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Rakhine Awaits Roanu

Jaiden Coonan

MYANMAR'S Department of Meteorology (DMH) upgraded the depression in the Bay of Bengal to what is now known as Cyclone Roanu, on Thursday afternoon. The storm is expected to strengthen as it heads northeast today, expected to make landfall over Bangladesh on Saturday evening.

Deputy Director of DMH, Hla Tun told The Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday af-

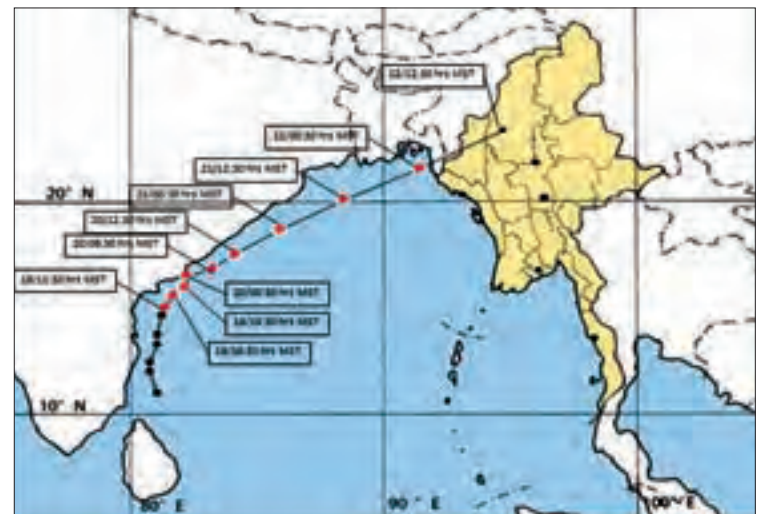
ternoon that Roanu is still considered a 'yellow' threat as it's path isn't set to make landfall in Myanmar. But the storm will affect Northern Rakhine State, also bringing strong squalls and high seas to Rakhine's coastline.

Roanu is set to make landfall tomorrow evening, with Rakhine and Chin States on high alert for strong winds and heavy rainfalls. As the storm moves it's projected to cross over into Myanmar as it weakens bringing rains through

Chin and into Sagaing Region – similar to last years Cyclone Komen.

U Kyaw Min, Director for Rakhine State's Department of Relief and Resettlement (DRR) told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that he had spoken with Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). The MSWRR has supplied Rakhine State DRR with K50 million (US\$5000) for relief.

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Observed and forecast track of Cyclone ROANU over Bay of Bengal.

World Bank loans to help over 5,000 villages receive electricity

Thein Ko Lwin

LOANS from the World Bank will give the Ministry of Electricity and Energy the financial leeway to provide electricity to more than 5,000 villages across the country in two fiscal years, Deputy Chief Engineer U Thura Aung Bo said at a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the conference, the ministry briefed the press on its plan to connect the currently unpowered villages to the national electricity grid, with the deputy chief engineer explaining that these villages lack electricity due to their remote locations away from the power grid system.

"The villages designated are over two miles from national electricity grid systems," U Thura Aung Bo said.

The World Bank granted a US\$300m loan to the country last December in a bid to help light rural households.

The ministry said that it would require US\$670m to implement the five-year nationwide rural electrification plan which expires in 2020.

The ministry has set a goal to increase the percentage of nationwide electrification to 99 per cent by 2030.



President Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Russia's President Vladimir Putin during a meeting on the sidelines of the Russia-ASEAN summit in Sochi, Russia. PHOTO: REUTERS

President U Htin Kyaw meets with Vladamir Putin

Bi-lateral relations discussed, future investment, scholarships, funding

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw, during his visit to the Russia Federation to attend the Summit commemorating the 20th anniversary of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partner Relations, met the Russia Federation President, the Prime Minister of Thailand and the Vietnamese Prime Minister separately yesterday at the Radisson Blu Resort and Congress Centre in Sochi, Russia.

During his meeting with Mr

Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, President U Htin Kyaw said that the relations between the two nations that has been stable since 1948 would be further strengthened, that goodwill societies would be founded in both nations as a gesture of bilateral co-operation, that bilateral cultural and economic efforts in cooperation would be made, that entrepreneurs from Russia would invest in Myanmar

and the people-to-people interaction would be furthered.

Matters concerning the formulation of a trade cooperation roadmap agreed during the first meeting of the Myanmar-Russia Trade and Economic Cooperation Commission hosted by Myanmar in 2014, the holding of the second trade and economic cooperation commission meeting, the linking of the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank

with banks in Russia to cooperate in banking services regarding bilateral trade and the signing by both sides of an agreement to open a Russia trade representative's office were discussed by the two leaders.

The two leaders discussed matters relating to investment by Russian entrepreneurs in Myanmar's oil and natural gas sector, resumption of air transport

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Bill to amend peaceful assembly and procession law needs further amendments, say MPs

THE Amyotha Hluttwa yesterday began debating a Bill to amend the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, with four representatives calling for further amendments to the bill.

The Bill to repeal repressive laws against peaceful protestors was submitted to the country's Upper House earlier this month.

During the debate on the bill, U Ye Htut of Sagaing Region Constituency 5 stressed the need to relax the bill further, calling for amendments to some provisions which are not in conformity with democratic norms and standards.

The MP suggested that a point that calls on the protest leader to inform authorities of the points of his protest topic and present the names of other speakers should be deleted or amended in the bill.

In his discussion, U Htay Oo of Yangon Region Constituency 2 called for a complete interpretation of the passages in the bill so as to avoid contradiction.

The MP stressed the need to amend the provision that calls for filing a lawsuit against a protestor who violates rules and regulations within 15 days.

He suggested that the violator be filed against within 30 days

and they should be exempt from the lawsuit after that 30 day period.

Likewise, U Thein Swe of Ayeyawady Region 10 called for the abolition of a provision that called on protestors to refrain from vandalism as it can be charged under the Criminal Law.

In his discussion, U Kyaw Htway of Yangon Region Constituency 8 said that it should not be required that copies of the letter of protest request be distributed to other police stations in townships where protestors are set to walk through at least 48 hours before the state of the event. A police station that re-



Dr Myo Aung. PHOTO: MNA



U Ye Htut. PHOTO: MNA

ceives a letter of request to hold a protest shall inform other police stations of the protest in time if the protest is set to pass through other townships, he added.

Next, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the bill is set to be reviewed by the Bill Committee following further

proposed amendments to the Bill by representatives.

During the 26th session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Dr Myo Aung of Kayin State Constituency 10 put forward the bill to Revoke the Yangon City Development Law to Parliament.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

New bill proposes formation of anti-corruption commission with no more than 15 members

A BILL to amend the anti-corruption law was put forward to the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday in order to form the anti-corruption commission with a membership of no more than 15 people.

U Tin Soe, secretary of the Public Administration Committee who submitted the bill, told the Pyithu Hluttaw that the State budget can be made more thrifty by forming the commission with no more than 15 members.

The Anti-Corruption Law was promulgated on 7 August,

2013 during the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw term.

A question & answer session followed, with Union ministers answering questions raised by representatives.

In his reply to a question on the social and environmental impacts of gold mining in Kyaukpahtha region in Kawlin Township, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said that measures are being taken to assess and monitor the possible impact of wastewater from gold

mine in the region.

Regarding a question on the GSM mobile network in Maukmai Township, Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung said that there will be GSM coverage in the township following the process of hiring a tower from Telenor. The project is set for completion this July and the construction of a new tower and the installation of telecommunication devices set for completion this October.—*Myanmar News Agency*

UEC, MILI look to make voting easier for people with disabilities

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC) U Hla Thein received a delegation from the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

During the meeting, the UEC Chairman and MILI Programme Director U Nay Lin Soe held talks on better policies, rules and regulations for

making voting easier for people with disabilities.

Also discussed was cooperation between the UEC and MILI in future elections.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Construction Ministry to spend \$500m on road upgrades between Myanmar and India

THE MINISTRY of Construction will spend US\$500 million on upgrading of roads connecting Myanmar and India to boost trade between the two countries, said Union Minister U Win Khaing yesterday.

Preliminary engineering works have been completed on some road sections while such works are underway on other parts, he added.

Upon completion of road sections linking Chin State to Rakhine State, products from Chin State can be transported to various parts of the country as well as other countries via Sit-twe in Rakhine State.

Road upgrading project will be of great benefit to not only many areas in Myanmar but also landlocked regions in India.

The road project began 2014-2015 FY and the deadline in of 2019 is set for completion of the projects.

The project includes upgrading of 69 bridges in Chin State, least developed area of the country.

Thanks to upgraded roads, more progress can be seen in Sagaing Region and Chin and Shan States, said the Union minister. According to the ministry, India contributed \$245 million to its road upgrading project and India's EXIM Bank provided \$140 in loans to the project.

Upgrading of 133-km Tamu-Kyeegone and 280km Kyeegone-Kalewa road sections on India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway is being undertaken, it added.—*Ko Moe*

Mandalay Minister announces crack down on narcotics and gambling

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Zaw Myint Maung has ordered a crackdown on narcotics and gambling in the region as part of the new government's 100-day initiative. "Some cooperation is lacking between the public and government departments in the implementation of the 100-day initiatives. This shouldn't be the case. Narcotics-related arrests are only being made in Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin districts. Why not in other districts? There is a need for effective implementation of these initiatives," said the chief minister. The Myanmar Police Force has been carrying out ar-

rests and pressing charges against people involved in narcotics and gambling since 1 May and will continue to do so until 8 August as part of the initiative.

"We've joined forces with township and district-level police officers in making daily arrests [against perpetrators of narcotics trading and gambling activities]," said Mandalay Police Chief Han Htun. Some members of the public have said the 100-day initiative is proving to have a positive impact, but they are quick to highlight a need to continue with such methods to control the situation.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Two Myanmar climbers reach summit of Mt Everest

TWO Myanmar mountaineers reached the summit of Mt Everest yesterday, becoming the first Myanmar nationals to scale the world's highest mountain.

Pyae Phyo Aung and Win Ko Ko set their feet on the summit at 7.07am MST yesterday morning, according to a Facebook posting of the Htoo Foundation which sponsored the climb.

U Tay Za, Chairman of the Htoo foundation, congratulated the achievement of the climbing team and also expressed thanks to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, for his congratulations as well.

At the summit, the two climbers planted the State Flag and the flag of Tay Za's conglomerate, the Htoo Group of Companies.

Nyi Nyi Aung, a third member of the team, could not complete the mission due to health problems.

U Tay Za, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Trekking and Mountaineering Federation, also expressed thanks to the third climber for his assistance to the other two while staying at the base camp. He also said that he welcomed the achievement of the three climbers who have brought pride to the country with honour.—GNLM



Pyae Phyo Aung and Win Ko Ko set foot on the summit of Mount Everest. PHOTO: HTOO FOUNDATION'S FACEBOOK

Container handling delays at Yangon's ports to be addressed within three weeks: Union Minister

CONTAINER handling delays and problems at harbours in Yangon will be addressed within three weeks, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint told the media yesterday.

Combined efforts of the departments concerned including the ministry, The Myanmar Port Authority and Customs Department will be made to address delays in container handling operations that have been occurring since the end of the country's Thingyan Water Festival, said the Union minister after a meeting at UMFCCL.

During the Thingyan period, 12 container vessels carrying more than 10,000 containers arrived in

Yangon. According to sources, Yangon, the country's commercial city, has encountered similar problems in container handling operations yearly since 2008.

Narrow harbours for unloading containers from cargo ships and a lack of 24-hour management at ports are blamed for delays in container handling operations, said sources.

Moreover, Yangon's traffic congestions are hampering the flow of commodities, sources added. U Zaw Tun Lwin, deputy general manager of the Myanmar Port Authority, said that 24-hour services at ports will be in place to address current difficulties

and to ensure the smooth flow of commodities by increasing staff strength and the number of machinery needed for handling operations.

The Customs Department will provide a one-stop service and complaints at ports will be handled and addressed as soon as possible, he added. According to the Customs Department there are six ports that can provide container handling operations in Yangon and they handle nearly 200 containers each day.

Among those ports the Myanmar Industrial Port and Asia World port operate container handling the most. Ko Nyi Nyi, a

container mover, said that it takes about three days for a container to come out of the port as only three X-ray facilities are conducting cargo scanning at MIP where there are frequent minor traffic incidents. According to sources, the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System-MACCS provided by the Japanese government is expected to be operational at the end of this year. Union Minister Dr Than Myint said earlier that the new government is planning to triple export volumes during its five-year term. Myanmar earned US\$15 billion from its export sector during the previous fiscal year.—Ko Moe

President U Htin Kyaw meets with Vladimir Putin

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between Moscow and Yangon, the providing of technical assistance to No 2 Steel Mill (soon to be opened in Shan State), energy sector investors' need to consider social responsibility and cooperation in cultural, tourism and defence sectors.

The two heads of state further discussed matters concerning education exchange programs, the providing of scholarship awards, on the part of Russia in technology training and other disciplines, the continuation of cooperation in

science and technology and ASEAN-Russia cooperation.

During his meeting with the Thai Prime Minister, President U Htin Kyaw laid emphasis upon further strengthening of diplomatic ties and amicable relations between the two nations, the formulation of programmes for co-operation in economic, trade and cultural sectors, deep sea port projects and special economic zone projects' implementation not affecting the natural environment and matters relating to the well-being of the people.

Then, in regard to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, the two leaders discussed closer co-operation for their health care, job security and fringe benefits.

The two also discussed the signing of a memorandum of understanding regarding bilateral cooperation in workers' affairs, reaching an agreement regarding the creation of employment opportunities and coming to an agreement concerning cross-border issues.

President U Htin Kyaw also had a meeting with Vietnamese

Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc and discussed matters concerning further cementing Myanmar-Viet Nam ties, the promotion of bilateral trade, increased investments in construction, banking, communications, air transport and the energy sector and cooperation in cultivation and production of coffee and pepper.

The two leaders also discussed tourism promotion, cooperation and livestock and fishery improvement and regional cooperation activities such as GMS, ACMECS and CLMV.

Myanmar, Switzerland look to cooperate in movie sector

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Paul R. Segar and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two representatives discussed matters relating to cooperation between Myanmar and Switzerland in the motion picture sector.

Also present were Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine Awaits Roanu

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The Minister also discussed coordination between the different committees in Rakhine and how they can work together in order to quickly respond to those in need. U Kyaw Min noted that local NGOs who have signed MoU's with the Rakhine State government will cooperate on disaster relief.

A representative from the International Committee of Red Cross told The Global New Light of Myanmar that the group has a stock of 10,000 non-food items stored in the state. These packages include tarpaulin, stoves and other necessary items.

Warnings are being distributed to areas around Rakhine State from the General Administration Department, who alert townships and villages on how to prepare for the storm and how to respond after the storm. No information was supplied regarding how those in Internally Displaced Camps are being notified.

The Global New Light of Myanmar tried various sources in Chin State to understand how the state is preparing citizens for the storm. Yet, because of Chin States rural landscape no direct contacts could be made.

Veteran meteorologist Dr Htun Lwin told The Global New Light of Myanmar that Rakhine can expect wind speeds from 65 to 80km p/h (40-50 miles) with waves reaching 6 to 9 meters (20-30 feet). This may change today as the storm gathers momentum.

Construction of international standard vegetable wholesale market underway



International standard vegetable wholesale market being seen under construction. PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN

AN international standard vegetable wholesale market is being built on a 83.7-acre plot of land in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

The wholesale market is designed not just to make a profit but also to help building bridges among farmers, consumers, local traders and exporters, said an official from the Yangon City Development Committee.

The project was started on 2 April, 2015. Our company designers drew the wholesale market architectural plan after they learned market design from Japan and Thailand. Myanmar engineers are constructing the market with a chief engineer, two project engineers, and ten site engineers from our company totaling 32 employees. There will be 1,500 5x11 feet rooms

in four buildings, 200 stalls, car parking with an accommodation capacity of 2,500 cars. The estimated cost of the whole project is K118 billion. The market is still under construction and expected to be completed on 31 March, 2018. So far, 35 per cent has been completed, said U Soe Naing, Project Engineer of Dagon International Co Ltd.—*Myo Min Thein*

Army helps rebuild homes in Loilem



Soldiers seen clearing the tree to build houses.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

TATMADAW personnel from regional battalions together with police officers, members of fire brigades and local residents are assisting with the reconstruction of roofs on several houses and the disbursement of relief aid in Kyethi Township, Loilem District, Shan State, on Saturday, 14 May.

Strong winds destroyed the roofs of 63 homes, three school buildings and two monasteries and damaged one stupa and brought down several trees in the town on 14 May.—*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Yaba seized in Myawady township

LOCAL authorities searched the home of one Aung Myint in Kaw Kao village, Myawady township on Tuesday and seized 394 yaba pills. One Ma Naw Wah was found together with the host.

On that same day police from Myawaddy township seized 20 yaba pills from one Wunna on Pyithayar 4 Road, ward 4, Myawady. The connected investigation led the police to stop a motorcycle being driven by one Moe Set with Ma Phyu Thin on board and seized 184 yaba pills from them on the road to Mya Myintga mountain.



Wunna, Moe Set and Ma Phyu Thin. PHOTO: MNA

Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*

Initiatives to curb Yangon traffic congestion to be discussed in hluttaw

DISCUSSIONS will be held on initiatives to curb traffic congestion plaguing Yangon's roads, according to MPs at the second regular meeting of the Yangon Region Hluttaw.

MP U Kyaw Kyaw Htun of Hlaing Constituency-1 urged the Yangon Region government to take swift action to reduce traffic congestion in the city.

"[Traffic congestion] causes daily headaches for the general public in getting where they have to go. The previous government allocated K100 billion for not only the construction of overpasses but the carrying out of a long-term projects to fight congestion. But the inability of those with responsibility to follow procedures has made the traffic situation ever worse. It calls for the need of close supervision on any congestion-reduction initiatives," said the MP.

The proposal for dialogue on curbing traffic congestion included suggestions to ensure that public buses do not stop for long periods of time at bus stops and to ban the parking of vehicles at traffic lights or road junctions.

The proposal also mentioned the prohibition of vendors or trishaws from cluttering up main roads; the expansion of short-cuts and alleys that in-

terconnect with main roads and repaving some if necessary; and the stationing of traffic police at railway crossings, junctions and areas without traffic lights to systematically keep traffic flowing.

Suggestions to conduct educational talks for drivers in a bid to encourage the following of road rules and penalties for drivers who do not obey them; to properly press legal charges; and to station traffic police at junctions, traffic lights and roundabouts during peak times of 7-10am and 4-7pm were also mentioned in the proposal.

"I think that only with this kind of systematic effort to curb congestion can it actually be reduced. The main point is for bus drivers and conductors to fully follow road and vehicle regulations and ensure proper customer service to passengers," said U Htay Win, a resident of Yangon's Lanmadaw Township.

With the support from U Gay Maung, MP for Shwepyitha Constituency-1, for the proposal, discussions on the matter will be held in the Yangon Region hluttaw on 26 May. The discussions will also include Yangon mayor U Maung Maung Soe.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Police arrest a man for attempted murder

LOCAL police arrested a man for the assault and attempted murder of his teenage nephew in Aung Bar village, Kawthaung township on Tuesday.

According to a villager, the boy lived with his uncle and lent help with the suspect's sea fishing business. According to the police investigation, while at sea, the boy's uncle beat him with a crank-start handle, used to start the boat engine, strangled the victim with a rope and cut his ear with a knife. The boy was kept on the boat for two days before being left stranded on an island without food or water. A passing fishing boat found the victim and sent him to the nearest hospital.

Police have taken action against one U Chit Phoo, charging him under the Child Abuse Law.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung-IPRD)*

Illegal timber seized in Hteechain

LOCAL Authorities seized a shipment of illegal sawn timber weighing 0.8 tonnes in Meza creek, Hteechain Township, Katha District on Monday, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising officers and staff from the Forestry

Department searched a cargo vessel in Meza creek and discovered 28 sawn timbers worth K220,000 on a vehicle being driven by one Thein Paing, 32, from Tada Oo township.

The suspected man is being charged by police.—*U Ye (Katar)*

LOCAL Business



A newly constructed housing in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Apartment Law needs to be legislated to create proper property market

THE Apartment Law needs to be legislated for the apartment market to flourish, according to real estate dealers.

The apartment market, which has been on the decline, might be righted if the Apartment Law is enacted this year, they say.

There are many cases of disputes concerning title deeds and forgery as there is no particular law related to apartments. Currently, the Condominium Law was approved by the Union parliament, said Daw Win, a real estate agent.

The sharp decline in the apartment market began with the failure of the contract market and the advanced purchase system meaning the apartment market is only for renters. The selling

and buying of apartments is on the verge of total failure because of the title deed disputes. The Apartment Law is required for the contract market to work for proprietors, the contractors and the buyers. This law can create the opportunity for mortgages, said some entrepreneurs.

As most of the people cannot afford to make an outright purchase, they are forced to buy on an instalment plan. In that case, they resort to the advanced purchase system, which cannot properly protect buyers. This being so, an apartment law is urgently needed to protect buyers against cheating on the part of the sellers and/or developers, according to realtors.—*ML/Union Daily*

Myanmar Citizens Bank to be third company listed on YSX

THE Myanmar Citizens Bank will be the third listed company to trade stock on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) according to U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager.

Information relating to the Myanmar Citizens Bank is currently under scrutiny by the relevant authorities. It is expected to take three months before the MCB will be allowed to commence stock trading, he added.

“We’ve been scrutinizing the bank since April. We expect the stock exchange to start

in July”, said U Myint Win, the managing director.

The Myanmar Citizens Bank began operations and banking services in 1992. It is known to have capital in circulation amounting to K52 billion. Currently, there are a total of 1,700 share holders in the bank. To promote investment, the bank began conducting share trading in foreign countries in May, it has been learned.

The Stock exchange at YSX was established with the First Myanmar Investment (FMI)

Company on 15 March this year. Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) Public Limited planned to launch its stocks at YSX today and it is recorded as the second listed company on the YSX. The decline in FMI share selling was a result of the high attraction by investors in MTSH’s shares.

There are six companies which have been approved for the YSX and the shares of the remaining companies will be sold as soon as possible, according to economist experts—*PPN/Union Daily*

Agriculture, fishery products exports rise at border trade camp

THE export volume of agriculture and fishery products this April through the Kawthaung border trade camp was over US\$3.254 million higher than last April, according to an official from the trade camp.

The Kawthaung trade camp, located along the Thailand-Myanmar border, saw an increase of \$880,000 from fishery exports this April.

The border trade camp exported aquaculture products, including various fish, prawns, eels and octopus. Coconut, rubber, timber and other agriculture products were also exported to neighbouring countries.

The import volume at the trade camp also rose last month above the volume from the same period last year. Myanmar mostly imported construction equipment, fertilisers, medicines, household utensils and consumer products.

According to local exporters, the export volume generally decreases when fish catching is strictly forbidden during the off season announced by the fisheries department. Among the import materials, imports of cement normally decline during bad weather.

Myanmar mainly trades with Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh through its 15 cross-border trade camps.—*MPPS/Union Daily*

Prioritise northeast Yangon in New City Project: YCDC

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has suggested that Yangon Region government give priority to the development of the northeastern part of Yangon if the Yangon New City Project is implemented, according to Dr Toe Aung, the head of City Planning and Land Administration Department.

The northeast project is expected to facilitate the transportation of construction machinery

and is considered more accessible than the southwestern Kyimyindine area. Yangon’s population is expected to reach 10 millions by 2040. JICA’s Greater Yangon Strategic Plan 2040 will be conducted in northeast and southwest of Yangon, in Thanlyin, Dala, Htantabin, Hmawbi and Hlegu townships. The plan is expected to bring about the development of these areas.

Currently, low-cost apartments have already been built

as a part of the New City project in northeast of Yangon. The northeastern areas of Yangon are thought to be subject to fewer disputes than Kyimyindine Township because most of the land in the northeast belongs to the government. The New City Project has committed to ensuring electricity and water supply to the areas it covers and will be implemented in areas that have access to education and job opportunities.—*200*

Price of mushrooms rises in Kyaukpadaung Township

THE price of mushrooms has increased in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region because of lower production, local green grocers say.

Farmers can make a healthy profit on deals this season because of lower production, which is associated with the strong El Niño

weather front, which has hit Myanmar’s dry region this year.

The total production of all mushroom plantations has decreased by 35 per cent this season compared with the same period last season. The current demand for mushrooms is high in the local market. The selling price for a

viss (1.6 kilos) of mushrooms has increased to K5,500 from K3,000.

Growers in the area usually cultivate mushrooms on a small scale every season. They mainly distribute their products to Natmauk, Nyaung U, Chauk, Yenangyaung and Taungtha townships.—*SS/Union Daily*

Mandalay car market cool because of possible changes in tax

THE Mandalay car market has reportedly been cool lately because of the news that taxes will be differently imposed depending on the value of imported cars starting from 1 June.

The Internal Revenue Department announced on 12 May that the tax rate is 15 per cent for cars worth up to K30 million, 15 per cent for cars worth between K30 and K100 million and 30 per cent for cars worth above K100 million.

Buyers have refrained from purchasing cars because the car market might change upon imposition of the new tax. Car dealers do not want to sell cars with an expectation of high prices. That’s

why the car market has been cool in Mandalay, said U Hla Myint, a car dealer from 60 Street of Mandalay.

The Hi-jet market is not seen to be on a marked decline because the car can be used both for commercial and family use. The prices vary depending on the car brands: Hijet Manual cost between K6.5 to K7.7 million; Hijet Auto, K8 million; Suzuki Manual, K5 to 6.6 million; Suzuki Auto at over K7 million; Honda Fit at around K10 million; Honda Fit 2011 at around K12 million; ADVan 1.3 at K8 million and AD Van 1.5 at above K10 million, it has been learned from Mandalay car dealers.—*200*

Atomic bomb survivors: Obama apology nice, but priority is disarmament

TOKYO — Japanese atomic bomb survivors say an apology from President Barack Obama for the US bombing of Hiroshima would be welcome, but their priority is on ridding the world of all nuclear weapons forever.

Obama, who in 2009 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize partly for making nuclear nonproliferation a centerpiece of his agenda, will on 27 May become the first incumbent US president to visit Hiroshima, site of the world's first atomic bombing on 6 August, 1945.

The city of Nagasaki was bombed three days later.

Obama's visit to Hiroshima, after he attends a meeting of G7 leaders in Tokyo, was hotly debated in the White House, with concern it would be criticised in the United States if it was seen as an apology. Most Japanese feel the

bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were unjustified. Many in the United States say the bombings shortened the war and saved the lives of numerous US servicemen.

Terumi Tanaka, a native of Nagasaki who was 13 when the bomb hit, said on Thursday an apology for the human suffering would be welcome. Though he was unharmed, he vividly recalls searching the blackened city and piles of bodies for family members.

"We would definitely like an apology to people who lost their lives, those who lost loved ones, parents who lost their children," Tanaka, who heads a national organisation of bombing survivors, told a news conference.

But insisting on a broad apology risked interfering with the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament, he said.

"The strongest feeling of survivors is that this



Terumi Tanaka (R), a survivor of the atomic bombing and head of a national organisation of bombing survivors called Nihon Hidankyo, and Toshiki Fujimori, a survivor of the atomic bombing and assistant general secretary of Nihon Hidankyo, arrive for a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, Japan, on 19 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

should not become a barrier to getting rid of nuclear weapons," he said.

The bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed thousands of people instantly and about 140,000 by the end of the year.

About 27,000 people were killed instantly in Nagasaki and about 70,000 by the end of the year.

Japan surrendered six days after the bombing of Nagasaki. Toshiki Fujimori, who was a baby on his mother's back when the two of them were bowled over by the blast wave from the Hiroshima bomb, said he sensed efforts were being made to dampen talk of an apology in advance of Obama's visit.—Reuters

Australian PM faces fallout over minister's 'xenophobic' refugee claim

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, in the midst of a tight election campaign, came under fire on Thursday for backing his immigration minister over claims resettling "illiterate and innumerate" refugees would strain the social safety network.

Opposition Labour Party leader Bill Shorten labelled Immigration Minister Peter Dutton's comments "xenophobic", while refugee advocates such as an Ian Rintoul, a spokesman for the high-profile Refugee Action Coalition, condemned the comments.

"They want to run a cry of xenophobia, they want to undermine the migrant contribution to Australia because they don't want this election to be about the issues that matter to Australians," Shorten told reporters.

"The issue is that yesterday migrants were demonised by Peter Dutton,

and Malcolm Turnbull backed Peter Dutton over the great immigration history of this country," Shorten said.

Dutton on Tuesday sparked outrage when he said an increase in the annual refugee intake would lead to an influx of uneducated foreigners who would steal jobs from Australian citizens and strain the social safety network.

Border security and immigration are hot political issues in Australia that have swayed past elections and resulted in a bipartisan policy under which asylum seekers arriving by boat are sent to South Pacific island detention camps. The conservative government last year pledged to take 12,000 refugees from Syria on top of its 13,750 annual quota. The centre-left opposition Labour Party says it will double the annual quota to 27,000 by 2025 if it wins elections on 2 July.—Reuters

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Chinese jets intercept US military plane over South China Sea: Pentagon

HONG KONG/WASHINGTON — Two Chinese fighter jets carried out an "unsafe" intercept of a US military reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, a further escalation of tensions in and around the contested waterway.

The incident took place in international airspace on Tuesday as the US maritime patrol aircraft carried out "a routine US patrol," a Pentagon statement said.

The incident comes a week after China scrambled fighter jets as a US Navy ship sailed close to a disputed reef in the South China Sea.

Another Chinese intercept took place in 2014 when a Chinese fighter pilot few acrobatic maneuvers around a US spy plane.

The intercept is also days before President Barack Obama travels to parts of Asia from 21-28, May which will include a Group of Seven summit in Japan and his first trip to Viet Nam.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes



An octagonal tower with a conical feature at its top, located on the northeast side of Subi Reef was nearly complete measuring 40 feet on each side and 90 to 100 feet tall in this Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative on 8 January 2016 satellite file image released to Reuters on 15 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

every year.

The Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

Washington has accused Beijing of militarizing the South China Sea after creating artificial islands while Beijing, in turn, has criticised increased US naval patrols

and exercises in Asia.

The Pentagon statement said the Department of Defence was addressing the issue through military and diplomatic channels.

Chinese authorities have yet to comment in detail but a report in the *Global Times* said the Defence Ministry was looking into reports.

The paper, an influential tabloid published by the Communist Party's official *People's Daily* newspaper, said reports showed it was likely that a US plane was operating near China.

The Pentagon has yet to release the precise location of the encounter. — Reuters

Train partially derails on Tobu Tojo Line in Tokyo, no one injured

TOKYO — A train with some 400 passengers on board bound for Ikebukuro on the Tobu Tojo Line in Tokyo partially derailed at around 12:10pm Wednesday, but no one was injured, police said.

After the train made an emergency stop between Oyama and Nakaitabashi stations, passengers were ushered along the track to Nakaitabashi Station, about 100 metres away from the accident site, according to the

Metropolitan Police Department.

The fifth car of the 10-car train partly left the tracks, train operator Tobu Railway Co. said. Train operations on line between Ikebukuro and Wakoshi stations have been suspended.

The police said they found evidence that the train had scraped railroad ties for a distance of about 200 meters from a point 50 metres away from Nakaitabashi Station.—*Kyodo News*



Photo taken on 18 May 2016, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a derailed Tobu Railway Co. train in Tokyo. No injuries were reported, but around 400 passengers had to walk to a nearby station. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Cyclone kills 12 in east Indian state

NEW DELHI — At least 12 people were killed and several others injured in cyclonic storm in India's eastern state of Bihar, state-run broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) said on Thursday.

The cyclone hit northeastern and Kosi region of the state

Wednesday night.

"Casualties have been reported from Purnea, Katihar, Kishanganj, Araria, Bhagalpur, Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa, Madhubani, Munger and Lakhisarai districts," the broadcaster said.

According to AIR, several thatched houses were damaged and trees uprooted due to high speed of wind.

The winds have also damaged electricity transmission lines and crops in the affected districts.—*Xinhua*

Russia, Thailand agree to further cooperation in military, food

ST PETERSBURG — Russia and Thailand have signed a series of agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation in the fields of military, energy and food.

The agreements were signed following talks between Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Wednesday.

TASS reported that Thailand had plans to buy helicopters from Russia and also explored the possibility of purchasing Russian military equipment for its air force and ground troops.

However, Prayut Chan-o-cha said that the deal should be mutually-beneficial and asked Russia to conclude contracts for the supply of agricultural prod-

ucts from Thailand.

The two countries had signed a memorandum of understanding on security control of fishery and aquaculture products' import and export.

Russian Gazprom and Novatek corporations signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the Thai national oil company PTT Public Company Limited.—*Xinhua*

India's ruling BJP wins power in northeast, expands influence

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party declared victory on Thursday in the northeastern state of Assam, an election boost that will help his right-wing nationalist government rebuild some momentum after poll losses last year.

Grabbing power in Assam, one of five states electing new assemblies, would be a first for the Bharatiya Janata Party in India's volatile northeast, a sign its political influence is expanding beyond its traditional northern and western belt.

The BJP led in the races for 81 of the 126 seats in Assam where clear trends had been set, unofficial tallies compiled by television broadcasters showed.

The opposition Congress Party, which has ruled the state assembly since 2001, trailed with 26 seats. Modi called the Assam victory an "exceptional win" on Twitter and congratulated his party leaders. Elsewhere, tallies by television channels showed popular regional parties heading for victory in the southern states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the eastern state of West Bengal, where the BJP has a small presence and was not expected to win. Modi called the chief ministers of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu to congratulate them, he said on Twitter.

"The BJP had nothing to lose in these elections, only something to gain," said Manoj Joshi, a political analyst at the Observer Re-

search Foundation. "And they have gained. It shows the momentum is still with them."

Counting of votes from the five states began at 0230 GMT and complete results are expected later on Thursday.

The BJP waged a polarising campaign in Assam, an underdeveloped state rife with ethnic and religious tension, and vowed to disenfranchise millions of Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants, to curry favour among discontented Hindus. Modi took a less prominent role in elections this year after a bad loss in a November poll in the eastern state of Bihar that turned into a referendum on his personal leadership. His party also lost in the capital New Delhi early last year.

"The people of Assam have accepted our winning combination. This is going to be a great victory," BJP chief ministerial candidate Sarbananda Sonowal told Indian television, as supporters gathered in the state capital, Guwahati. Victory in Assam, while symbolic, will have little impact on Modi's ability to control the upper house of parliament, where his party lacks a majority and the opposition has stymied key economic reforms. But the prospect of Congress weakened further by the state vote will raise his party's hopes for its bitter foe to be less resistant to the legislation.

Unofficial counts showed a Congress-led coalition was headed for defeat at the hands of leftist parties in Kerala.—*Reuters*

Hopes fade for 150 feared buried in Sri Lanka landslides



Villagers walk through the landslide site at Elangipitiya village in Aranayaka, Sri Lanka on 19 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ARANAYAKA (Sri Lanka) — Hopes faded on Thursday for the survival of about 150 people trapped under the mud and rubble of two landslides in Sri Lanka, as heavy rain hampered rescue operations and the death toll from the disaster rose to 41.

Days of torrential rains have forced more than 300,000 people from their homes across the South Asian island nation, official data showed. Eighteen bodies have been retrieved at the landslide sites.

That figure is likely to rise sharply, as authorities battling muddy conditions began to give up hope of reaching 134 people believed to be trapped under rubble at one site, and 16 at another, before time ran out.

"I don't think there will be any survivors," Major General Sudantha Ranasinghe, the officer in charge of the rescue operation, told Reuters.

"There are places where the mud level is up to 30 feet. We will do our best. We will keep going

until we can recover the maximum."

Rescue efforts have focused on the town of Aranayaka, 100 km (60 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo, where three villages were buried late on Tuesday in the central district of Kegalle.

Military officials used hoes and shovels to shift mud as they scrambled in the hilly terrain to find survivors amid heavy rain that made walking difficult.

Material from destroyed homes littered the area, where dog cages, water tanks, and a three-wheeler were swathed in mud. The military pulled three bodies from rubble at the site of the second landslide that buried 16 people, Ranasinghe said.

Aid agencies in Colombo canvassed for boats to rescue hundreds of people trapped by rising waters near the banks of rivers. Disaster management authorities said the 300,000 people displaced across the country by the disaster had been sent to 610 safe locations.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Democracy, not majoritarianism

Kyaw Thura

IF there is a word in politics that is familiar to most people but most misunderstood and misused in context, that word is none other than 'democracy'. Dictionaries define democracy as a system of government in which all citizens of a country can vote to elect their representatives. Therefore, a democracy is a government by the people in which the power is vested in the people and exercised by elected representatives.

Judging from this, the

people do not elect representatives to govern them and limit their individual rights to the freedoms of expression and religion.

The responsibility of representatives manifests itself in such a way that they are assigned to run the country and manage its resources for the welfare of the people from all social strata. Simply put, sovereignty resides with the people.

It is natural that in a democracy, decisions are made by majority rule. However,

this does not necessarily mean that the majority enjoys the divine right to oppress the minority. The rule by the majority is not democratic at all. Nor should the protection of the rights of minorities be at the mercy of the majority, simply because democratic principles are intended to respect the rights of all citizens and prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, religion and gender.

All things considered, the establishment of a democratic society encompasses a wide

range of procedures and practices based on the values of tolerance, compromise and equality to ensure fundamental human rights to all citizens. Researchers have argued that 'democracy is more than a set of constitutional rules that determine how a government functions'. In a sense, the practice of democracy can be interpreted as the institutionalisation of the culture of accountability, responsibility and transparency in the decision-making process.

A pledge to support Myanmar in its drive toward future food and nutrition security

MYANMAR is beginning its journey on the road to achieving 'Zero Hunger' and there is good reason to be optimistic that the final destination – the eradication of hunger and malnutrition – can be reached in the not too distant future. It will be a challenging journey, but with determination, coordination and co-operation, it's a route that can be successfully navigated.

While Myanmar has made gains over the years in reducing hunger, there are still an estimated eight million people who are undernourished.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has, at its heart, a mandate to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The new government of Myanmar has also included these among its prime objectives. So the road ahead is clearly signposted. At FAO we are keen to help Myanmar achieve these mutual goals. Indeed, Myanmar is one of five focus countries already participating in a wider FAO regional initiative in support of the Zero Hunger Challenge. And the opportunities to do more are evident.

During the past four years,



Kundhavi Kadiresan

the country's economy has been steadily opening up and foreign investment and development assistance to Myanmar have significantly increased. Major changes are underway in areas such as infrastructure investments, improving banking systems, enhanced connectivity and urbanization (with its inevitable consequences).

With the new government in place, it's expected that further investment and financial aid to Myanmar will be forthcoming. So this is an entry point, one that allows us to address, once and for all, the single biggest grassroots challenge

of all – reaching that goal of Zero Hunger. How could we do otherwise? How could we allow this opportunity to slip from our grasp – to watch children continue to suffer from stunting or watch as families continue to be malnourished?

State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has reiterated her strong belief that improving food security and nutrition requires assessing food systems, not merely in terms of the quantity of production, but also in terms of quality, access, diversity, equity, safety, resilience, and much more. Myanmar's food systems must become not only

economically sustainable, but also socially and ecologically sustainable.

Achieving zero hunger won't be easy, but Myanmar has already stepped forward to meet the challenge, and, after joining the regional initiative, it has launched its own National Zero Hunger Challenge. With this new political mandate at the national level the momentum can not only be maintained, it can be accelerated.

And that acceleration can come through enhancements to the agricultural sector and attention to nutrition. The agriculture sector is at the core of Myanmar's economy. Broadly defined as including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, agriculture contributes around 30 percent of GDP. Three in four people in Myanmar live in rural areas and agriculture remains critical to their livelihoods, providing employment for 61 percent of the working population. In a normal year, Myanmar produces enough food to supply its people and exports the surplus.

Together, FAO is working with the Government to help it improve agriculture and productivity, access to food and to en-

hance food security and improve the income of farmers while helping the country become better prepared to respond to natural disasters and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We were here following Cyclone Nargis to help Myanmar rehabilitate farming and coastal fishing and aquaculture communities and assist those worst impacted to regain their livelihoods. We've also worked together on the prevention and control of avian and human influenza in Myanmar and on the development of oil crops.

Together, we are continuing to collaborate to improve farmer livelihoods in the Dry Zone through improvements to livestock health, productivity and marketing. These initiatives and collective efforts will improve rural livelihoods and work towards that goal of Zero Hunger.

Together we can do more and working together we can arrive at the Zero Hunger destination.

Kundhavi Kadiresan is the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

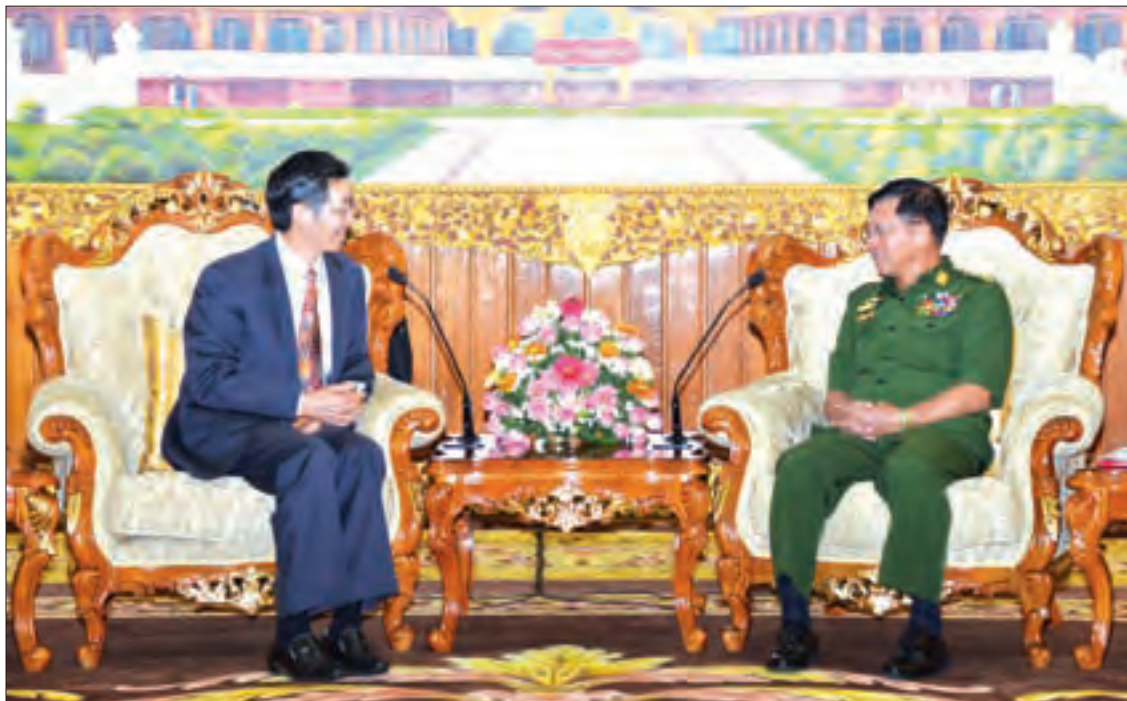
Faobao relations will remain unchanged: Chinese Representative

AS the Tatmadaw has been patient and cooperated in regard to ending armed conflicts, the peace process has progressed to where it stands today, said Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during his meeting with Mr Sun Guoxiang, Asian Affairs Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, held at Bayint Naung Yeiktha yesterday.

The Senior General continued to say that efforts will be

exerted according to the policy of the government to hold the 21 century Panglong Conference securely and efficiently to ensure peace.

The Chinese representative said that the faobao relations between the two countries and the ties between the two armies would remain unchanged regardless of Myanmar's internal political changes and that China supports the Myanmar people's choice of the development path that suits them.—*Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Mr Sun Guoxiang, Asian Affairs Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. PHOTO: MYAWADY

An Unforgettable Trip



Pann Phyu Phyu Win

EVERYONE has unforgettable experiences in life. I also have also had many unforgettable events in my life. But, most of them are travelling experiences. There is one trip I cannot forget.

I was selected as the Grade-9 Lu Yee Chun Student for 2016. 'Lu Yee Chun' means all-round outstanding person. Every year, the government chooses Lu Yee Chun students from all over the country, and they send the chosen Grade 9, 10 and 11 students to three famous camps in the country. As I am a Grade-9 student, my

camp was in Bagan. Mandalay is the camp for all Lu Yee Chun students from Upper Myanmar. As I am a student from Upper Myanmar, I had to go to Mandalay first before I went to Bagan.

In Mandalay, we visited the Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace, which is the palace of the last Myanmar kings. The traditional palace design and wonderful architecture of the Konbaung Dynasty amazed us. We also looked around the Palace Museum. The Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace is not only a landmark for Myanmar but also the heart of Myanmar culture.

Next, we went to the Maha Muni Pagoda, which is a very famous Myanmar pagoda. After visiting these two places, we left Mandalay for Bagan. There were altogether 176 Lu Yee Chun students in the Bagan camp. We stayed at the Royal Emerald Riverview Resort. We went to many historic places in and around Bagan. There were over 4,000 Buddhist temples and pagodas in Bagan between the 11th and 13th centuries, but only over 3,000 pagodas remain today. We

went to famous pagodas such as Shwe Zi Khone, Ananda, Dhammayangyi and Kandawtpallin. The magnificent architecture, splendid temple designs and brilliant artistry of the temples left us surprised by the wonderful culture of ancient Myanmar.

We also visited Popa Mother Mountain and Flat Topped Hill, which is the best place for soul, mind and body in Asia. We felt very tired when we climbed 777 steps to reach the top of the hill. But the reward for our tiredness was the spectacular view. Many rare animal species can be found on Mount Popa. There are over 2,000 monkeys on Mount Popa.

In Salay, we visited the Salay wood carvings temple. The intricate wood carvings showed us the expertise of traditional Myanmar wood carvers. Most of the carvings depict stories from Dhammapada and are made of teak. These arts and crafts are a source of pride for us, and for Myanmar.

We also went to Pakkoku. We visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum and the Palace of King Kyansithar and Anawrahtar on the last day. The trip was re-

ally enjoyable. We went to many places and learned about the history of the places and studied the rich traditions and culture of Myanmar.

During the trip, I learned many important things that I will remember for the rest of my life. Everything was new for me. I had never travelled without my family. During this trip, I met so many friends with different characters. I came to know how to make friends with different people. I met very outstanding students.

By good fortune, I met my best friends there. I learned how to stay alone without my family. I realised the value of family. During this trip, I was faced with so

many challenges. I learned that I need to be circumspect in every situation in which I find myself. I think this trip changed me into a strong girl. Not only did I gain a lot of regional knowledge; I felt proud of my country. I learned that my country had a very advanced civilisation in the ancient times.

I feel so lucky to visit these amazing places without any cost.

I am very proud to be a Lu Yee Chun student. This trip is a trip I will never forget for the rest of my life. I will try my best to be a Grade 10 Lu Yee Chun student so I can have another unforgettable trip.—*Pann Phyu Phyu Win (BEHS-1, Loikaw)*



Lu Ye Chun Students listen to clarifications as they visit Mandalay.

Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of Kason

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

THE Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of Kason falls on 21st May 2016.

We Buddhists across the world and all well aware of the Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of Kason because over 2558 years ago, our unrivalled Omniscient Buddha was born on the day of the Full Moon of the month of Kason, upon which He attained the Enlightenment at the age of thirty-five and also upon which He attained Parinibbana (passed away) at the age of eighty.

In commemoration of these three significant and holy events

associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples celebrate the Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of the month of Kason.

The month of Kason mostly falls on one of the days of the last week of the month of April or on one of the days of the first or the second week of the month of May every year according to calendar.

All Buddhists throughout the world also know that the most important of the Buddhist festivals is Vesakha or Vesakha festival. Vesakha is the name of an Indian month, the month of May. We all Buddhist communities all over the world would heartily comprehend that

our Omniscient Gotama Buddha attained the Enlightenment under the sacred Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya in India early in the morning on the Full Moon Day of Kason (Vesakha), unaided and unguided by any supernatural agency but solely relying on His own efforts, the consciousness of true insight possessed Him. Having attained the Enlightenment or Buddhahood, the supreme state of perfection, He devoted the remainder of His precious life to serving humanity.

The Sacred Bodhi Tree (Bo Tree)

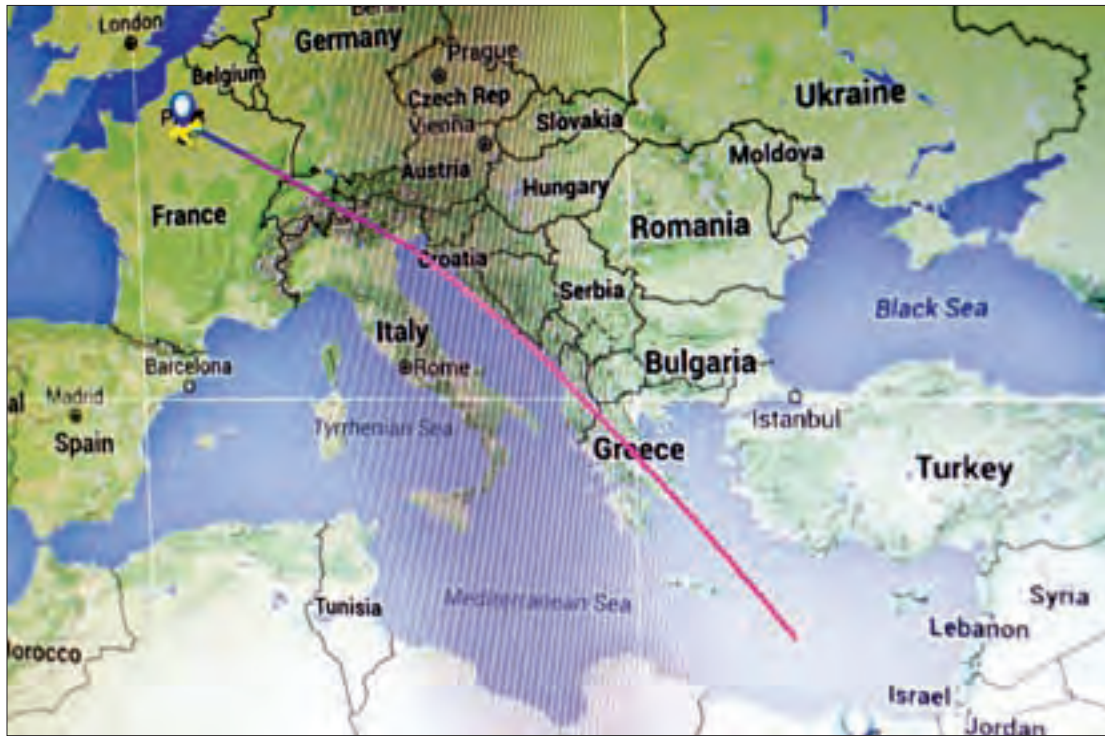
All of Buddhist peoples know that the sacred Bodhi Tree

(Bo Tree) is a sacred tree having comprehensive and significant associations with our unrivalled Omniscient Buddha. The Buddha-to-be, Prince Siddhattha fully attained the Enlightenment or the Buddhahood under the shade of the Bodhi Tree, which is said to have been "born" simultaneously with Him.

Thus the sacred Bodhi Tree is a signified image of worship as a worthy Paribhoga cetiya or shrine in Buddhist countries. Therefore, Buddhist peoples across the world pay respect to the sacred Bodhi Tree that has sacred associations with the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha.

Auspicious Celebration of the Buddha's Day or Vesakha Festival

It is learnt that all Buddhist peoples in Buddhist countries throughout the world respectfully celebrate the Buddha's Day or Vesakha Festival in accordance with their culture and traditions every year. The generous Buddhist people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar pay respectful visit to pagodas, shrines and monasteries in the evening of the Buddha's Day, Full Moon of the month of Kason to perform pouring clean water on the sacred Bodhi Trees existed there.



The flight path of EgyptAir flight MS804 from Paris to Cairo is seen on a flight tracking screen on 19 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

EgyptAir jet missing after mid-air plunge, sea search finds nothing so far

CAIRO/ATHENS — An EgyptAir jet carrying 66 passengers and crew from Paris to Cairo disappeared from radar over the Mediterranean sea on Thursday after swerving in mid-air and plunging from cruising height. French President Francois Hollande confirmed the aircraft “came down and is lost”.

Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail announced a search was under way for the missing Airbus (AIR.PA) A320 but it was too early to rule out any explanation, including an attack like the one blamed for bringing down a Russian airliner over Egypt’s Sinai peninsula last year.

Officials with the airline and the Egyptian civil aviation department told Reuters they believed the Airbus had crashed into the Mediterranean between Greece and Egypt.

In Athens, Greek Defence Minister Panos Kammenos said the Airbus had first swerved 90 degrees to the left, then spun through 360 degrees to the right. After plunging from 37,000 feet to 15,000, it vanished from Greek radar screens.

Greece deployed aircraft and a frigate to the area to help with the search. A defence ministry source said authorities were also investigating an account from the captain of a merchant ship who reported a ‘flame in the sky’ about 130 nautical miles south of the island of Karpathos.

According to Greece’s civil aviation chief, calls from Greek air traffic controllers to the jet went unanswered just before it left the country’s airspace, and it disappeared from radar screens soon afterwards.

By early afternoon, the search in the Mediterranean had yet to turn up anything. “Absolutely nothing has been found so far,” a senior Greek coastguard

official told Reuters.

There was no official suggestion of whether the disappearance was due to technical failure or any other reason such as sabotage by ultra-hardline Islamists, who have targeted airports, airliners and tourist sites in Europe, Egypt, Tunisia and other Middle Eastern countries over the past few years.

The aircraft was carrying 56 passengers - with one child and two infants among them - and 10 crew, EgyptAir said. They included 30 Egyptian and 15 French nationals, along with citizens of 10 other countries.

Asked if he could rule out that terrorists were behind the incident, Prime Minister Ismail told reporters: “We cannot exclude anything at this time or confirm anything. All the search operations must be concluded so we can know the cause.”

In Paris, Hollande also said the cause remained unknown. “Unfortunately the information we have ... confirms to us that the plane came down and is lost,” he said. “No hypothesis can be ruled out, nor can any be favoured over another.”

With its archeological sites and Red Sea resorts, Egypt is traditionally a popular destination for Western tourists. But the industry has been badly hit following the downing of the Russian Metrojet flight last October, killing all 224 people on board, as well as by an Islamist insurgency and a string of bomb attacks.

Greek air traffic controllers spoke to the pilot as the jet flew over the island of Kea, in what was thought to be the last broadcast from the aircraft, and no problems were reported.

But just ahead of the handover to Cairo airspace, calls to the plane went unanswered, before it dropped off radars shortly after

exiting Greek airspace, Kostas Litzerakis, the head of Greece’s civil aviation department, told Reuters.

“During the transfer procedure to Cairo airspace, about seven miles before the aircraft entered the Cairo airspace, Greek controllers tried to contact the pilot but he was not responding,” he said.

Greek authorities are searching in the area south of the island of Karpathos without result so far, Defence Minister Kammenos told a news conference.

“At 3.39am (0039 GMT) the course of the aircraft was south and south-east of Kassos and Karpathos (islands),” he said. “Immediately after, it entered Cairo FIR (flight information region) and made swerves and a descent I describe: 90 degrees left and then 360 degrees to the right.”

The Airbus plunged from 37,000 feet (11,280 metres) to 15,000 feet before vanishing from radar, he added.

Egyptian Civil Aviation minister Sherif Fathi said authorities had tried to resume contact but without success. At Cairo airport, authorities ushered families of the passengers and crew into a closed-off waiting area. Two women and a man, who said they were related to a crew member, were seen leaving the VIP hall where families were being kept. Asked for details, the man said: “We don’t know anything, they don’t know anything. No one knows anything.”

Ayman Nassar, from the family of one of the passengers, also walked out of the passenger hall with his daughter and wife in a distressed state. “They told us the plane had disappeared, and that they’re still searching for it and not to believe any rumours,” he said.—Reuters

United Nations Secretary-General’s Message on The Day of Vesak

20 May 2016

At this time of mass population movements, violent conflicts, atrocious human rights abuses and hateful rhetoric aimed at dividing communities, the sacred commemoration of the Day of Vesak offers an invaluable opportunity to reflect on how the teachings of Buddhism can help the international community tackle pressing challenges.

The fundamental equality of all people, the imperative to seek justice, and the interdependence of life and the environment are more than abstract concepts for scholars to debate; they are living guidelines for Buddhists and others navigating the path to a better future.

One Sutra tells the story of Srimala, a woman who pledged to help all those suffering from injustice, illness, poverty or disaster. This spirit of solidarity can animate our global efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, carry out the Paris Agreement on climate change, and promote human rights while advancing human dignity worldwide.

The actions of Srimala also illustrate the primary role that women can play in advocating for peace, justice and human rights. Gender equality and the empowerment of women remain urgent priorities that will drive progress across the international agenda.

In just a few weeks, the United Nations will convene the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, where leaders will join activists and other partners to address the needs of millions of vulnerable people in crisis. Buddhists and individuals of all faiths who are concerned about the future of humanity can help advance the Summit’s aims to uphold humanitarian law, protect civilians in conflict, and improve the global response to emergencies.

On this Day of Vesak, let us pledge to reach out to bridge differences, foster a sense of belonging, and show compassion on a global scale for the sake of our common future. — UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Air Force bomber crashes at base in Guam

MANILA — A US Air Force B-52 bomber crashed on the runway of Andersen Air Force Base in Guam on Thursday morning, a US military unit said.

According to a statement from the base, no injuries have been reported as all seven crew members were able to safely leave the ill-fated aircraft.

The incident happened while the plane, which was deployed from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota in March for a six-month continuous bomber presence operation and training in the Pacific island territory, was performing a routine training mission.

“The incident is under investigation and measures to mitigate possible environmental impact are being taken,” the statement said. Andersen Air Base has hosted bombers since 2004 “to enhance regional security” and assure US allies of its capability to defend “its national security interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.”—Kyodo News

Naval exercise between South Korea, US underway

SEOUL — A six-day joint naval exercise between South Korea and the United States began Thursday in waters around the Korean peninsula, according to the US Navy.

“The exercise is to maintain the readiness in the sea, and to show a strong combined defence posture and also a strong alliance between South Korea and the US,” a South Korean navy official said at a press briefing.

The official did not provide details of the exercise, but the *Dong-A Ilbo* newspaper reported that it would be held in waters off the west and south coasts and involve two US guided-missile destroyers, a South Korean destroyer, and an anti-submarine helicopter.

The exercise is believed to be aimed at sending a strong warning to North Korea at a time when the North remains prepared to conduct a fifth nuclear test and is also believed to be planning to launch a ballistic missile.

North Korea has been under strong international sanctions following its fourth nuclear test and a ballistic missile launch earlier this year.—Kyodo News



A Libyan soldier looks through binoculars at Wadi Bey, where troops are manning outposts, west of the Islamic State-controlled city of Sirte, on 23 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkish military says helicopter may have been downed by Kurdish militants

ANKARA — The Turkish armed forces said on Thursday that a military helicopter that crashed a week ago, during clashes that killed eight soldiers and two pilots, may have been brought down by Kurdish militants with a ground-to-air missile.

If confirmed, it would be the first known usage in recent years of such weaponry by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants, who have been waging an insurgency for Kurdish autonomy in Turkey's southeast for more than three decades.

The armed forces initially said the helicopter had crashed last Friday due to a technical fault during air operations against PKK fighters in the province of Hakkari near the border with Iraq.

"As the helicopters carried out their mission, the conclusion has been reached that one helicopter may have been struck and downed with an air defence weapon that could have been a missile, possibly fired from the ground," the military said in a statement. It said a detailed investigation was continuing.

After the collapse of a cease-fire last July, Turkey's southeast has seen some of its worst fighting since the height of the Kurdish insurgency in the 1990s. President Tayyip Erdogan, who had spearheaded the peace process between the state and the PKK, has ruled out any return to negotiations and has vowed to crush the militant group. Thousands of people, including hundreds of civilians, have been killed in the violence since July.—Reuters

Libya forces say pushing back Islamic State fighters

MISRATA, (Libya) — Forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed unity government pushed Islamic State fighters back towards their stronghold of Sirte on Wednesday but lost more than 30 men, including seven killed in a car bombing, officials said.

In a televised statement from the streets of Abu Grain, military spokesman Mohamed al-Gasri said the forces had "liberated" the small town and two nearby villages after heavy fighting.

Western powers are counting on the new government to unify Libya's political and armed factions to take on Islamic State. The government arrived in

Tripoli in late March and is still trying to establish its authority.

Islamic State gained control over Sirte last year and has built up its most important base outside Syria and Iraq in the Libyan coastal city. However, it has struggled to hold on to territory elsewhere in Libya.

Islamic State militants overran the town of Abu Grain and several villages after staging suicide attacks against checkpoints in the area on 5 May.

The unity government then created a new operations room in Misrata, which announced a campaign to recapture Sirte.

Abu Grain is about 140 km (85 miles) west of Sirte and

about 100 km south of Misrata.

The operations room said 32 of its forces had been killed and 50 wounded in Wednesday's fighting, according to a brief statement sent to journalists. Seven died in a car bombing in Buayrat al-Hasun, about 90 km west of Sirte.

The advance came a day after military forces retook Abu Grain checkpoint.

They now also control the villages of Abu Najaym and Zamzam, Gasri said.

"We declare the completion of the first stage of al-Bon-yan al-Marsous after we pushed the militants of Daesh (Islamic State) back to the outskirts of

Sirte," he said, referring to the name the operations room gave to the campaign for Sirte.

A report published on Wednesday by campaign group Human Rights Watch found that Islamic State in Sirte had unlawfully executed at least 49 people accused of offences including spying, sorcery, and blasphemy over one year from February 2015.

It quoted a military intelligence officer in Misrata as saying Islamic State had some 1,800 fighters in Sirte and that at least 70 per cent of them were foreign.

Some two-thirds of the city's 80,000 residents have fled, the report said.—Reuters

Rescued Chibok girl to meet Nigerian president

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria) — A Nigerian schoolgirl rescued more than two years after being taken captive by Boko Haram militants will meet President Muhammadu Buhari on Thursday amid hopes she can help shed light on the whereabouts of more than 200 other missing girls.

The girl, named by activists as Amina Ali Darsha Nkeki, was accompanied by her mother, Binta, and the provincial governor as she was driven in a military convoy to the airport in Maiduguri, the capital of Nigeria's war-scarred northeast.

Soldiers working with a civilian vigilante group rescued Amina on Tuesday near Damboa, south of Maiduguri. Officials confirmed she was one of 219 girls abducted from the govern-

ment school in Chibok in April 2014.

She was found with her four-month-old baby, while a "suspected Boko Haram terrorist" called Mohammed Hayatu who said he was Amina's husband, was also detained, the army said.

Amina's rescue should give a boost to Buhari, a former military ruler who made crushing the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency a pillar of his presidential campaign in 2015.

However, an assertion from activist group #Bringbackourgirls that the remaining abductees were under heavy Boko Haram guard in the Sambisa forest, the jihadists' final stronghold, will put pressure on him to send in rescue squads.

Boko Haram captured 276

girls in their night-time raid on Chibok, one of the most audacious assaults of a seven-year-old insurgency to set up an Islamic state in the north.

More than 15,000 people have been killed and 2 million displaced in Nigeria and neighbouring Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

Some girls escaped in the melee but parents of the remaining 219 accused then-President Goodluck Jonathan of not doing enough to find their daughters, whose disappearance led to a global campaign #bringbackourgirls.

Amina's mother last year spoke of her daughter's fear of Boko Haram but of her enjoyment of attending school and doing well at her studies.—Reuters



Rescued Chibok schoolgirl Amina Ali Darsha Nkeki, her husband and baby are attended to in a hospital in Maiduguri, Borno state, Nigeria in this handout received on 19 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venezuela security forces block anti-Maduro protesters

CARACAS — Venezuelan security forces fired tear gas at protesters in Caracas on Wednesday amid nationwide rallies demanding a recall referendum to end President Nicolas Maduro's socialist rule.

In the third day of opposition rallies in the past week, several thousand protesters descended on downtown Caracas for a march to the national election board, witnesses said.

But National Guard soldiers and police cordoned off the square where they planned to meet, so protesters instead milled in nearby streets waving flags, chanting "the government will fall" and pressing up against lines.

Authorities shot tear gas to disperse them several times, sending hundreds of panicked people running down streets. A few demonstrators were arrested and one young man was carried off unconscious, according to Reuters witnesses.

Opposition leaders have warned that Venezuela is a "time bomb" and have said blocking democratic avenues for Maduro's removal means people



Opposition supporters carrying Venezuelan flags take part in a rally to demand a referendum to remove President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, on 18 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

will increasingly take to the streets. Spontaneous demonstrations and looting are becoming more common amid worsening food shortages, frequent power and water cuts, and inflation that is the highest in the world.

"They're scared," Alfredo Gonzalez, 76, from the 23 de Enero slum, said at the Caracas demonstration as he wore a scarf over his mouth.

"Venezuelans are tired, hungry," said Gonzalez, who added that he had

been sprayed with pepper gas.

Both protesters and security forces appeared more numerous than in other rallies this year, although the demonstration was still smaller than anti-government protests that

turned violent and shook the OPEC country for three months in 2014.

While Venezuelans are now much angrier at their deepening economic crisis, many are too busy queuing up for scarce food or too fearful of violence to join

marches. Others are pessimistic about the chances of a recall referendum.

In Tachira state, which saw the most violent scenes during the 2014 protests that resulted in 43 deaths, troops also blocked scores of marchers from reaching the local election board office on Wednesday. At a demonstration in the Caribbean coastal town of Coro, protesters formed a chain in the streets.

An anti-Maduro demonstration last Wednesday in Caracas also turned violent, with troops using tear gas to quell stone-throwing protesters and an officer pepper-spraying opposition leader Henrique Capriles.

Maduro, a 53-year-old former bus driver who narrowly won election to replace the late Hugo Chavez in 2013, accuses Capriles and other opposition leaders of seeking a coup with the help of the United States.

"You don't like Maduro? Well, deal with it," said Vice President Aristobulo Isturiz, who has repeatedly said there will be no recall referendum this year.—*Reuters*

Peru's Fujimori takes tough stance on Southern Copper Tia Maria project

LIMA (Peru) — Peruvian presidential contender Keiko Fujimori said it would take "many years" for Southern Copper Corp to regain the trust of farmers, which she said is part of the community support she considers critical to developing the company's \$1.4 billion (£960 million) Tia Maria copper project.

The centre-right candidate also said she would ban mining companies that

pollute the environment from operating or slap fines on them, in some of her toughest comments yet for the key sector in the Andean country.

Fujimori, the 40-year-old daughter of imprisoned ex-president Alberto Fujimori, has been neck-and-neck with economist Pedro Pablo Kuczynski in most polls ahead of the 5 June run-off election.

Tia Maria has been on

hold for the past year after protests by locals who fear the 120,000-tonne-per-year proposed mine would pollute the environment or disturb farming.

Fujimori said Southern Copper had misled communities by initially saying Tia Maria would not impact groundwater supplies, and later, following protests in 2011, promising to build a desalinisation plant.

"That means they were going to use groundwater and they were going to affect farmers," Fujimori said in broadcast comments to reporters in Arequipa, the region where Tia Maria would be built.

"Farmers in the Tambo Valley of Cocachacra obviously feel deep distrust, and it will take many years for the company to regain that trust. For me

it's fundamental that an investment project be in harmony with communities," Fujimori said.

Kuczynski has also said community support is needed before a new mine can be built.

Southern Copper, controlled by Grupo Mexico SAB de CV, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The president of Southern Copper, Oscar

Gonzalez, told reporters in videotaped comments last month that he would press for a construction permit for Tia Maria from the government of President Ollanta Humala in the last two months of his term.

Humala's energy and mines ministry said in December that the government would probably not issue the permit because of stiff local opposition to the project.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (056 7JR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (056 7JR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (549N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (549N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Turkey angered over EU envoy's remark on EU migrant deal

ANKARA — Turkey summoned the top European Union envoy in the country on Tuesday to complain about comments he made last week on the migration deal between Ankara and the EU, Turkish foreign ministry sources said on Wednesday.

Turkish officials took offense at Hansjoerg Haber's use of an unflattering German saying to describe how a plan to ease visa restrictions for Turks travelling to Europe had started off in an orderly way but run into problems recently.

Turkey and the EU have been discussing visa liberalisation since 2013 and agreed in March to go ahead with it as part of a deal to halt waves of illegal immigration from Turkey to the EU.

But progress halted when Brussels insisted that Ankara must also reform its tough anti-terror laws for another part of the deal - further talks on EU membership for Turkey - to resume. Turkey said that was out of the question.

"We have a proverb - 'start off like a Turk and finish like a German'. But the reverse has happened here. It started off like a German and



Migrants wait to disembark from the Italian coastguard vessel Peluso in the Sicilian harbour of Augusta, Italy, on 13 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

is finishing like a Turk," Haber, a German who heads the EU delegation in Turkey, told journalists last Friday, according to a report in the newspaper *Hurriyet*.

"We have conveyed the anger felt over the ambassador's comments to him, and that we condemn the expressions he used," one foreign ministry source said.

The disputed migration deal includes funding to help Turkey care for mi-

grants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia who had hoped to use its shores to take boats to Greece.

Turkey says the EU demand to ease anti-terror laws, which some European leaders and rights groups says Ankara uses to stifle dissent, was not possible at a time when it is battling Kurdish and Islamic State militants.

Turkey's EU Affairs Minister Volkan Bozkir has criticised Haber for his re-

mark, saying they were not appropriate for an ambassador and called him to explain what he meant.

"No ambassador has the right to humiliate the people of the country he is in and say something about its president. This is the first rule of diplomacy," he tweeted last week.

It was not clear what Bozkir was referring to in his mention of a comment by Haber about President Tayyip Erdogan.—Reuters

Cooler weather expected to help firefighters battle Canada blaze

CALGARY (Alberta) — Firefighters battling a wildfire that has threatened oil sands facilities north of Fort McMurray, Alberta looked to cooler weather and the promise of rain on Thursday, as the city's evacuated residents were buoyed by long-awaited re-entry plans.

The fire, spread over 422,000 hectares (1.04 million acres), surged north of Fort McMurray this week, forcing the evacuation of 8,000 oil sand workers and prolonging a shutdown that has cut Canadian oil output by a million barrels a day.

"We expect lighter winds and continued humidity to rise as we start to see some potential for rain, or at least cooler weather, over the next couple of days, which will be a real bonus," wildfire manager Chad Morrison said on Wednesday.

Evacuees who fled Fort McMurray two weeks ago as the massive blaze breached the city may be allowed to return home as soon as 1 June, officials have said, if air quality improves and other safety conditions are met.

Oil sands operations directly north of the city stayed shuttered, as firefighters

hold back a blaze that threatened the mining and upgrading projects of Suncor Energy and Syncrude Canada.

The fire destroyed a 665-room lodge for oil sands workers on Tuesday, before blazing eastward towards other camps, but officials said they were not aware of further industry damage.

"In terms of the industrial camps and facilities out there, we have been able to hold the line," Morrison added.

The lengthy shutdown in energy output has dealt a new setback to producers, suggesting production may be suspended for longer than companies and analysts had originally anticipated.

But there were glimmers of hope. Premier Rachel Notley said on Wednesday that some of the region's 90,000 evacuees would be able to return home early next month, if it was safe to do so. That excited residents, though they were nervous about what they might find.

"It's exciting news, but you are also scared to see what you get when you get back," said Fort McMurray resident Ria Dickason, adding that she was concerned about smoky air.—Reuters

TENDER NOTICE

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the Exchange of Notes dated February 17th, 2016, concerning the Japanese grant assistance for the Project for the Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is acting as the procurement agent for and on behalf of Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education for procuring the products and services in accordance with the E/N. Interested bidders are invited to submit the tender as follows.

Services to be procured	: Reconstruction of Schools
Target Region	: Sagaing Region
Place of Distribution for Tender Document	: JICS Myanmar Project Office
Date of Distribution	: May 20 th , 2016- May 26 th , 2016
Pre Bid Meeting	: 14:00 on May 26 th , 2016
Tender Submission	: 14:00 on June 18 th , 2016
Bid Opening	: 14:00 on June 18 th , 2016

Further information is available on JICS's website (http://www.jics.or.jp/jics_html-e/index.php) or contact to JICS Myanmar Project Office (Room No.904 La Pyat Wun Plaza, Alan Pya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar)
Email address: myanmarschool27.jics@gmail.com.

Invitation For Open Tender

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

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

CLOSING DATE & TIME : 17.6.2016 (16:30 Hours)
Tender documents are available from the Mineral Development section, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19) Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to +95-(0)67-409378 and 409009 within the Office hours.

Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

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Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest (Establishment of Water Treatment System) Ref No: EOI-1/2016-2017

Ayeyarwaddy Development Public Co.,Ltd which is currently developing Patheingyi Industrial City Project in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region, hereby invites the interested parties to submit Expression of Interest Letter (EOI letter) for the selection as partner(s) to jointly Finance, Build, Operate & Maintenance of the Water Treatment System in the Projects site.

Interested Parties are requested to submit EOI Letter together with Company Profile, Executed Project Reference List as well as other supporting qualification documents to the below address by or before 17th June 2016.

Ayeyarwaddy Development Public Co., Ltd
#1104-1106, Ye Ta Khon Tower, 531, Lower Kyeemyindaing Road,
Kyeemyindaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email: aswin.lwin@gmail.com

If there is any information or clarification required, please contact only by email to the above mentioned email.

Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest (Establishment of River Port Development) Ref No: EOI-2/2016-2017

Ayeyarwaddy Development Public Co.,Ltd which is currently developing Patheingyi Industrial City Project in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region, hereby invites the interested parties to submit Expression of Interest Letter (EOI letter) for the selection as partner(s) to jointly Finance, Build, Operate & Maintenance of the River Port Development in the Projects site.

Interested Parties are requested to submit EOI Letter together with Company Profile, Executed Project Reference List as well as other supporting qualification documents to the below address by or before 17th June 2016.

Ayeyarwaddy Development Public Co., Ltd
#1104-1106, Ye Ta Khon Tower, 531, Lower Kyeemyindaing Road,
Kyeemyindaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email: aswin.lwin@gmail.com

If there is any information or clarification required, please contact only by email to the above mentioned email.

Kristen Stewart 'at home' with film industry culture in France

CANNES (France) — Kristen Stewart, who stars in French director Olivier Assayas's independent film, "Personal Shopper", at the Cannes Film Festival, says she is more at home with France's cinematic culture than Hollywood's as the focus is less on making money.

The *Twilight* star told Reuters on Wednesday that she likes the risk involved in making films with "a culture that's felt".

"What is really ob-

vious and apparent is the difference between why people make movies in France and why people make movies in the States," she told Reuters on Wednesday.

"I like the fact that people aren't dying to make a bunch of money and win a popularity contest, they're actually just desirous of telling stories — so I feel at home here."

Stewart became the first American actress to win a Cesar, France's Oscar equivalent, with a Best Supporting Actress award in 2015 for "Clouds of Sils Maria", also directed by Assayas.

"I realized when I saw her, talked to her, listened to her that she had unique actress qualities," Assayas told Reuters.

Stewart is no newcomer to independent cinema. She starred in independent movies before, in-between and after the *Twilight* series, between 2008 and 2012, including Jake Scott's "Welcome to the Rileys" and Walter Salles's "On The Road".

"'Twilight' may have sort of distracted people from what I had been doing for a long time — but even within that series there were five *Twilight* films and in between each one of them I did an independent movie," she said.

The 26-year-old said that she is looking forward to working with Assayas again.

"I feel like there is no way in hell that we're not going to explore another subject together I just don't know when that's going to be," she said.

"This was lucky that it was in such a condensed period — he has other things to do and other stories to tell and I'll go do the same for a bit but hopefully we find each other again."

Stewart also co-stars with Jesse Eisenberg in Woody Allen's out-of-competition film, "Cafe Society", at Cannes.—*Reuters*



Kristen Stewart. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bella Hadid suffers wardrobe malfunction on Cannes red carpet

CANNES — Supermodel Bella Hadid exposed a little more of herself than intended as she walked the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival.

The 19-year-old runway beauty donned a stunning low-cut silky red dress, with a daring thigh high slit, for the "La Fille Inconnue" (The Unknown Girl) premiere, and happily

posed for the cameras as she bared her left leg.

She clutched the front of her skirt to avoid tripping as she made her way up the steps at the Palais des Festivals venue, but in doing so, she suffered a wardrobe malfunction.

Bella didn't appear to notice the fashion faux pas, and continued to climb her way to the theatre.—*PTI*



Bella Hadid. PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez sells house to French Montana

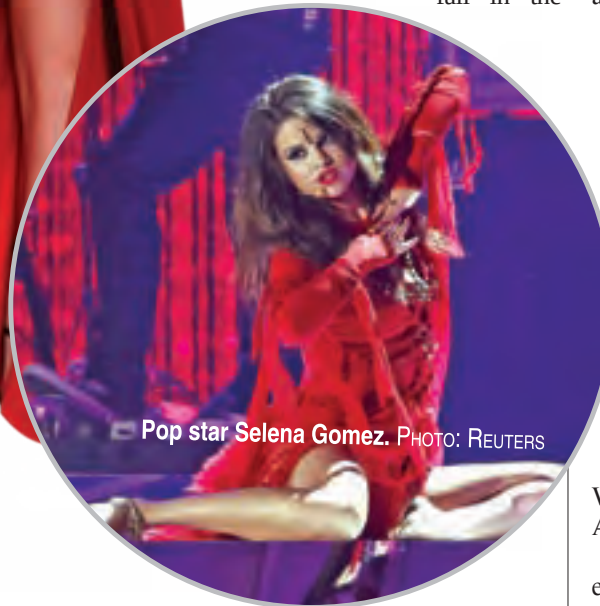
LOS ANGELES — Pop star Selena Gomez has sold her house to rapper French Montana for USD 3.3 million after dropping USD 1.2 million from the asking price.

The 23-year-old singer listed her Calabasas property, which sits on three acres, for USD 4,495,000 in November but the 31-year-old rapper has snapped it up for a bargain USD 3.3 million, reported TMZ. The stunning mansion boasts six bedrooms and seven bathrooms as well as a spa, pool and a waterfall in the

back garden. It also contains parking spaces for 10 cars and a large gym.

A listing for the home, when it went on the market, read, "Extremely rare & private compound in the illustrious Mureau Estates gated community of Calabasas. Sprawling over three acres, this exceptional custom home provides every amenity expected of a luxury estate."

French's new home is near to his ex-girlfriend Khloe Kardashian's residence.—*PTI*



Pop star Selena Gomez. PHOTO: REUTERS

DC Comics universe on display

LOS ANGELES — Superman and Batman were brought together on Wednesday to lead a host of DC Comics' heroes and villains in a new exhibit on the Warner Bros' studio backlot in Los Angeles.

The interactive experience, entitled "DC Universe: The Exhibit," offers access to Batman's secret Batlab in the Batcave as seen in the film "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," and the chance to try on the white gloves worn by Lex Luthor and pick up the glowing, green, 'deadly' Kryptonite.

KISS rocker Gene Simmons was among the early fans checking out the exhibit, and admitted to being a geek when it comes to comics.

"The Greek mythological gods are actually very similar to modern superheroes. All created in America," said Simmons. "The idea of Superman was invented in America. The idea that you could come from someplace else and scale the heights." The exhibit featuring the props and costumes will be open throughout the summer ahead of the 5th August release of antihero movie "Suicide Squad," starring Will Smith.—*Reuters*

Daniel Craig done with James Bond franchise?

LONDON — Daniel Craig has reportedly turned down a 68 million pound offer to reprise his role as James Bond.

The 48-year-old actor played the spy in 2006's "Casino Royale", "Quantum of Solace" in 2008, "Skyfall" in 2012 and last year's "Spectre", reported *Daily Telegraph*.

However, amid speculation as to whether he would return to playing 007, it has now been claimed the actor has decided he is "done" with the franchise.

"Daniel is done — pure

and simple — he told top brass at MGM after *Spectre*. They threw huge amounts of money at him, but it just wasn't what he wanted," a source said.

"He had told people after shooting that this would be his final outing, but the film company still felt he could come around after *Spectre* if he was offered a money deal." The deal allegedly saw Craig offered a staggering 68 million pound — which included profit shares, endorsements and a co-producer role — to return to another two films.—*PTI*

New York art students mold clay into faces of city’s nameless

NEW YORK — When Amy Pekal signed up for the New York Academy of Art to hone her skills as a sculptor, she never thought she would end up assisting in a police investigation.

Yet the 22-year-old student from Brooklyn and about a dozen of her classmates are doing just that by helping anthropologists at New York City’s Office of Chief Medical Examiner identify nameless corpses that have gone unclaimed, sometimes for decades.

The students participated earlier this year in a five-day forensic sculpture workshop where they used clay to reconstruct faces from the remains of a few of the medical examiner’s backlog of about 1,200 cases.

“Because of my skill and craft, I’m able to make a job for somebody else easier,” Pekal said.

The hope is that the sculptures will help families claim the remains of their loved ones and bring them closure. In cases where the cause of death was deemed to be criminal, an identification could help prosecutors find justice for the victims.

Pekal, who reconstructed the face of a man found in the trunk of an impounded car in the early 1990s, said it was a humbling experience to give “identity back to somebody.”

“This person was forgotten,” she said.

While the medical examiner’s office has used police sketch artists for years to help with identifications, the collaboration with the New York Academy of Art is the first time it has turned to art students.

Founded in 1982, the small



Clay sculptures of the faces of unidentified dead people in hopes of finding their identities in partnership with New York City’s Chief Medical Examiner are seen at a workshop at the New York Academy of Art in New York, New York, United States in January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

graduate school is known for teaching the techniques of Leonardo da Vinci and other old masters who used anatomical studies to perfect their craft. At the school’s Lower Manhattan studios, it is not uncommon to see live horses, kangaroos and other animals serving as models for the students.

This is the second year the

school has offered the forensic workshop. Students reconstruct the faces of about two dozen people using 3D images of skulls and the few facts available about ethnicity, sex, age and the like. In modeling the clay, they also draw on their knowledge of tissue depth and other anatomical details.

But they are told not to be too creative. “It’s a close enough

resemblance so that someone can go, ‘Hey, that kind of looks like so-and-so,’” said John Volk, the school’s director of continuing education. The partnership arose from a discussion between Bradley Adams, the medical examiner’s director of anthropology, and Joe Mullins, a forensic imaging specialist who is the workshop’s instructor.—Reuters

Post-it note art war engulfs ad agencies on New York City street

NEW YORK — A conversation conducted using sticky Post-it notes on the windows of two offices in Lower Manhattan has delighted passersby and drawn a number of neighbouring advertising agencies to join what is now a highly contested art battle.

It all began when employees at one firm, Havas Media, replied to an anonymous “HI” message that was left across from its office building on Canal Street. There are now hundreds of colorful notes decorating windows in the area.

“It’s kind of just ballooned organically and become something that no one’s quite controlling and you don’t know where it’s going next,” said Greg James, chief strategy development officer for Havas Media, a unit of French advertising and communications group Havas SA.

After the Havas team replied with its own “SUP,” the fight began. Others in the building took part, and agencies across the street fired back with creative window art featuring characters from HBO’s “Game of Thrones,” the Snapchat logo, popular song lyrics and cartoons from the Angry Birds mobile app. More than a week after it started, the Post-it art war now involves other local advertising agencies including Horizon Media, Biolumina, Harrison and Star, Getty Images and Cake Group, which is part of the Havas network. And it has spread to Havas offices as far afield as London, Toronto and Dublin.

Using the hashtags #postitwar and #canalnotes, many social media users, agency employees and even clients are taking to Twitter and Instagram to share their favourite portraits.

James said Havas is discuss-

ing how the firm could make the impromptu contest more meaningful or tie it somehow to a greater cause.

“We don’t want to control it too much because I think what’s nice is that it’s so fluid and that everybody owns it individually or in little teams,” he said.

Across the street at Horizon Media, some employees have been using client brands to inspire their window portraits.

Molly Reich, a digital strategist for Horizon Media, said she is excited that the competition is taking off, despite a temporary delay caused by building supervisors.

“Our landlord wouldn’t allow us to participate,” said Reich, whose window includes a Post-it note depiction of the cartoon characters featured on GoGo squeeZ applesauce, a Horizon Media client.—Reuters

Blue diamond soars to world record \$57.6 million at Christie’s

GENEVA — The “Oppenheimer Blue”, a large and rare diamond, sold for 56.837 million Swiss francs (\$57.6 million) at auction on Wednesday, setting a world record for any gem after a dramatic see-saw bidding process, Christie’s in Geneva said.

“It’s the most expensive jewel ever sold at auction,” Christie’s spokeswoman Alexandra Kindermann told Reuters.

The previous record was held by the “Blue Moon Diamond”, sold at rival Sotheby’s for \$48.6 million last November. The new Hong Kong owner renamed that stone the “Blue Moon Josephine”.

The Oppenheimer, the largest fancy vivid blue diamond ever offered at auction, is a rectangular diamond weighing 14.62 carats that previously belonged to Sir Philip Oppenheimer, who controlled the Diamond Syndicate in London. It had a pre-sale

estimate of \$38 million-\$45 million.

The packed Geneva sale-room broke into applause as Rahul Kadakia, Christie’s International Head of Jewellery, brought down the hammer after two phone bidders ended a 20-minute battle. The buyer’s identity was not immediately known.

Bidding opened at 30 million Swiss francs for the blue diamond, the top lot at the half-yearly sale, and amid the long pauses between telephone bids, Kadakia quipped: “These stones come along once in a lifetime. We have to wait.” “As head of the London-based Central Selling Organisation for 45 years and serving as Chairman for the Diamond Trading Company branch, Sir Philip oversaw a diamond sales cartel set up by De Beers to keep strict control over the diamond supply worldwide,” the Christie’s catalog said.—Reuters

Entertainment Channel

(20- 5-2016, Friday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:30 pm

- Cartoon Programme “ Tales from Earth Sea ” (Part- II)

7:00 pm

- International Drama Series

7:40 pm

- International Drama Series

8:30 pm

- Music Programme

8:50 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:00 pm

- Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3) (Part-1 & 2)

9:40 pm

- Music Programme

9:50 pm

- English Premier League (Review) (Part-III)

10:10 pm

- Myanmar Video

From 20-5-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm

To 21-5-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm

Myanmar International

(20-5-2016 07:00am ~ 21-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am

News

07:27 Am

The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay Region)

08:03 Am

News

08:26 Am

Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture “The Golden Land”

08:46 Am

Civic Duty

09:03 Am

News

09:26 Am

Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City

09:36 Am

Sai Ye Kwan

09:45 Am

Gardener: King Orange Plantation

10:03 Am

News

10:26 Am

Back To A Paradise (Episode -2)

10:50 Am

Talking Shwe Thway (Children Journal)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03 Pm

News

07:26 Pm

Wonderful Indonesia

07:52 Pm

Cultural Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay

08:03 Pm

News

08:27 Pm

Architect: U Thaw

08:52 Pm

Crocodile Keeper

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Sevilla's players celebrate with the trophy after their 3-1 victory over Liverpool at St. Jakob-Park, Basel, Switzerland on 18 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sevilla extend Spanish dominance of European club competition

BASEL — Sevilla extended Spain's dominance of European competition when they won the Europa League for the third time in a row on Wednesday, soundly beating Liverpool 3-1 in the final.

Their title meant that, with Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid clashing in next week's Champions League final, Spanish clubs will have won both European competitions for each of the last three seasons.

Eight of the last 13 teams to win the Europa League have come from Spain, with Sevilla victorious five times, while the Champions League will go to a La Liga side for the fifth time in eight seasons.

Sevilla coach Unai Emery also joined Giovanni Trapattoni as they only manager to have won the Europa League, or its predecessor the UEFA Cup, three times.

Liverpool coach Juergen Klopp had praised Spanish clubs on the eve of the match, saying they had better scouting, coaches and player development than their English, German and Italian equivalents.

"Maybe, it's not for us to say it, others should analyse," Emery told reporters. "I have my own theory. Perhaps, the standard of Spanish football is very good. But it has also been proved that Spanish teams compete passionately. They are able to reach highest levels of European football and we have been able to win against

teams better than us."

Unlike Real Madrid and Barcelona, who cherry-pick the world's top players, Sevilla are a more modest outfit who have successfully carved a niche for themselves. They bear more of a resemblance to Portuguese teams Benfica and Porto in the way that they manage to reinvent themselves season after season, despite selling their top players to richer clubs.

Those to have left the club over the last five seasons include Carlos Bacca, Ivan Rakitic, Alberto Moreno, Alvaro Negredo, Jesus Navas, Geoffroy Kondogbia, Gary Medel and Martin Caceres. Yet, expert scouting has enabled them to fill the gaps.

English teams often regard

the Europa League as a nuisance which clutters up the fixture list, preferring to concentrate on qualifying for the Champions League by finishing in the top four of the Premier League.

Sevilla, with little hope of winning La Liga where they have finished fifth in the last two seasons, have realised that it represents a real chance of silverware as well as a back door to the Champions League.

"The Europa League has given us a lot," Emery said. "At Sevilla, we love this competition. It is our competition and we have underlined that once and again. The Champions League is an opportunity to improve but the reality is this competition is growing."—Reuters

Shades of 1990 for Van Gaal as United face Palace again



Louis van Gaal. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal goes into the FA Cup final against Crystal Palace on Saturday facing echoes of the 1990 showpiece between the two sides that proved so pivotal in the career of Alex Ferguson.

Ferguson's United were struggling in the 1989-90 season and the clamour was growing for the manager's dismissal, but the FA Cup win in a replay over Palace gave the Scotsman a reprieve.

He went on to build a dynasty that won 13 Premier League titles and two Champions League trophies, alongside a host of domestic cups.

Van Gaal, who took charge in May 2014 and guided United to fourth in his first season, is under similar pressure after his side finished fifth in the Premier League and dropped out of the Champions League in the group stages.

The Dutchman has been accused of moving United away from United's traditional brand of attacking football to a more laboured style, which yielded the second fewest goals of the league's top 10 teams this term.

The 64-year-old was booed by some fans during his end-of-season speech after Tuesday's final 3-1 win over Bournemouth at Old Trafford.—Reuters

English champions Leicester visit Thai king's palace



Leicester City soccer club's manager Claudio Ranieri and club owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha (R) visit the Emerald Buddha temple in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — English Premier League champions Leicester City paid a visit to Bangkok's glittering Grand Palace on Thursday and signed a well-wishing book for the country's revered monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The 88-year-old Thai king ascended the throne 70 years ago and is the world's longest-reigning monarch, but various ailments have kept him in hospital for a year. The squad, led by manager Claudio Ranieri and captain Wes Morgan, did not meet the king but gathered with thousands of tourists at one of Bangkok's top spots for visitors.

The Thai-owned club are on an end-of-season tour to celebrate their improbable ascendancy to

the top of the Premier League following a campaign they started as 5000-1 outsiders for the title but ended as champions by a 10-point margin. Billionaire club owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who led the party to the Grand Palace, said on Wednesday that he hoped the lessons learned by Leicester in their stunning season could serve to help Thailand's national team to a similar success. "We want to help Thailand go to the World Cup," said Vichai, who bought the club in 2010. "Thailand can be at the top, just like Leicester City."

While at the Grand Palace, Vichai placed the Premier League trophy on a flower-decked table in front of an altar dedicated to the king, flanked by his son Aiyawatt

and Ranieri. Soccer is hugely popular in the Southeast Asian nation but Thailand have had little success on the world stage.

Thailand have never qualified for a World Cup but are one of the remaining 12 Asian teams competing for four spots at the next tournament in Russia 2018.

The duty free franchise that has made Vichai one of Thailand's richest man is named King Power, in a reference to King Bhumibol.

It is also the name of Leicester's home ground in Britain's Midlands after his company bought the naming rights in 2011 before buying the stadium outright two years later. The team will later hold a victory parade in central Bangkok.—Reuters