scheduled stops in the around-the-world adventure. After reaching Hawaii, the solar-powered airplane will fly across the United States and stop in Africa before finally reaching Abu Dhabi, where it took off on 9 March.

"I feel privileged to be able to try this flight... we have tools to adapt and we have the team to identify where to go. So I feel really confident to make it to Hawaii," said Borschberg.—*Xinhua*

Global smartphone study aims to save deaths from illness: New Zealand scientists

WELLINGTON, 31 May — New Zealand scientists say they are conducting one of the world's largest ever health study, harnessing smartphones in a bid to save countless lives from non- communicable diseases (NCDs) such as strokes.

A neuroscience team from Auckland's AUT University said they aimed to gather vast amounts of international data and vital epidemiological insights through a mobile app called Stroke RiskometerTM.

Findings from the study — Reducing the International Burden of Stroke Using Mobile Technology (RIBURST) — could significantly reduce the devastating impact of conditions such as stroke, diabetes, dementia and heart disease.

"This study has the potential to save countless lives and billions of dollars worldwide," programme leader Professor Valery Feigin said in a statement on Friday.

"By delivering population-specific predictive algorithms plus preventative strategies tailored to different cultural and ethnic groups, we hope to dramatically reduce the burden these diseases place on people, families and health systems around the world."

The Stroke RiskometerTM app, which enabled users to assess their individual stroke risk on a smartphone or tablet, was launched in October 2013.

It had recently been updated in multiple languages, and allowed users to participate in the study from the comfort of their homes.

With an estimated 1.75 billion smartphone users around the world, the potential scale of the research was immense and could eclipse the largest medical experiment in history, a polio vaccine study in the 1950s that involved up to 2 million participants and led to near eradication of the disease.

"Non-communicable diseases account for 66 percent of deaths worldwide and cause serious disability for millions of people. Current primary prevention strategies are simply not effective enough," said Feigin.

The RIBURST data would enable the development of a predictive algorithm based on modern risk factors and allow for the generation of population-specific predictive algorithms.

"There's a huge need for more accurate prediction, more effective prevention, and culturally and ethnically unique preventative strategies," said Feigin.

"This study gives us a chance to achieve that."—*Xinhua*

China plans to launch dark matter probe

SHANGHAI, 31 May — Chinese scientists are planning to launch a dark matter probe satellite by the end of this year, researchers with the project announced on Friday.

The dark matter particle explorer (DAMPE) satellite will observe the direction, energy and electric charge of high-energy particles in space in search of dark matter, said Chang Jin, chief scientist of the project, at a press briefing held by the Shanghai Engineering Centre for Microsatellites (SECM).

All key components of the satellite have been tested and are functioning well, and it is expected to launch from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by the end of this year, the SECM said.

The satellite is designed to function for three years.

The probe, the first satellite in a programme consisting of five research satellites, will also be used to study the origin of cosmic rays and observe high-energy gamma rays.

At the press briefing, Chang said DAMPE will have the widest observation spectrum and highest energy resolution of any dark matter probe in the world.

Dark matter is one of the most important mysteries of physics. Scientists believe in its existence based on the law of universal gravitation, but have never directly detected it.

Accounting for over a quarter of the universe's mass-energy balance, it can only be observed indirectly through its interaction with visible matter.

Many scientists, such as Nobel prize winner in physics Yang Zhenning, believe that development of dark matter theory may help people understand phenomena that can't be explained with current knowledge, triggering "revolutionary progress" in physics.

The space study programme also plans to launch three more satellites within the next two years, including one retrievable scientific research satellite, one for quantum science experiments, as well as a hard X-ray telescope for black hole and neutron star studies.

SECM is a non-profit organization established by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Shanghai Municipal Government.

Xinhua

US to bring Japan under its cyber defence umbrella

TOKYO, 31 May — The United States will extend its cyber defence umbrella over Japan, helping its Asian ally cope with the growing threat of online attacks against military bases and infrastructure such as power grids, the two nations said in a joint statement on Saturday.

"We note a growing level of sophistication among malicious cyber actors, including non-state and state-sponsored actors," they said in a statement released by the US-Japan Cyber Defence Policy Working Group, which was established in 2013.

Cybersecurity is a key area where Japan and the United States are deepening their military partnership under a set of new security guidelines released in April, that will also integrate their ballistic missile defence systems and give Tokyo a bigger security role in Asia as China's military power grows.

Both the United States and Japan are wary of cyber threats, including potential attacks from China or North Korea. Whilst the United States is investing heavily in building a force to counter and retaliate against online attacks, Japan, which hosts the biggest US military contingent in Asia, has been slower to buttress its cyber defences.

The Japanese military's cyber defence unit has around 90 members, compared to more than 6,000 people at the Pentagon, a Japanese Defence Ministry official said at a briefing on Thursday.

Japan is trying to catch up as it prepares to host the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and with cyber attacks on the rise. Assaults on government websites are now being detected ever few seconds, according to Japanese cyber defence experts.

In the statement on Saturday, Japan's defence ministry pledged to "contribute to join "efforts for addressing various cyber threats, including those against Japanese critical infrastructure and services utilised by the Japan Self-Defence Forces and US Forces."

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter, who met his Japanese counterpart Gen Nakatani at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday, unveiled a more muscular military cyber strategy in April that stressed an ability to retaliate with cyber weapons.

That strengthened deterrence comes in the wake of high-profile attacks against corporations including the hacking of Sony Pictures Entertainment last year, which the US blamed on North Korea.

China's Defence Ministry expressed concern about the new strategy saying it would worsen tension over Internet security. China is frequently accused by the US of being engaged in widespread hacking attacks, charges Beijing denies.

Reuters

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 30 May, 2015, shows trees on Kuchinoerabu Island, some 1,000 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, leveled to the ground by pyroclastic flow, a day after the eruption of Mt Shindake there. While all of the 137 islanders and visitors were successfully evacuated to the nearby Yakushima Island, they began considering how they could live away from their homes.—KYODO NEWS

Sri Lanka's anti-graft commission to issue fresh summons on ex-president

COLOMBO, 31 May — Sri Lanka's anti-graft commission is to issue fresh summons on former president Mahinda Rajapakse to question him over bribery allegations, local media reported on Sunday.

The Bribery or Corruption Commission had earlier issue a notice on Rajapakse in April, which however led to protests by the opposition in and outside the parliament.

The former leader, who was accused of bribing a former member of the ruling United National Party to join him ahead of the January elections, did not appear before the commission after Parliament Speaker Chamal Rajapakse summoned the commission chief and questioned the notice. Director General of the Bribery Commission Dilrukshi Dias Wickramasinghe told the local Leader newspaper on Sunday that interrogation of the former president has not been withheld and will be carried out soon.

Wickramasinghe said the delay in getting statements from Rajapakse was not due to opposition lawmakers' agitation in the parliament but a number of government holidays in May.

Referring to the allegations leveled against her by the opposition that she has no mandate to ask a former president to come to the commission for interrogation, Wickramasinghe said every citizen in Sri Lanka irrespective of their status or positions is equal before the law.

"If the parliamentarians think that the law of this land cannot be imposed on rich and powerful but only against poor and frail, then it is up to the legislative council that should pass that law, " Wickramasinghe said.—*Reuters*

Bonn UN talks seek to trim unwieldy climate change plan

OSLO, 31 May — Governments will try on Monday to streamline an 89-page draft text of a UN deal to fight climate change due to be agreed in Paris in December, hoping to avoid the acrimony of the last failed attempt.

The 190-nation talks among senior officials in Bonn, from 1-11 June, will try to narrow down vastly differing options, ranging from promises to slash greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050 to vague pledges to curb rising emissions.

The talks are to prepare for a conference in Paris in six months' time to agree a global deal to curb climate change that a UN panel blames for a rise in temperatures and more severe droughts, floods and rising sea levels.

Time is starting to run short to distil the draft, which has 4,232 lines of text and hundreds of brackets, into a meaningful document.

Christiana Figueres, the UN's climate change chief, said there was a far better atmosphere than in 2009, when a summit in Copenhagen broke down in acrimony.

"Instead of the blaming game that was Copenhagen, what is being built here is much more of an alliance, a broad collaboration among countries to get a deal together," she told *Reuters*.

Bonn will be a test of whether a rare mood of harmony at the last meeting in Geneva in February can be sustained. In Geneva, all nations were allowed to add as many options as they wanted to the draft text to get all ideas on the table.

"We went away happy from Geneva. But so did everyone else because no hard decisions were made. Bonn will be much tougher," one European negotiator said.

One problem is how to make the deal legally binding. Top emitters, led by China and the United States, favour a deal built from national pledges to cut emissions, anchored in domestic laws.

But many developing nations favour a binding international treaty. Bolivia even wants a new tribunal to punish violators.

"I don't think we'll be down to a few pages by the end of Bonn," said Mark Kenber, head of The Climate Group, an independent organisation that works with business and governments.

"These negotiators are schooled in the art of not giving anything away unless they have to," he said.

He said there were hopeful signs outside the talks, for instance from many cities and businesses that reckon they can profit from a shift towards cleaner wind and solar power.

Reuters

M8.1 quake strands people in central Tokyo, disrupts train services

TOKYO, 31 May — The powerful earthquake that struck off the Ogasawara Islands in the Pacific and shook the Japanese archipelago on Saturday evening stranded people in high rises in central Tokyo and disrupted train services in the metropolitan region.

More than 10 people were injured, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Police say no building collapse or death has been reported.

In the village of Ogasawara near the epicenter of the temblor, residents saw books fall on the floor and phones get unhooked as the quake jolted the village roughly 1,000 kilometres south of Tokyo.

A 56-year-old man fell down the stairs and broke his ribs at a condominium in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, while a 70-year-old woman in Kawaguchi, Saitama Prefecture, was injured slightly when a dish fell on her, according to local fire departments.

A building maintenance service provider said it was aware of about 6,000 cases in Tokyo and surrounding areas in which elevators stopped due to the quake.

More than 100 people were stranded in a museum on the 53rd floor of the Roppongi Hills commercial complex in central Tokyo after its elevators stopped. It took more than two hours before an emergency elevator began bringing them down, according to a witness.

A woman who was on the 45th floor of one of the many high-rise condominiums in Tokyo's bay area said the shaking became progressively worse during the earthquake.

"A picture hung on the wall shook wildly and my scared niece clung onto me," Tomoko Ozeki said.

On Chichijima Island, near the center of the quake, residents recounted fearful moments.

"It shook so much I thought our house would collapse," Kyoko Ohira, a 93-year-old islander, said. Another resident said condiments fell from a shelf.

Ruriko Okiyama, an 80-year-old woman who runs an inn on the same island, said she first heard a loud noise outside and then her house shook sideways violently. "I was very scared because I'd never gone through such a big earthquake."

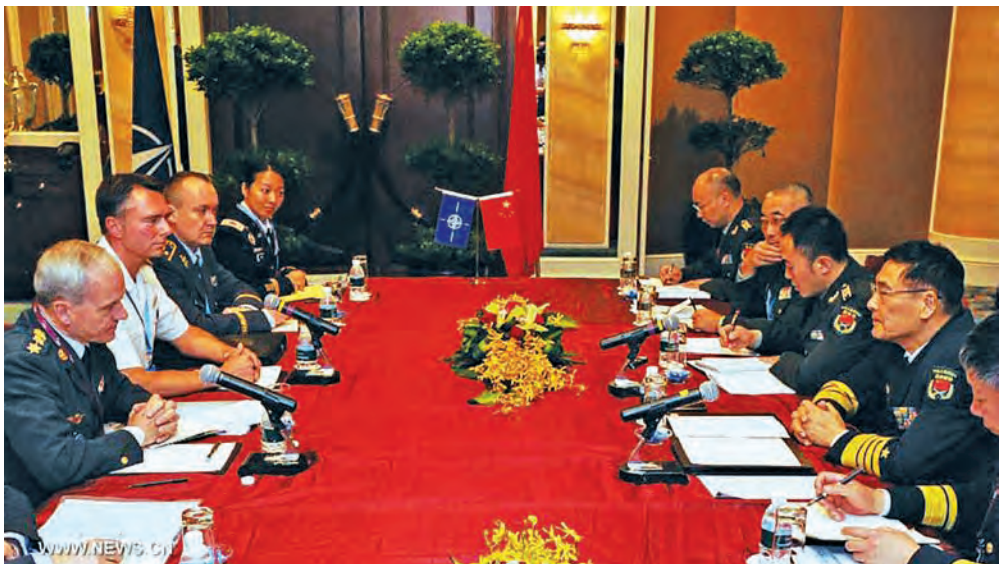
The evening temblor stopped the JR Yamanote loop line and other main arteries in central Tokyo for hours, inconveniencing many who had yet to go home for the night.

Some people apparently chose to go home by bus, forming long lines outside JR Shibuya Station. A 21-year-old university student from Saitama's Tokorozawa said he would either stay with his friend or at one of many "manga" cafes nearby.

Saturday's temblor exceeded the 1995 earthquake that hit Kobe and its surrounding region in terms of magnitude, but because it occurred so deep inside the earth, the archipelago was spared severe damage. No tsunami occurred, either.

The Japan Meteorological Agency on Sunday revised the quake's magnitude from 8.5 to 8.1 and said it occurred at a depth of about 682 km, rather than roughly 590 km. It also occurred at 8:23 pm, rather than 8:24 pm, on Saturday. The temblor registered upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Ogasawara and Ninomiya, a town in the eastern part of Kanagawa Prefecture. The quake was felt to varying degrees from Hokkaido to Okinawa.

Kyodo News



Admiral Sun Jianguo (2nd R), vice chief of staff of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), meets with Knud Bartels (1st L), chairman of the NATO Military Committee, on the sidelines of the 14th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, on 30 May, 2015. XINHUA

Cathay United Bank

Relocation for Yangon Representative Office becomes effective
Monday, 1st June 2015

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5th Floor, No. 53, Strand Road,
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MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(9/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-015(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipes (6) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-016(15-16)	Mud Pump Valve Seat Puller and Spares (4) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-017(15-16)	HT 400 Pump Spares and Cementing Accessories (22) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-018(15-16)	Spares for 3 NB 1300 C Rig Pump Ex ZJ 50 D Drilling Rigs (25) Items	US$
(5)	IFB-019(15-16)	Wash Pipe and Packing, for N 69 and N 815 Swivel (2) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-020(15-16)	Ferrochrome Lignosulphonate (Spersene) (200) Tons	US$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 29-6-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 -411097/411206

People watch ducks crossing a street in Kyoto on 31 May, 2015, as they move from a pond in Yoboji, a Buddhist temple, to the Kamo River. A mother duck and 14 ducklings took about an hour to walk the about 700 meters from the pond to the river. —KYODO NEWS

US police have shot dead 385 people in five months

WASHINGTON, 31 May — US police have shot and killed 385 people during the first five months of this year, a rate of more than two a day, the *Washington Post* reported on Saturday.

The death rate is more than twice that tallied by the federal government over the past decade, a count that officials concede is incomplete, the newspaper said.

The analysis is based on data the *Post* is compiling on every fatal shooting by police in 2015, as well as of every officer killed by gunfire in the line of duty.

"We are never going to reduce the number of police shootings if we don't begin to accurately track this information," said Jim Bueermann, president of the Police Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving law enforcement.

The Post analysis comes as a national debate is raging over the police use of deadly force, especially against minorities.

Federal Bureau of Investigation records over the past decade show about 400 fatal police shootings a year, or an average of 1.1 deaths a day. Reporting of shootings by police agencies is voluntary. But the *Post's* analysis indicates the daily death toll for 2015 is close to 2.6 as of Friday. At that pace, police will have shot and killed nearly 1,000 people by the end of the year, the paper said. The *Post's* analysis showed that about half the victims were white, half minority. Among unarmed victims, two-thirds were black or Hispanic. Based on census numbers for the areas where the killings took place, blacks were killed at three times the rate of whites or other minorities. The victims ranged in age from 16 to 83. More than 80 percent were armed with potentially lethal objects, mostly guns. Ninety-two victims were identified as mentally ill. Police are authorized to use deadly force when they fear for their lives or the lives of others. Three of the 385 fatal shootings have resulted in an officer being charged with a crime. Current and former police chiefs and other criminal justice officials told the Post police must begin to accept responsibility for the killings. They said that many deaths could be blamed on poor policing.—*Reuters*

Accident kills three at Brazil Belo Monte hydropower dam building site

BRASILIA, 31 May — Three workers died and three were injured in an accident at the construction site of the massive hydroelectric dam Belo Monte in northern Brazil, the builder said on Saturday.

The Belo Monte building consortium said in a statement that the accident happened at dawn after a silo collapsed when it was being unloaded from a truck. Two of the three injured workers were discharged from the hospital later on Saturday.

Opponents of the project have raised concerns that building what would be the world's third largest dam could damage the Amazon jungle and indigenous groups. The likes of Hollywood director James Cameron and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights have said Belo Monte would displace indigenous people in the Amazon.

The 11,233 megawatt dam, which is located on the Xingu River, an Amazon River tributary, is expected to be finished by 2019. The building consortium said it did not know whether the accident would delay construction.—*Reuters*

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to 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 1st June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Chin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

‘Cruel Intentions’ stars reunite for musical

Reese Witherspoon, Selma Blair and Sarah Michelle Gellar

London, 31 May — Reese Witherspoon, Selma Blair and Sarah Michelle Gellar, who starred in “Cruel Intentions” reunited to watch a musical version of the teen melodrama.

The stars of the 1999 hit film met for the special comedy musical version of the film “Cruel Intentions: The Completely Unauthorized Musical” at Rockwell Theatre in Los Angeles, reported Contactmusic.

Witherspoon shared a picture of three women outside the theatre on Instagram captioning the picture “Best girls night of the year!”

While Gellar and Blair re-enacted their famous kiss from the film and they were snapped by a photographer at the theatre.—*PTI*

Jessica Alba’s company hits billion-dollar valuation

Actress Jessica Alba

Los Angeles, 31 May — Actress Jessica Alba has landed on the cover of *Forbes* magazine’s America’s richest self-made women issue after her natural lifestyle firm The Honest Company was valued at USD 1 billion.

The 34-year-old “Sin City” beauty co-founded the business, which sells non-toxic items including diapers, household cleaners and beauty products, in 2012 after previously suffering a bad reaction to chemicals used in a baby detergent while pregnant with her first child in 2008.

In just one year, it raked in USD 10 million in revenue.

The Honest Company’s profits continued to soar and last summer, experts valued the firm at just under USD 1 billion — a figure which has since been surpassed, but Alba insists she is only getting started.

“If we really want to make a difference in the world and people’s health, it’s billions and billions of dollars, not just one,” Alba told *Forbes*.

Ironically, despite being the cover girl for the America’s Richest Self-Made Women issue, Alba just missed out on making *Forbes*’ top 50.

Oprah Winfrey is the highest-placed celebrity at five with a net worth of USD 3 billion, while Madonna is at 28 with USD 520 million and Beyonce ties with TV’s Judge Judy for 49th place, with USD 250 million.—*PTI*

Salma Hayek not worried about turning 50

Mexico film actress Salma Hayek

London, 31 May — Mexico film actress Salma Hayek says she isn’t worried about turning 50 next year because she is confident she can still be beautiful regardless of her age.

The actress has seven-year-old daughter Valentina with husband Francois-Henri Pinault, reported Contactmusic.

“In the past, when I tried to imagine what I would look like at my age, I was terrified. But now I’ve realized that I can still be beautiful approaching 50,” she said.

But the brunette beauty admitted she finds it harder to find good roles in Hollywood now.

“When I came here I was told by the time I hit 35 my career would be over. But I’m still working and getting good roles. I still haven’t done my best work,” she added.

PTI

A model displays the creation of Tunisian designers during the Fashion Week of Tunisia in Tunis, Tunisia, on 30 May, 2015.
Xinhua

Blake Lively wants to teach daughter to cook

London, 31 May — “Gossip Girl” star Blake Lively is planning to teach her four-month-old daughter to cook when she gets older.

Lively, 27, insists she will embrace whatever interests James grows up to develop, reported Contactmusic.

“I would love for her to want to cook with me. I’d love for her to want to bake with me but if she just wants to, like, you know, play with GI Joes and race cars, then I’m fine with that too. Whatever she wants, I’m happy about”, she said.

The “Age of Adaline” star is hoping to be as much an inspiration to her little girl as her own mother was to her.

She added “My mom was the one who inspired me. She’s an amazing cook. She could see a dress and know how to sew it together”.

PTI

“Gossip Girl” star Blake Lively

Adam Levine’s throat problem cancels ‘Maroon 5’ concert

Los Angeles, 31 May — Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine has apologized for scraping their performance in Liverpool due to the singer’s health issue. Levine has been ordered to take a break by doctors due to the throat problem, reported Aceshowbiz.

“I am really sorry I will not to be able to perform tonight, but I have been told to rest by the doctor,” the singer said.

The band will next perform in Birmingham and Manchester before Amsterdam and then moving to Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. They will stay on the road until October.—*PTI*

Adam Levine

GENERAL

Arsenal rout Villa in final to claim FA Cup record

Arsenal celebrate with the trophy after winning the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium.— Reuters

London, 31 May — Holders Arsenal won the FA Cup for a record 12th time on Saturday, outclassing Aston Villa 4-0 at Wembley with stunning goals from Theo Walcott and Alexis Sanchez setting up their one-sided victory.

Per Mertesacker and Olivier Giroud were also on target, once the match was effectively over as a contest, as the Londoners sealed their biggest winning margin in a final of the world's oldest knockout competition.

Arsene Wenger also became the most successful FA Cup manager of modern times, guiding his side to a sixth triumph in their 19th final, another record.

Arsenal, who came from two goals down to beat Hull City 3-2 a year ago, were never in trouble against Villa and should have been ahead even before Walcott put them in front with a sizzling left-foot volley after 40 minutes.

Sanchez made it 2-0 against a hugely disappointing Villa, who hardly had a serious effort on goal, five minutes into the second half with a glorious dipping shot.

Mertesacker then converted a close-range header when he was left unmarked at a set-piece and Giroud, who came on as a late substitute, side-footed the ball home with the last kick of the game.

Arsenal's victory was cheered by Southampton fans as it means they will now take the last remaining place in next season's Europa League after finishing seventh in the Premier League.

Seven-times FA Cup winners Villa would have qualified for the Europa League with another victory.

However, all they have to look forward to now is a rebuilding job under new manager Tim Sherwood who saved them from relegation but could not mastermind their first FA Cup triumph since 1957.

Arsenal dominated the match as Villa fan Prince William looked on from the Royal Box.

The Gunners almost took the lead after 14 minutes but Villa's 39-year-old keeper Shay Given, who also played in the final for Newcastle United 17 years ago, made a brilliant save from a Laurent Koscielny header.

They went close again through Aaron Ramsey, last season's Wembley match-winner, and the midfielder had another chance to put Arsenal ahead with a shot that flew over the bar.

Walcott, preferred in the starting lineup to Giroud, justified Wenger's faith with the opening goal, an effort that gave Given no chance.

The keeper could also do little about Sanchez's superb strike as Arsenal retained the FA Cup for the second time in their history, after achieving back-to-back wins in 2002 and 2003.

They rounded off the season with a 12-0 goal advantage over Villa after beating them 3-0 and 5-0 in this season's Premier League matches.—*Reuters*

Real Madrid vice-president lets slip signing of Benitez as coach

Napoli coach Rafa Benitez talks during a news conference in Naples, Italy, on 28 May, 2015. —Reuters

Barcelona, 31 May— Real Madrid vice-president Eduardo Fernandez de Blas has accidentally let slip at the meeting of a fans group that Rafa Benitez will be the new club coach.

Benitez will leave Napoli at the end of the season and has been hotly tipped to take over from Carlo Ancelotti at the Bernabeu but so far there has been no confirmation.

"Ancelotti is an absolute phenomenon and we give him all out appreciation," Fernandez de Blas told the Madrid members group.

"Until three days ago he was the best trainer in the world as two years ago it was Jose Mourinho and from this week onwards it will be Rafa Benitez."

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.

Former-Liverpool and Chelsea boss Benitez, who once had a stint as a Real youth team coach, is expected by local media to be named as the new man at the helm of Real next Wednesday.

Reuters

Hawaiian fisherman dies in struggle with swordfish he speared

Hawaii, 31 May — A Hawaiian fisherman died when a swordfish he had speared in a harbor on the Big Island struck him in the chest with its sharp bill, officials said.

The man, a captain in the charter fishing business, on Friday morning saw the swordfish in the Honokohau small boat harbor and jumped into the water to catch it, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Witnesses say he speared the fish but it struck him in the chest with its spear-shaped bill, according to the department.

Onlookers pulled the unresponsive man out of the water and performed CPR until paramedics took him to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, the department said in a statement.

The man was not named in the statement but local television station KITV identified him as 47-year-old Randy Llanes.

"He was a tough guy, he was such a tough guy that everyone's scared of him, the whole harbor's scared of him," Kalina Llanes, the man's sister-in-law, told the station.

She added that those who knew him well were "not scared of him because he has such a big heart."

KITV showed an image of the fish, which according to the Department of Land and Natural Resources measured 3 feet long with a bill that extended another 3 feet, lying dead at the water's edge.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(1-6-2015 07:00 am~ 2-6-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News
* Tapestry — A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
* My Life & My Art
* Temple Stalls
* News
* Size Does Matter (Ep-1) Human-Elephant Conflict
* A Pilgrimage to Prominent Pagoda in Pakokku
* News
* The Treasures in a Small Village (Part-1)
* Sweet Delicacy of Pathein
* Cosplayer
* News
* Youth of the Future (Ep-4) (Puppet)
* Culture Show: Theatrical Make Up
* News
* A Day out With Sarah (EP-7)
* Today Myanmar "Myanmar Timber Exports"
* News
* Taste of Myanmar (Lashio Noodle)
* Will you feed the pigeons
* U Htun Htun Naing "Winner of Young Entrepreneur Award of ASEAN"
* News
* Welcome to the Southernmost part of Myanmar
* Atuladhipati Mahamunisacca Koe Htat Kyee Pagoda
* Writer
* News
* Today Myanmar & ICT "Sector wise Integration with ICT"
* Gardener: Rose Plantation
* Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
* News
* A Journey to Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
* Beauties of Makyee Island — Island of Tamarind Tree
* News
* Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
* A Day Tour on A Cart (Bagan Trip)
* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(1-6-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Ministry Sayadaw

7:30 am
- Fullmoon day of (Nayon)

8:00 am
- News / International News

9:35 am
- Documentary (ASEAN)

10:35 am
- People's Talks

11:35 pm
- MRTV's Youth Programme

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

1:10 pm
- Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

2:35 pm
- Maharthamaya Day by Sidayu Sayadaw

3:00 pm
- News / International News

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

5:30 pm
- Head Line News

6:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

7:00 pm
- News

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Hluttaw Image
- TV Drama Series

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(1-6-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Mono Classical Songs

6:20 am
- Myanmar Series

6:40 am
- Fashion Show

6:50 am
- Musical Programme

7:10 am
- TV Drama Series

8:00 am
- TV Drama Series

8:35 am
- ABU Radio Song Festival (2015)

9:30 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:50 am
- Musical Programme

10:05 am
- Colour of ASEAN

10:15 am
- Myanmar Video

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Fullmoon Day of Nayon 1377 ME

Monday, 1 June, 2015

Pereiro strike sinks Serbia

Gaston Pereiro of Uruguay celebrates with team mates after scoring a goal during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group D match between Uruguay and Serbia at Otago Stadium on 31 May, 2015 in Dunedin, New Zealand.—**FIFA**

DUNEDIN, 31 May— Gaston Pereiro was the match-winner as Uruguay began their New Zealand 2015 campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Serbia to move joint-top of Group D. The outcome was harsh on the Europeans, who dominated much of this full-blooded encounter at Dunedin's Otago Stadium.

Most had expected Uruguay — finalists in 2013 — to boss this encounter and they did have the first of the game's clear-cut chances. With 17 minutes played, Facundo Castro looped over a right-footed cross that Pereiro rose to meet powerfully, forcing a smart save from keeper Predrag Rajkovic.

Serbia emerged as the assured side, though, and twice went close before the interval. First, Ivan Saponjic ran clean through only for a heavy touch to allow Gaston Guruceaga to save at his feet, and then Andrija Zivkovic cut in from the right to test the reflexes of Gaston Guruceaga.

Yet, having offered very little, it was Uruguay who took the lead 11 minutes into the second half. Castro was the goal's architect with a lovely, lofted outside-of-the-foot pass and star man Pereiro finished it off, prodding left-footed beyond the advancing Rajkovic.

Serbia piled on the pressure thereafter and came close on several occasions, most notably when Sergey Milinkovic smashed inches wide from a half-cleared corner. But the South Americans held out for a win that leaves them just one behind Mali on goal difference, and sees Serbia propping up the section with Mexico. *FIFA*

Dominant Portugal defeat Senegal

HAMILTON, 31 May— Portugal overcame Senegal with a dominant 3-0 win in their FIFA U-20 World Cup opener to move joint-top of Group C.

Martins fired the fourth-quickest goal in the tournament's history, netting in 26 seconds, before a late flurry saw substitute Nuno Santos set up Andre Silva, then add another of his own.

That opening goal was a real team effort. Senegal kicked off but great pressing by Portugal saw the Africans forced into a mistake and the ball feel at the feet of Silva. His slide-rule pass picked out Martins and though Ibrahima Sy closed down the Sporting forward, he was left powerless as the shot looped into the top corner. To Senegal's credit, they didn't fold after the early set-back. Moussa Kone tested Andre Moreria before an audacious effort inside the centre circle from Moussa Wague whistled just wide — though a sly grin implied the Portuguese stopper was never worried.

Riquicho of Portugal and Moussa Kone of Senegal battle for the ball during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group C match between Portugal and Colombia held at Waikato Stadium on 31 May, 2015 in Hamilton, New Zealand.—**FIFA**

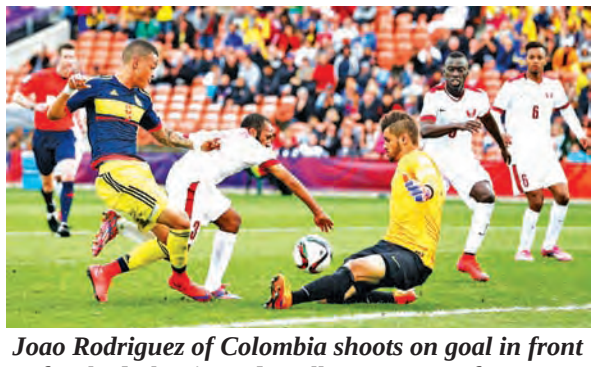
While the balance of play was fairly equal, the quality of chances was not. Portugal always looked the more likely to register next, Goncalo Guedes firing over before Joao Nunes followed suit after some fine skill. Silva tested Sy again before turning provider, with a slick one-two setting Riquicho up for a thunderous volley which the Lorient keeper dealt with impressively.

Both started the second half in a lively fashion, but Senegal continued to lack incisiveness. A delightful dummy from Guedes left Raphael Guzzo in space to rattle the bar from 25 yards. The latter's cross then set up Silva for a smart volley, but Sy was equal again. The man between the Senegalese sticks was increasingly responsible for keeping Joseph Koto's side in the running, typified when he clawed out Silva's volley after the unmarked Porto starlet looked certain to score. Portugal continued to waste chances, Martins, Rafa and Chico Ramos all coming close, but the introduction of Santos changed everything. Firstly his cross picked out the dangerous Silva, who finally got his goal with a stunning header, before a moment of madness by Sy — racing out of his area — allowed the substitute to chip home a third from 35 yards. —*FIFA*

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 31 May, 2015

Group C	Qatar	0-1	Colombia	Group D	Uruguay	1-0	Serbia
	Portugal	3-0	Senegal		Mexico	0-2	Mali

Souleymane Diarra of Mali is challenged by Erick Gutierrez of Mexico during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group D match between Mexico and Mali at Otago Stadium on 31 May, 2015 in Dunedin, New Zealand.—**FIFA**



Joao Rodriguez of Colombia shoots on goal in front of Fahad Shanin and goalkeeper, Yousof Hassan of Qatar during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group C match between Qatar and Colombia held at Waikato Stadium on 31 May, 2015 in Hamilton, New Zealand.—**FIFA**

Marvellous Messi leads Barca to King's Cup final triumph

Barcelona celebrate with the trophy after winning the Spanish King's Cup Final in Nou Camp, Barcelona, Spain on 30 May, 2015.—**REUTERS**

BARCELONA, 31 May— A magical Lionel Messi goal, the first of a personal double, led treble-chasing Barcelona to a 3-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao in the King's Cup final on Saturday. The Argentine skipped superbly past four players in a mazy run after 20 minutes before shooting venemously into the bottom corner of the net beyond keeper Iago Herrerin to claim his 33rd goal in his 50th appearance for Barca in the competition.

Messi has been in top form in the second half of the season and again provided the inspiration for his team who went 2-0 up when Brazilian Neymar slotted the ball into an open goal having been set up by Uruguay's Luis Suarez in the 36th minute.

With the Bilbao defence dozing, Messi nipped in to clip home a Dani Alves cross after 74 minutes. A flicked Inaki Williams header gave the Basque side a consolation strike with 10 minutes to go before tempers frayed following some showmanship and play-acting from Neymar.

Barca's South American attacking trio have netted a Spanish record 120 goals in all competitions this season, two more than Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Gonzalo Higuain managed in 2011-12 for Real Madrid.

It was also a record-extending 27th King's Cup title for the Catalans who have also won La Liga this season and will meet Juventus in the Champions League final in Berlin next Saturday.

"They pressed us at the beginning but after that we were the better side," Neymar told reporters.

The Brazilian had a goal harshly ruled offside and Suarez had a shot saved by Herrerin as Barca took an early grip on the game.

Messi then provided a moment of genius to unlock the Bilbao defence.

The dazzling forward went round three players out on the wing before evading Aymeric Laporte inside the area and finishing clinically with his left foot. "Leo is incredible...for me the best in the world," said Neymar. "It is an honour to be part of this team with players that have so much ability."

Barca began to find more openings and a well-worked move saw Ivan Rakitic find Suarez in the area and he rolled the ball square for Neymar to score with ease.

Luis Enrique's team concentrated on keeping possession in the second half as Bilbao flagged.

Messi took advantage with his second goal before Williams headed in for Bilbao.—*Reuters*

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