

Disputes between employers and employees in Yangon industrial zones settled

YANGON, 15 May — Some of the disputes between employers and employees of factories in Yangon industrial zones have been settled, according to the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department.

A consensus over the allowance for cost of living was reached on 12 May between the employer and over 2,000 workers of Shin Soung in Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone in North Okkalapa Township after the employer agreed to increase the allowance, an official of the department said. Meanwhile, Korea Link Garment Factory employers in Hlinethaya Township agreed on 5 May to increase the allowance for cost of living, ending the dispute with over 920 workers over payment, according to the department.

At the Star Tex Garment Factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone, the employer of the factory signed the agreement on 14 May that the factory will not ask its more than 530 employees to work overtime without their acceptance including working on holidays.

The employer of Dragon Stage garment factory in Mingaladon Township also agreed to increase the basic salary of the workers of the factory on 5 May, settling a dispute with 2,300 workers.

Midas Garment Factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone reemployed the seven workers who were sacked from the job on 4th April, 2014.

The factory has also agreed to increase the allowance for cost of living, after lengthy negotiations.

NLM

The Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar in an interview to The New Light of Myanmar Daily



H.E. Christoph Burgener, Switzerland's first resident Ambassador to Myanmar.

Photograph supplied.

By Ye Myint

The NLM: Please provide a brief introduction of the operations of the Swiss Embassy in Myanmar to the readers of the New Light of Myanmar Daily.

Swiss Ambassador: In the wake of the political, economic and social changes in Myanmar,

Switzerland opened an Embassy in Yangon late 2012. We are here to deliver and to be a constructive partner. Besides the representation of Swiss interests and the promotion of fair and inclusive economic relations, the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar manages two operational programmes: 1) Through its Swiss Agency for Development

H.E. Christoph Burgener, Switzerland's first resident Ambassador to Myanmar, expressed his country's willingness to be a constructive partner for government, parliament, civil society and all political parties in Myanmar.

and Cooperation (SDC), the Embassy supports the Myanmar Government and civil society to reduce poverty, especially in rural areas. The thematic domains cover vocational skills development; agriculture and food security; health, social infrastructures and local governance. 2) The Embassy has a Peace, Democratization and Human Rights Programme focusing on the support to peace, democratization and human rights.

Throughout our programmes and undertaking, we value accountability, transparency, an active civil society, inclusiveness and gender equality, rule of law and democracy. My Embassy wants to be a constructive partner for Government, Parliament, Civil Society and all political parties.

We are strengthening our bilateral ties on a daily basis. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs and our Speaker of the Parliament

came to Myanmar. On the Myanmar side a lot of Union Ministers, the Speaker of the Parliament and the opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have had fruitful political talks in Switzerland.

The NLM: Would you like to share your views on Myanmar's 2014 Census?

Swiss Ambassador: It is not for Switzerland to comment on an on-going process of the Government of the Union of Myanmar. The Government knows that coming steps have to be handled with extraordinary political sensitivity.

For economic and social planning, a country needs to rely on data that is as up to date as possible. With the support of the international community and in a constructive dialogue with the different stakeholders, Myanmar is trying to achieve that. The census however is not just a technical data collection exercise. At a moment in which the future of this

country is in the making. It offers the opportunity to look at different issues in Myanmar that go further than the need for reliable data: the debate on what it means to be a Myanmar citizen beyond ethnic criteria; what kind of resources are available to the majority of the population; the real socio-demographic composition of Myanmar today. For Switzerland, the support to the census is an important juncture between good governance, peace support and democratic transition, in addition to being a tool that will help protect human rights.

The NLM: How important is the peace process for Myanmar's democratization?

Swiss Ambassador: A functioning democratic system implies that beyond differences of world views, religions, of languages, ethnic backgrounds, a peaceful way of living together and a fair sharing of wealth are acknowledged

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New aircraft delivered for Shwe Myanmar Airlines

YANGON, 15 May — To beef up domestic flights, a new passenger aircraft for Shwe Myanmar Airlines was delivered on Thursday at Yangon International Airport.

Shwe Myanmar

Airlines bought the French-made aircraft via Air LEASE Corporation in the UK. It will operate along the NyaungU-Heho-Kengtung-Tachilek-Bhamo-Myitkyina-Putao-Lashio-Thandwe route as of 27 May.—MNA

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Pre-election preparations and arrangements discussed

YANGON, 15 May—A coordination meeting between the Union Election Commission and political parties took place on Thursday morning at Sky Star Hotel in Tamway of Yangon Region, with an address by the commission's chairman U Tin Aye.

The meeting focused on legislative frameworks, the compilation of the list of voters, campaigns for public awareness, and the necessity of political parties and members of parliament to abide by the rules and regulations.

Speaking of the legislative frameworks, U Tin

Aye stressed that his commission has no right to amend the law, but it is at parliament that amendments are possible.

As to the compilation of the list of voters, plans are underway to make the process computerized through the cooperation with the International

Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), the commission's chairman stated.

He also called for international agencies and media in raising public awareness, inviting local political parties to give advice on rules and regulations concerning electioneering.—MNA

SWRR Minister discusses Myanmar's plan for youths at the World Conference on Youth 2014

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, attended the World Conference on Youth 2014 and the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Sri Lanka which began on 6

May.

During the conference, she elaborated on tasks Myanmar is carrying to adopt a national level youth policy and she pledged to join hands with other countries for the development of youth. At the roundtable discussion on poverty reduction and food security on 8 May, the Union minister said that the ministry focuses on social care services for children, women, the disabled and the aged.

On 9 May, the Union minister received Kenya-based Mr. Douglas Ragan of UN-Habitat to discuss youth development tasks.

Following the conference the Colombo Declaration on Youth was released.—MNA

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay clarifies safer transportation for the public.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay pledged to make efforts for safer transportation for the public at a news conference concerning Monday's fatal road accident on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw highway.

"Efforts are being made for safer transport for the public based on recommendations and findings of the investigation into the accident," the Union minister said.

An inter-departmental investigation has been launched into the accident of the Yazamin Bus Line, in which 14 people

died. The Union minister also said that the percentage of accidents caused by vehicle failures is low on expressways.

Highway Police Chief Police Colonel Nay Win told reporters at the press conference that the driver of the bus involved in the accident was found to be holding an invalid license, but was allowed to drive the bus by the bus owner and the bus line.

The police chief said most traffic accidents occur due to reckless driving.—MNA

Union Rail Transportation Minister vows to work on safer public transport



Myanmar, Japan sign grant agreement on project for human resources development scholarship

YANGON, 15 May—The Grant Agreement (GA) for the "Project for Human Resources Development Scholarship" was signed on Monday between U Ko Ko Tin, Director General of the Department of Education Planning and Training (DEPT), and Mr. Masahiko

Tanaka, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Myanmar Office following the signing of Exchange of Notes between the governments of Japan and Myanmar on 24 April 2014.

The Japanese Grant

Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) is intended to provide the maximum grant amount of JPY 468,000,000 to offer academic opportunities for Myanmar scholars to study Master Courses in Japanese higher educational institutions in English under the Grant Aid scheme of the government of Japan.

JDS targets young and highly capable government officials and private sector participants who are expected to contribute to the development of their country through engagement in implementing social and economic development plans.

The Government of Japan expects to strengthen the friendship between Myanmar and Japan through the Grant Aid project in a way that the selected Myanmar scholars will be able to utilize the human network obtained through the academic and social activities and experiences in Japan.—NLM



Director-General U Ko Ko Tin and Mr. Masahiko Tanaka, Chief Representative of JICA shake hands after exchanging signed notes.—NLM

The Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar in an interview to...

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up affecting society as a whole, not just certain elements or isolated parts of it. As long as the armed conflict is not addressed, there can be no real democracy and sustainable economic progress in a country.

The NLM: You recently visited Rakhine State together with Myanmar Union Ministers, EU officials and Norway's Ambassador. Please tell us about your impression.

Swiss Ambassador: It was my second trip to the region and I appreciate the initiative of the Union Ministers for including Ambassadors to this trip. The mission confirms the complexity of the issues at stake. Without unity of all the willing, no sustainable solution can be found. Violence undermines the development of all the Rakhine State and hinders the achievement of progress.

As depository of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland has advocated, advocates and will continue to advocate that full humanitarian access must

be granted and that the fundamental rights to those in need must be respected, irrespective of gender, faith or ethnicity. Also the humanitarian actors need an environment free of violence and smooth coordination for efficient action. Switzerland wants also to cooperate with the Government towards a durable solution that addresses the underlying causes of conflict.

The NLM: What is your point of view regarding a possible amendment of the constitution?

Swiss Ambassador: Here again, it's not on Switzerland to give any advice. But it goes without saying that in a democracy it's of prime importance that people's desire is reflected in the Constitution.

The NLM: What message would you give to Myanmar people from various ethnic and religious groups?

Swiss Ambassador: In general, Switzerland never gives lessons to any one, and much prefers sharing of experiences and les-

sons learnt. Bearing that in mind, I would allow myself two comments. The first one: humankind history — both ancient and recent — has taught us the very hard way that mixing religion with politics is a dangerous path; the second one: peacefully living together among diversity cannot be achieved when basic needs — education, food, shelter and security — are not properly addressed. That goes hand in hand with a fair sharing of wealth.

Modern Switzerland was constituted out of 25 sovereign cantons (states) with the first Federal Constitution of 1848. Seventeen cantons are German-speaking, four cantons are French-speaking, one canton is Italian-speaking, three cantons are bilingual (German - French), and one canton has three languages (German, Romansh, and Italian). All cantons have different cultures and traditions. It took us a long way to reach unity in diversity. Switzerland as a federalist state has gone through this process and would like to share its experiences with the people of Myanmar.

NATIONAL

Literacy is a national concern: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—A ceremony to honour those who participated in a literacy movement took place at City Hall of Mandalay on Thursday evening, with an address by President U Thein Sein, sources said.

In his speech, the president stressed the importance of literacy, a basic necessity for political, economic, social and executive sectors, all of which are crucial for national development.

He also stressed that educating all citizens is of national concern as “the disappearance of literature amounts to the disappearance of race”, adding that literacy campaigns date back to the times of Myanmar’s ancient kings.

President U Thein Sein called on trainees not to be complacent with their present level of literacy but

to go on learning in their free time.

Speaking of the strive for national stability, peace talks with ethnic armed groups, rural development projects and poverty reduction, the president mentioned some tangible successes and admitted being faced with some difficulties and challenges, calling for public participation in overcoming the obstacles, which he noted are quite common for young democracies.

The president also said that the amendment of the constitution and the holding of free and fair elections are domestic issues, which will be carried out within a legal framework, and without tarnishing national sovereignty.

“Unrest won’t do any good to the country as only the country and the people will suffer,” the president



President U Thein Sein cordially meets local people at city hall in Mandalay.—MNA

said. The Basic Literacy Movement 2014 began 1 April in 29 townships

across the country, supporting more than 46,000 rural people.—MNA

Development programmes for Rakhine State, internal peace making process discussed with French Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Thierry Mathou on Thursday at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss development programmes for Rakhine State and the internal peace making process.

They also focused on further strengthening relations between Myanmar and France, cooperation in Myanmar’s media training school to organize the second women’s forum.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets French Ambassador Mr. Thierry Mathou.—MNA



Ministry of Rail Transportation and JICA discuss Yangon urban transport plan

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—A seminar on Yangon Urban Transport Master Plan of the Project for Comprehensive Urban Transport Plan of the Greater Yangon (YUTRA), jointly conducted by the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was held

at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Officials discussed transportation infrastructure and finances, major findings on Yangon urban transport, topics of urban transport development in Japan and the Yangon urban transport master plan (YUTRA).

Modern Yangon urban

transport will be undertaken with the use of BRT, LRT and MRT systems. A total of 29 short-term plans will be implemented in 2018, 23 medium-term plans in 2025 and 17 long-term plans in 2035. The Yangon Urban Transport Authority (YUTA) will be formed in line with the law, officials said.—MNA

Midsummer Night Music Concert held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Under Myanmar-Thailand cultural exchange programme, a Midsummer Night Music Concert took place on Thursday at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC in Nay Pyi Taw.

The concert was attended by Vice-President

U Nyan Tun and wife.

Before the concert, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu made an opening speech.

He said the Ministry of Culture plays a crucial role in creating the ASEAN socio-culture community-ASCC that implements people-to-people commu-

nication among the youths and attempts for narrowing the development gaps among ASEAN regions.

The concert is one of the arrangements of ASEAN integration, aimed at promoting relations among the ASEAN countries, he added.

MNA



Photo shows Midsummer Night Music Concert in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Amendment for constitution discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—The Constitutional Amendment Implementation Committee held meeting 7/2014 at the hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday.

Secretary of the com-

mittee U Aye Mauk reported on progress of implementing the minutes of the previous meeting.

Chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and

Vice-Chairman and Deputy Speaker of Upper House U Mya Nyein reviewed the discussions of committee members and representatives of political parties.

MNA

Farmers to get compensation for their farmlands



HTIGYAING, 15 May—A coordination meeting on presentation of com-

pensation for the farmers who had to abandon their farmlands for construction

of Ayeyawady Bridge (Htigyaing) was held at Shwehti hall in Htigyaing, one of

townships in Sagaing Region, on Wednesday.

The bridge crossing Ayeyawady River will be 5930 feet long and it will link Model Myataung Village on the east bank of the river and Htigyaing on the west bank. At the meeting attended by district authorities and the superintending engineer of the bridge construction, officials coordinated with 20 farmers from the bank of Htigyaing to give compensation for confiscated farmlands.

Both sides satisfied that one acre of confiscated farmland was valued at K7.5 million.

Saw Kalyar (Htigyaing)



Ladies from Mohnyin took part in celebrating the Buddha's Day and poured clean water at the sacred Bo Tree on the Fullmoon Day of Kason on 13 May (Tuesday).—NLM-001

Green project to uplift living standard of rural people

TACHILEK, 15 May—A ceremony to clarify the implementation of green project took place at the hall of General Administration Department in Tachilek, eastern Shan State, on Wednesday.

Deputy Director U Zeyar Nyo of Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development explained implementation of the project in detail and replied to queries raised by Shan State Hluttaw representative Daw Tin May Tun, departmental officials and local authorities.

The deputy director

made a clarification on procedure of implementation for the project starting from 2014-15 fiscal year.

Moreover, the project will contribute to the local people to do their business from the manageable scale to the commercial scale.

The green project is to be implemented to operate businesses with capital investment for rural people. Seven villages have been chosen for implementing the project in 2014 in Tachilek Township, and the project will be implemented there in early June of 2014.

Mawgyi (Triangle Region)

Rural road construction contributes to better transport for locals

PANTANAW, 15 May—Construction of a three miles and four furlongs long earthen road started in the last week of April. It will link Gonmin Village, Meinmapyay Village and Dala Village in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

At present, the construction of the road has over two miles long complete.

Thanks to the road, local people will get easy access to Pantanaw and other major cities in Ayeyawady Region in a short time. The 16 feet wide road will cost K25 million. The local people formed a fund-raising committee so as to build the road on a self-reliant

basis.

A construction company provides a backhoe in the task to be completed before the rainy season. Local authorities plan the completion of the construction tasks by May. Upon completion, rural people from villages nearby Gonmin, Meinmapyay and Dala villages will have the opportunity to send their domestic products to the market in time, and they will enjoy betterment of health and economic sectors.

Khin Maung Zaw Myint

An earthen rural road is under construction to link three villages in Pantanaw Township.



Electricians substituted new power lines in the places of old and damaged lines and installed 2P breakers at the shops of No 1 Myoma Market in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday.—Ko Ko YUPA

Residents of Hopin Sub-Township to get rural bridge soon

HOPIN, 15 May—Superintending Engineer U Oo Saw Thein of Public Works and party viewed round progress in building Nantyin Creek bridge on Hopin-Nantyin-Hsinbo Road in Hopin Sub-Township of Kachin State on Tuesday.

Kachin State government funded K382 million for construction of the bridge in 2013-14 fiscal year. The bridge will be 120 feet long and 24 feet

wide. The clearance of the reinforced concrete bridge is 26.5 feet high.

Construction of the bridge has been completed by 95 per cent. It will be a bridge to be used in transport of agricultural produce. On completion, local people do not need to wait for subsidizing the water level of the creek. In consequence, the local farmers can harvest the paddy in time.

Township IPRD

Human Rights Dialogues to be held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—The international community has been recognizing with positive response the progress made

in the political, socio-economic and administrative reforms in Myanmar.

They also have an interest on the significant

progress on human rights issues. In order to exchange views on human rights in Myanmar, the Second Myanmar-Japan Human Rights

Dialogue and the First Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue will be held on 19 and 20 May in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



REGIONAL

Thai protesters force PM to flee meeting after three killed in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 15 May — Protesters seeking to oust Thailand's government broke into the grounds of an air force compound on Thursday where the acting prime minister was meeting the Election Commission to fix a date for new polls, forcing him to flee.

The disruption of acting Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan's efforts to organize an election came hours after gunmen attacked anti-government protesters, killing three.

The turmoil comes as the government loyal to ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra squares off with opponents backed by the royalist establishment over who should be prime minister, in the latest phase of nearly a decade of rivalry.

Hundreds of protesters converged outside an air force school in north



Thailand's interim Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan



Anti-government protesters gather at the site of an attack at the Democracy Monument in Bangkok on 15 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Bangkok after word spread that Niwatthamrong was meeting commission officials there. They had put off talks at another venue the previous day because of security fears.

"We are here to tell Niwatthamrong that there is no point standing in our

way," Chumpol Jumsai, a leader of the anti-government protesters, told the crowd from on top of a truck shortly before hundreds of protesters evaded police and streamed through a side entrance of the compound.

Commission member

Somchai Srisutthiyakorn said the meeting was being abandoned and Niwatthamrong was leaving. "We will have to meet another day," he said.

The government sees a general election as the best way out of a crisis that threatens to tip

Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy into recession and has even raised fears of civil war.

Its enemies know the government would be highly likely to win a poll, and want electoral reform aimed at ending the influence of former

telecommunications tycoon Thaksin before another vote is held.

Somchai later told *Reuters* a tentative date of 20 July for the election looked improbable. "We may have to push back the polls," he said.

Earlier, a small group of men armed with guns and grenades attacked anti-government protesters near the Democracy Monument in Bangkok's old quarter killing two people on the spot, with a third dying later of his wounds. More than 20 people were injured, police said.

Paradorn Pattanabutr, a security adviser to the prime minister, said he suspected the attack was a reaction to pressure by the anti-government side to force the Senate to appoint a new prime minister.

It was the most serious incident since five people were killed and dozens wounded in clashes on 18 February, when police made their most determined effort to clear demonstrators. Twenty eight people have been killed and hundreds injured since the protests began in November.—*Reuters*

Japan PM eyes landmark change in limits on military combat abroad

TOKYO, 15 May — Advisers to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on Thursday for a landmark change in security policy, urging the government to lift a ban that has kept Japan from fighting abroad since its defeat in World War Two.

Citing an increasingly tough security environment, the private advisers called in a report for a change to a long-standing interpretation of the post-war, pacifist constitution that says Japan has the right to defend itself with the minimum force necessary, but that combat abroad exceeds that limit.

"We have reached a situation in which we cannot sufficiently maintain our country's peace and security or realise peace and prosperity of the region and international society under the current interpretation of the constitution," the report by Abe's handpicked advisers said.



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

A lifting of the ban on "collective self-defence" would be welcome to Japan's ally the United States, but would draw criticism from China, ties with which have been damaged by a territorial row and the legacy of Japan's past aggression.

Abe — who is set to comment on the report at a news conference later in the day — has made clear his desire to loosen the limits of the US-drafted charter.

But doubts remain about how far and how quickly he can go. His Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) junior partner, the New Komeito, is wary, voters are divided and the LDP's deputy leader is worried about the impact on local polls this year and next.

Previous governments have said Japan has the right of collective self-defence under international law, but that the constitution's pacifist Article 9 pro-

hibited taking such action.

Abe's advisers argue, however, that Japan's security environment, including an increasingly assertive China and volatile North Korea, requires a more flexible approach.

Abe would like to embody the change in a cabinet resolution followed by revisions to relevant laws. A wholesale lifting of the ban soon appears unlikely, although critics say even small changes would open the door to more drastic moves later. The government is expected to select some concrete scenarios from those cited in the advisers' report and Abe will instruct the ruling parties to start discussing options for change. Examples in the report include protecting a US warship under attack in waters near Japan; mine-sweeping in sea-lanes in a conflict zone; and intercepting a ballistic missile headed for America.

Reuters

Vietnamese PM urges police to ensure security for foreign companies

HANOI, 15 May — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Thursday ordered the Ministry of Public Security to ensure security and absolute safety for lives and assets as well as normal production of all companies, especially foreign investment firms.

According to the directive on Vietnamese government's website, the Prime Minister urges unanimous, active and firm measures to be implemented to prevent illegal activities and strictly handle those who have provoked riot.

The directive asked local people not to follow illegal actions, in order to ensure security and solidarity and contribute to economic development.

Dung asked relevant agencies to immediately support companies to return to normal production activities, and keep diplomatic missions and foreign investors well-informed of Vietnam's consistent policy.

Vietnam is striving to create favourable conditions and ensure absolute safety for people, enterprises and international organizations in Vietnam in accordance with Vietnamese laws and international commitments of the country, said the directive.

China on 9 May urged Vietnam to respect China's sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea and stop provocative actions.

Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Hua Chunying reiterated that the Xisha Islands are the inherent territory of China and there are no disputes in this area. The waters of China's oil drilling operations are only 17 nautical miles from China's Xisha Islands and about 150 nautical miles from Vietnam, she said.—*Xinhua*

Ukraine holds talks to end crisis, rebels not invited

KIEV/MOSCOW, 15 May — Ukraine's interim leaders on Wednesday pushed a plan to allow the regions a greater say over their affairs, but the exclusion of separatists from round table talks cast doubt over whether the move could defuse the crisis.

The talks brought together politicians and civil groups in an effort to quell a pro-Russian rebellion in the industrialised Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, which has triggered fears of a break-up of the former Soviet republic.

They came at a tense moment for Kiev. On Tuesday, seven soldiers were killed in an ambush near the city of Kramatorsk, the deadliest attack on security forces since they were sent to tackle the uprising in the east in April.

Voters in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk backed self-rule in two referendums held on Sunday despite protestations from Kiev, which sees Russia's hand behind the rebellion and denounced the votes as illegal.

After the voting, rebel leaders in Donetsk and Luhansk called for their regions to become part of Russia although this call has not been taken up by



Remains of mortar shells are seen near a destroyed Ukrainian army mobile mortar truck in the eastern Ukrainian village of Oktyabrskoe on 14 May, 2014. — REUTERS

Moscow.

When the round table talks opened in the parliament building in Kiev, the country's main leaders sharply attacked Russia, with acting president Oleksander Turchinov accusing Moscow of launching "systematic action to destabilise eastern and southern regions of Ukraine" to produce an "explosive situation".

And, in comments angled at the separatist rebels who were excluded from the talks, Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk said: "We will conduct a dialogue with all those who

do not shoot and do not kill citizens."

But Yatseniuk went on to press a decentralisation plan ceding greater powers to the regions which the Kiev authorities hope will address disaffection in eastern Ukraine and help undercut the influence of rebels seeking to break altogether with Kiev and join the Russian Federation. Such a scenario is seen by Kiev as pointing a way to resolving the crisis.

"Using mechanisms for changing the constitution, we should be able to de-centralise power and confer additional powers

on regional authorities ... create a real balance (between central and regional authorities)," he said.

Under the plan regions could hold back a portion of taxes for direct use in improving infrastructure and conditions for local businesses.

But the plan's architects are keen that they do not allow discussion of 'federalisation'—an idea pushed by Russia and the separatists—which they fear would lead to too-great autonomy and weaken the grip of the central government.

Reuters

Kerry discusses peace, unity government with Palestinian leader

LONDON, 15 May — US Secretary of State John Kerry held a two-hour discussion with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in London late on Wednesday in their first meeting since US efforts to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal collapsed last month.

During the meeting Kerry emphasized that the "door remains open to peace" talks although made clear it was up to the Israelis and Palestinians to take the necessary steps to resume talks, a senior State Department official said.

The official said Kerry urged both the Palestinians and Israelis to "refrain from unhelpful steps."

Abbas also updated Kerry on Palestinian political developments, the official said, referring to plans announced by Abbas last month to reconcile Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas into a unity government.

Israel suspended peace talks on 24 April, furious about Abbas' unexpected unity pact with Hamas.

"Secretary Kerry reiterated the need for any Palestinian government to recognise Israel, commit to non-violence, and abide by previous agreements, and thanked President Abbas



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks to the media at the State Department in Washington on 13 May, 2014. — REUTERS

for his public commitment to these principles," the State Department official said.

US aid to the Palestinian Authority, which runs at roughly \$440 million to \$500 million a year, may be affected by Palestinian plans for a unity government.

The prospect of a unity government with Hamas has caused further tensions with the Israelis. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has urged Abbas to "tear up" his pact with Hamas, warning that Israel would not participate in Middle East peace talks with a Palestinian government that is backed by the Islamist group.

Kerry is in London for a meeting with Western and Gulf allies on Syria, in which turmoil in Ukraine is also likely to be discussed.

Reuters

Furious Turks heckle Erdogan after at least 274 die in mine disaster

SOMA, (Turkey), 15 May — Furious Turks heckled Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan and jostled his entourage on Wednesday as protests erupted in several cities over a coal mine disaster in which at least 274 people died, making it the worst industrial accident in the nation's history.

With rescuers still pulling bodies from the site in western Turkey, anger swept a country that has seen a decade of rapid economic growth but still suffers from one of the world's worst workplace safety records.

Erdogan expressed his regret after visiting the site in Soma, about 480 km (300 miles) southwest of Istanbul, where around 100 miners are thought to be

still trapped underground following Tuesday's fire. "We as a nation of 77 million are experiencing a very great pain," he told a news conference.

But he appeared to turn defensive when asked whether sufficient precautions had been in place. "Explosions like this in these mines happen all the time. It's not like these don't happen elsewhere in the world," he said, reeling off a list of global mining accidents since 1862.

Angry residents broke windows at the local government offices in Soma, some chanting "Erdogan resign", while parts of the crowd lining the street booed as the prime minister walked through the town, jostling with members of

his entourage.

Protesters later kicked Erdogan's car as it left the area.

Opponents of Erdogan—who has already faced mass protests against his rule in the past year—have attacked his government for leasing mines to parts of the private sector cosy with the ruling party, and accuse it of ignoring repeated warnings about their safety.

In Istanbul, police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse several thousand people, some wearing miners' hard hats and headlamps. Police also clashed with demonstrators in the capital Ankara and there were protests in other cities.

Many took to social



Rescuers carry a miner who sustained injuries after a mine explosion, to an ambulance in Soma, a district in Turkey's western province of Manisa on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

media to express their outrage at the government's handling of the crisis.

"Beyond ridiculous. Turkish PM cites 19th century Britain to prove mining

accidents are 'typical'," one user wrote on Twitter.

Reuters

WORLD

Nigeria rejects swap of Boko Haram prisoners for schoolgirls

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria), 15 May — Nigeria's president has rejected an offer from Islamist rebel group Boko Haram to exchange schoolgirls it abducted for imprisoned militants, but the government is open to broader talks with the rebels, a visiting British minister said.

President Goodluck Jonathan is under pressure to crush the rebels who have killed thousands in their campaign for an Islamist state and to free the girls whose abduction a month ago has sparked global outrage.

Government officials initially said they were exploring all options with respect to the swap proposal and later said they were willing to negotiate with Boko Haram without specifying whether any putative talks might include an exchange for the girls.

Jonathan further refined that position on Wednesday during talks with Britain's



People hold placards calling for the release of secondary school girls abducted in the remote village of Chibok, during a protest along a road in Lagos on 14 May, 2014.

REUTERS

Minister for Africa Mark Simmonds.

"He (Jonathan) made it very clear that there would be no negotiations with Boko Haram that involved a swap of abducted schoolgirls for prisoners,"

Simmonds told reporters after meeting Jonathan.

"What he also made very clear to me was that he wanted his government to continue a dialogue to make sure a solution could be found and that security

and stability could return to northern Nigeria for the medium and the long term," he added.

Rebels stormed a school in the northeastern village of Chibok a month ago and seized 276 girls

who were taking exams. Some have escaped, but about 200 remain missing. On Monday, Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau released a video showing some of the girls in captivity and offered the swap.

The abductions have triggered a social media campaign under the Twitter hashtag #BringBackOurGirls and the United States, Britain, France and Israel have offered help or sent experts to Nigeria to assist the effort. Britain has offered a Sentinel surveillance plane, a team embedded at Nigerian military headquarters, a team embedded with international groups analyzing intelligence from the hunt and more funding for a Safe Schools Initiative, Simmonds said.

"The offer has been accepted by President Jonathan ... so we are working on the detail of that and how we might facilitate a quick implementation," Simmonds said.—Reuters

Air strikes kill over 40 in northern Syria — monitoring group

BEIRUT, 15 May— More than 40 people, many of them civilians, were killed by air strikes across northern Syria, a monitoring group said on Thursday.

More than three years into a revolt against President Bashar al-Assad, rebels are struggling to counter government warplanes which routinely bomb military and civilian targets.

On Wednesday, 15 people were killed, including three from an emergency medical team, during five air raids in Atarib in the northern Aleppo Province, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said early on Thursday. Four rebel fighters were killed by air strikes in the same area, while 21 people, including women, were killed in air strikes on the Sarmada area in northwestern Idlib Province, the anti-Assad monitoring group said. Gun battles, air strikes, car bombs, shelling and executions regularly kill over 200 people a day in Syria, where the conflict that started as a peaceful protest movement has claimed over 150,000 lives and forced millions from their homes.

Despite the carnage and the loss of swathes of territory in the north and east to insurgents, authorities plan to hold a presidential election next month all but certain to give Assad a third term. Opponents have dismissed the vote as a farce.—Reuters

South African police vow to crack down on strike intimidation



Miners on strike chant slogans as they march in Nkaneng township outside the Lonmin mine in Rustenburg on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

MARIKANA, 15 May— South Africa's police

platinum miners who were trying to return to work and arrest "within hours" strikers he said were behind a campaign of intimidation.

South Africa's longest and costliest strike ever, has taken a violent turn in recent days, with four miners killed as more employees try to report for work at the world's top platinum producers.

Earlier on Wednesday, striking members of the main Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) prevented

other workers from returning to platinum producer Lonmin's shafts, thwarting the company's efforts to end the 16-week strike.

"In South Africa, the rule of law reigns ... Anarchy is not what is going to be accepted," minister Nathi Mthethwa told a news conference later.

Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum have also been hit by the strike, which has brought to a halt 40 percent of global production of the precious metal used for

catalytic-converters in automobiles.

Lonmin had been aiming on Wednesday for a "mass return" of workers but a spokesman said "a very low number" had showed up. The producers have said many of the strikers have signaled a willingness to accept the latest pay. Implats' mines around the platinum belt town of Rustenburg remain shut while it tallies the results of votes on its pay offer and assesses the security situation.—Reuters

American Airlines jet makes emergency landing in Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 15 May — An American Airlines jet made an emergency landing at an airport in the US state of Oklahoma on Wednesday after the pilot found mechanical issues, US media reported.

American Airlines Flight 1461, an MD-80, which had taken off from Little Rock, Arkansas bound for Dallas, Texas, was diverted to Tulsa International Airport in Oklahoma just a few minutes after takeoff, local daily newspaper the Oklahoman reported.

The crew lost electronics in the cockpit and had

to do everything by hand. After a first attempt, the crew landed the plane successfully on its second approach on the airfield while emergency crew waited on the tarmac below, the report said.

None of the 137 passengers and five crew members on board was hurt. An American Airlines spokesman confirmed the incident later but did not detail the mechanical issues.

The MD-80 is a twin-engine jet originally built by McDonnell-Douglas, which was bought out by Boeing.

Xinhua

Insurgents hit Yemeni army; 30 militants and eight soldiers dead

SANAA, 15 May — The Yemeni army killed more than 30 al-Qaeda insurgents in heavy fighting on Wednesday, a senior military commander said, after the Islamists attacked military posts in a southern province where the government launched an offensive two weeks ago.

A military source said the militants had surprised troops at military outposts in the Azzan and Gol al-Rayda Districts of Shabwa Province, killing at least eight soldiers and sparking a battle that raged for hours. An army colonel was among the dead, a Defence Ministry source said.

The Yemeni army had captured both Azzan and



A police trooper stands on an armoured personnel carrier (APC) at a checkpoint in Sanaa on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Gol al-Rayda, as well as the Mahfad District in Abyan Province, earlier this month after heavy fighting in which scores were killed on both sides.

Many of the militants, from Al Qaeda in the

Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and its affiliate, Ansar al-Sharia, fled to the mountains and turned to hit-and-run tactics against security forces and government facilities.

Wednesday's raid was

one of their most daring actions since then. Lieutenant General Ahmed Saif al-Yafe'i, head of the Yemeni army's Third Military Command, called the assault a desperate attempt by "a group shaken by defeat" to show it was still able to fight back.

"Dozens of militants have fled Azzan, while more than 30 elements have been killed since the dawn of this day," the state news agency Saba quoted Yafe'i as saying.

He said the fighting had revealed that al-Qaeda was recruiting children to fight and that documents and pictures showing this would be made available to the media soon.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 16 May, 2014

Consumers, beware of artificially coloured foods*By Myint Win Thein*

Some food products in markets contain artificial colouring to attract consumers. Chemicals that are not suitable for consumption are often found in tea leaf, chilli powder, tumeric powder, jams and fish paste. Although occasional consumption of such food may not cause harm, long-term consumption of them leads to health problems.

Although the main culprits of the problem

are manufacturers and distributors, consumers are also responsible for the problem in some ways or others. As consumers are attracted to the colour of food, manufacturers are using them to meet growing demands. Such foodstuffs are often found in markets in small towns. Rural people who prefer attractive colours of food and are unaware of the dangers caused by artificial colouring are a target group of manufacturers.

Consumers should also examine whether a certain item of food is coloured or not before buying it. If consumers avoid buying these foodstuffs and if there are no more consumers for it, the practice of manufacturing dyed foodstuffs can eventually come to a halt. Otherwise, the health consequences of the consumption of dye foodstuffs can become serious.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health is regularly inspecting foodstuffs in markets with the aim of

distributing only standard and safe foodstuff to the public. The lists of dyed foodstuff that are not suitable for consumption are often announced.

Foodstuff manufacturers and distributors who market foodstuffs coloured with harmful chemicals that are unsuitable for consumption are liable to be charged under the Section 28 (a) of the National Foodstuff Law.

To reduce the health problems caused by artificial colouring, chemical dyes should not be used in foodstuffs. If consumers avoid buying dyed foodstuffs completely, health problems caused by chemical dyes will disappear.

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

Fortifying our time tested values and traditions

A few weeks ago, while driving past some monasteries and nunneries in Sanchaung, a crowded ward in eastern Yangon, I was most delighted to see groups of girls wearing white blouses and brown htamins and boys dressed in white shirts and brown longyis entering the religious buildings. At first I was intrigued and then I remembered that school children had just finished their exam and were now on vacation so the children were being sent by their parents to the monasteries and nunneries to receive religious instruction.

Why was I delighted? I was overjoyed because it appears that parents now realize the need for their children to receive religious instruction. I am now a sixty plus old man and I recall that when I and my siblings were young, like my friends, we would be taught the basics of Buddhism and short prayers during our free time by our grandparents who lived with us. We would also go along with them to monasteries and pagodas on Sabbath days. We were more interested in the food in the multi-tiered food container we helped our grandparents take to the monastery for our lunch and in playing in the spacious grounds of the monastery than in keeping the precepts. But whether we were interested in the sermons preached by the chief abbot or not, we would have to listen to it sitting in the proper way as still as possible or get a sharp pinch from our grandmother. During meditation time while our grandparents meditated, we were

let off to roam round in the spacious monastery compound and play with other children under the delightful shade of the huge mango and tamarind trees. At first, we half understood what the monks preached but gradually as we grew older, their instructions began to make more sense. We learnt to appreciate the values of the Buddhist precepts and we began to differentiate right from wrong in accordance with Myanmar values. As we grew older and were made wiser due to the counseling of our school teachers and elders, the values, both religious and societal, strengthened in us and we learnt to tread the middle path.

Times have changed and with the decline in the number of extended families, the number of young people who have grown up without the traditional instruction of grandparents, aunts and uncles is on the rise. There are also parents who are either too busy earning a living or who do not recognize the need to instill time-tested traditional values in their children. In addition, never have young people gained so much exposure to foreign cultures due to the expansion in the use of TV, the Internet and other media. Moreover, some film and pop stars seek fame, fortune and attention by imitating the outlandish behaviour and dress style of foreign stars and some companies promote their products using advertisements whose contents are not fully in accordance with Myanmar culture and values. For instance, trainers of a singing contest sponsored by beauty products companies

and telecast on TV train the participants to act and dress in an excessive way that in no way relates to the assessment of their singing ability. I was also amazed by the judges who praised contestants who performed and dressed in a bizarre immodest manner imitating the outlandish performances of some foreign singers thereby endorsing such behaviour as norms for other young Myanmar people. Even foreigners who have become used to the cultured behaviour of the majority of our youths are amazed by the way some young Myanmar young people now behave and dress. It is time that we raise the question whether personal profit should be allowed to be made unhindered by some business persons and attention seeking persons with few talents by eroding the cultural norms of our society and exploiting the fascination for all things new by innocent young people.

While we need to modernize to become more affluent and should imitate the good traits of the peoples of other countries such as generosity, creativity, diligence, working for the underprivileged and protecting the environment, it is also vital in our national interest that the values we have maintained for centuries are not eroded so that social problems are not increased and the future of innocent young people are not endangered. The essence of the values of our nation has always been based on the middle path and the avoidance of excesses. It is these values that have promoted modesty in thought, behaviour, dress, high regard for all beings,

and the flourishing of our unique culture that have gained the esteem of other countries in spite of the fact that our country is still a developing one. We need to accept that all living cultures change over time but it is also our responsibility to ensure that our culture change for the better.

Not only is preserving our traditional customs and values important from a social perspective, but it is also important from a development perspective. Our country is on the cusp of development and we need human resource that possesses the appropriate qualifications as well as excellent social skills, positive attitudes and morals. Good social skills are not only based on good communication skills but are also related to good manners, morals and ethics, and a genuine sense of responsibility, integrity, compassion, sympathy, humility, selflessness and concern for the welfare of others. It is important for young people and their parents to realize that in addition to a good education and job relevant skills, good interpersonal skills and positive attitudes also matter a great deal when it comes to getting employment and staying employed.

A basis of a person's success in society and the building of a harmonious society are good manners. They include politeness, table manners, etiquette, and genuine concern for others. Some have to be taught, such as using eating utensils properly, some are achieved by observing the good manners of others, such as covering one's mouth with one's hand when picking

one's teeth or yawning, and some are gained simply by having consideration for others such as two persons desisting from holding hands and blocking the way in public places or jumping queues.

There is a traditional Myanmar saying that our very first teachers are our parents. Parents as the persons closest to their children serve as excellent models of morals and good manners. It is important for parents to realize that it is just not enough for them to provide their children with all the things they want, a good education, expensive guides and money to spend. They must also try to make as much time as possible to be with their children, observe their offspring and teach them ethics, good manners and social skills. It is essential that for parents to really know their children they need to be impartial when assessing the behavior of their child. At the same time they must try to find out why their child behaves in a certain way and how it can be redressed.

The second set of persons who has the most influence on young people is their peers. It is important for parents to ensure that while their children have a wide circle of friends, they must also encourage their children to form close friendship only with peers who have good manners, are well-disciplined, and work hard at their studies and at the same time are sociable and have a broad variety of interests and are able to set a good example to their children. Parents must also encourage their children to join social organizations for

youths that are involved in charitable activities and social services as it will enhance good ethics, social skills, team spirit and social responsibility.

The third group of persons who have an impact on ethics and manners of young people is teachers including religious teachers. It is also important for young people to meet with venerable monks from time to time as they can learn a lot regarding good thoughts, deeds and behaviours such as meritorious deeds, learning to be contented, controlling greed and anger, ability to face disappointments, etc from their religious instruction. Similarly, as school teachers have the trust of their students, they can create a lot of impact on the life of young people. Through good example, sound advice, timely caution and specific instruction, teachers who are in touch with their students daily are able to provide guidance that will remain in their memory throughout their life. They should spend some time to discuss moral, ethical, religious and social issues with their students whenever opportunity arises during the course of a lesson, as preparation for the difficult decisions young people will have to make when they grow older.

It is often pointed out that it takes the whole community to raise a child to become a responsible young person who will do good to society but it must be remembered that the inculcation of social responsibility, ethics, positive attitudes and good manners begins with parents, close friends and school teachers and that only later on these qualities grow and strengthen with the support of the community.

by Myo Myint

LOCAL NEWS

Water pouring ritual held at Bo tree in Hlinethaya Tsp

HLINETHAYA, 15 May—Members of Ward/Village-tract Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association held the old ritual of water-pouring on a Bo tree in the precinct of Aungmye Thayarshwe Pagoda in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon on Tuesday.

They also donated cash to fund for renovation of the pagoda.

*Min Htet Paing
(Hlinethaya)*



Kyaukpadaung Tsp to open more fire stations

KYAUKPADAUNG, 15 May—A plan is underway to open more fire stations

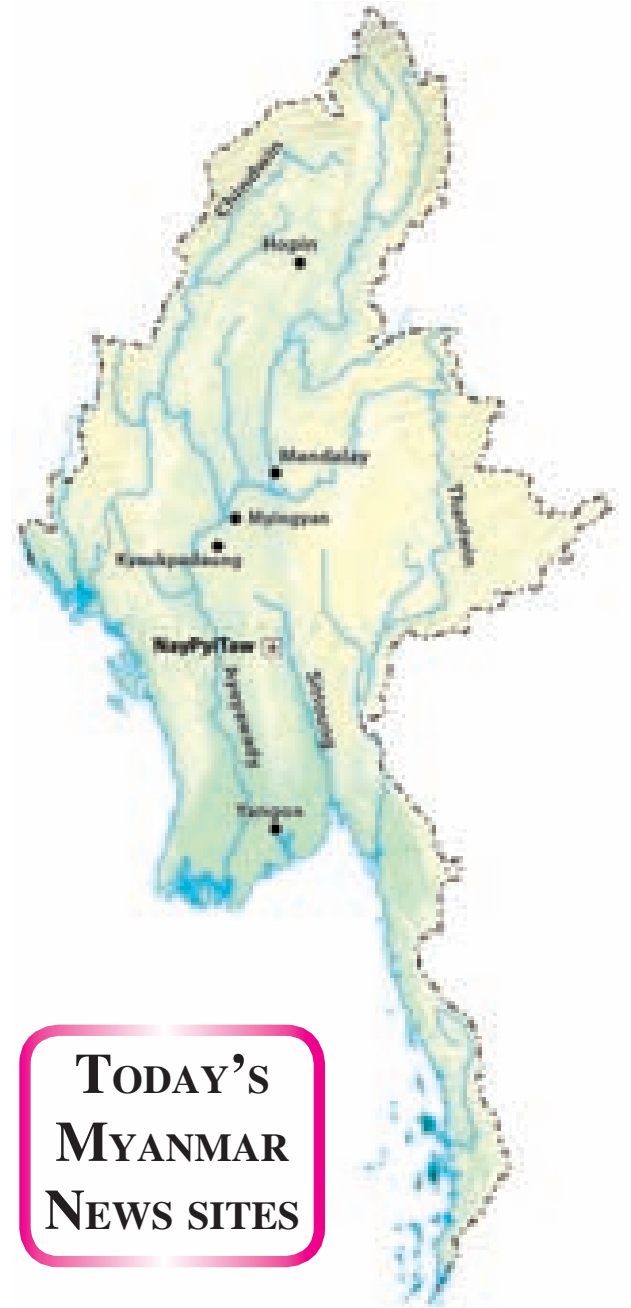
in Popa and Seiktein villages in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, in 2014-15 fiscal year. Mandalay Region government said it will

spend its fund on opening more fire stations to ensure quick reaction in case of an emergency in the dry areas.

Head of Township Fire Station U Aung Kyaw Win met local authorities to choose plots for the new fire stations, designating a 200-square feet plot for fire stations in both villages.

“The stations will be provided with one fire truck and one water tank and a three-unit building. Personnel of Fire Services Department will be on duty at the station. The fire station will be built in 2014-15 fiscal year funded by the region government,” according to officials.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)



School buildings damaged in storm in Hopin Sub-Township

HOPIN, 15 May—A strong storm hit Hopin Sub-Township of Kachin State at 3.40 pm on Tuesday, blowing off corrugated iron sheets of the Basic Education Primary School in Shangon Village.

A 12-square feet building collapsed when

a Banyan tree fell on it in the precinct of a monastery near the village.

A 30-foot tree fell on the building of BEPS in Phoneygi Sakhan Village.

It was reported that there were no casualties.

Township IPRD

Newly-sunk lakes, tube-wells improve water supply in Mandalay Region

MYINGYAN, 15 May—Mandalay Region government has sunk 16 lakes and 102 tube-wells in villages of Myingyan Township to improve water supply for the public.

A ceremony to mark the successful completion of sinking wells was held near a lake in Duwun

Village and a tube-well in Pyawbwe Village on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan said that wells and lakes were sunk to provide water for consumption and cultivation purposes of local

people.

As Mandalay region is located in a dry and hot area of the nation, the local people should use the water efficiently, he added.

He pledged that more plans have been adopted for sinking lakes and tube-wells in the region.

The region govern-

ment spent K67 million on sinking 102 tube-wells and K170 million on 16 lakes, officials said.

*Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)*

Myanmar Journalists Association to hold legal affairs talks on May 17

YANGON, 15 May—Discussions on laws for journalists and reporter ethics will be held at the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) Office in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, on 17 May.

Advocate U Maung Maung Win (Lawyer Maung Kan), Chief Editor

of Mandaing Law Magazine, U Than Win (Zeya Min Min Win), will give lectures on laws for media at 1 pm on 17 May.

On 24 May, Assistant Director (Rtd) of Bureau of Special Investigation, and Advocate U Nyan Win (U Arkar), Director (Rtd) of Supreme Court of the Union will give lectures

on laws for media arena, laws related to narcotic drugs and media ethics and law.

Those interested may attend the talks free of charge at the hall of the WJA at No 173/175 on Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township.

*Min Htet Paing
(Hlinethaya)*



Malaysian Airlines earnings set to show financial burden of loss of MH370

SINGAPORE, 15 May — Malaysian Airlines will report first-quarter earnings later on Thursday that are set to provide confirmation of just how badly the already loss-making carrier's finances have been hit by the vanishing of flight MH370 on 8 March.

Struggling for years to cope with high costs and nimbler regional and international rivals, Malaysian Airline Systems Bhd's (MASM.KL) quarterly performance has been made so uncertain by reduced traffic and potential costs linked to the jet's unexplained disappearance that analysts say they simply can't issue January-March estimates

The carrier known as MAS reported a net loss of 343 million Malaysian ringgit (\$106 million) for the last quarter of 2013, squeezed between AirAsia Bhd (AIRA.KL) on short-haul routes, and Gulf carriers and AirAsia X (AIRX.KL) in the medium and long-haul market. The first-quarter numbers are expected after the close of trading on the Malaysian stock exchange on Thursday.

Its worst quarter on record was in October-December 2011, when a series of one-off provisions related to jet deliveries and maintenance pushed it to a 1.28 billion ringgit net loss.

The airline said last month that passenger numbers dropped sharply after MH370's disappearance, its load factor — or percentage of seats sold — slipping to 74.1 percent, close to January 2013's record monthly low of 73.9 percent.

Analysts expect the uncertainty over MH370 to continue to deter travellers from using the airline, 69 percent-owned by Malaysian state investor Khazanah.

"If there is new political will to restructure, MAS can be saved from itself, and our forecasts, target price, and perhaps even our recommendation may be raised," CIMB said in



Malaysia Airlines aircrafts taxi on the runway at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang outside Kuala Lumpur on 13 May, 2014. — REUTERS

a report this week. But the brokerage, which has a 'reduce' rating on the shares, said the path forward re-

mains risky.

Analysts have long urged change at the carrier. As part of a strategic over-

haul of the company, MAS is looking to sell a stake in its profitable aircraft maintenance unit, sources told Re-

Maternal smoking tied to inhibition-related brain differences in kids



NEW YORK, 15 May — Smoking while pregnant may be linked to less control over inhibitions when the child is an adult, a new study that looked at brain scans suggests.

People whose mothers smoked during pregnancy had weaker responses in the regions of their brains known to be involved in inhibition control, compared

to those whose mothers didn't smoke, researchers found.

Inhibition control relates to how people keep their impulses in check and resist distractions in certain situations.

"What's quite surprising is to find such a reliable effect of prenatal smoke exposure that occurred 25 years before," Nathalie

Holz said.

Holz is the study's lead author from Mannheim/Heidelberg University in Germany. She and her colleagues write in JAMA Psychiatry that about 22 percent of European women smoke and about half of them continue to smoke during pregnancy.

Smoking while pregnant has been tied to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, among kids. Children with the condition usually have trouble concentrating and controlling their impulses.

"Now we were interested in what the specific mechanisms are behind this association," Holz said.

For the new study, she and her colleagues used data collected from 178 mothers and their 25-year-old children, who had been tracked since birth.

The researchers used special magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans to see

what activity was going on in the young adults' brains when they were given a test to measure their control over inhibitions.

They found that the brains of the 38 young adults with mothers who smoked during pregnancy didn't show as much of a response in the areas that are important to inhibition control as those of the 140 people with non-smoking mothers.

The results remained the same when the researchers accounted for other factors, such as parents' smoking habits after birth and children's sex, psychological problems and substance abuse.

What's more, the young adults whose mothers smoked during pregnancy exhibited more ADHD symptoms between ages two and 15, compared to those whose mothers didn't smoke.

Reuters

US health officials urge use of HIV pill for at-risk individuals

CHICAGO, 15 May — US health officials on Wednesday issued new recommendations urging healthcare workers to consider offering an HIV prevention pill to healthy individuals who are at substantial risk for HIV infection.

The guidelines, issued by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Public Health Service, involve the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, a strategy in which at-risk individuals take a daily dose of an antiretroviral drug to reduce their risk of HIV infection.

The strategy builds on a landmark 2010 study that

found Gilead Sciences Inc's Truvada — a pill already widely used to treat the human immunodeficiency virus — was more than 90 percent effective at preventing HIV infections among test subjects who took the drug as prescribed.

According to the new guidelines, healthcare providers should consider PrEP for anyone who meets specific risk criteria, such as being in a relationship with an HIV-infected partner or having sex without condoms with partners known to be at risk for HIV, such as injecting drug users.

Reuters

The guidelines offer

Study shows higher risk of death for obese breast cancer patients

CHICAGO, 15 May — A new study of 80,000 women with early breast cancer found that obesity was associated with a 34 percent higher risk of death for pre-menopausal women whose disease is susceptible to higher levels of the hormone estrogen.

The study, featured ahead of the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago beginning on 30 May, adds to the accumulation of evidence that obesity is a risk factor for cancer outcomes as well as development of the disease.

"No matter how we look at it, obesity is slated to replace tobacco as the leading modifiable risk for cancer," Dr Clifford Hudis, ASCO president and chief of Memorial Sloan Ketter-

ing Cancer Centre's Breast Cancer Medicine Service in New York, told a news conference.

ASCO earlier this week issued new guidelines for doctors and patients on how to manage obesity-related issues after a cancer diagnosis.

Obesity has been linked with an increased risk for many of the most common cancers, including breast, colon, and high-grade prostate cancers. Obesity is also associated with increased levels of estrogen.

But public awareness about the connection remains low. ASCO cited a recent survey suggesting that fewer than one in 10 Americans even realize that obesity is a risk factor for cancer.

Reuters

Suntory sees sales doubling to \$40 billion by 2020 with Beam addition

TOKYO, 15 May — Suntory Holdings Ltd SUNTH. UL will aim for group sales of 4 trillion yen (\$39 billion) by 2020 - about double what it achieved last year — of which a quarter will come from Beam Suntory, President Nobutada Saji said. Another 1 trillion yen will come from sales of beer, Saji told a news conference.

The privately held beverage company bought US spirits company Beam Inc earlier this year for 1.6 trillion yen in Japan's

third-biggest outbound deal ever, investment of which Saji said Suntory will be able to recover in about 15 years.

Saji said reaching the 1 trillion yen sales goal for the combined Suntory-Beam unit will require more acquisitions. Suntory will raise 300 billion yen in subordinated loans and 500 billion yen through long-term borrowing or bond issuance to finance the purchase of Beam, Saji said, confirming a Reuters report



A signboard of Suntory Holdings is displayed at the entrance of Suntory World Headquarters in Tokyo on 14 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists unearth unique long-necked dinosaur in Argentina

WASHINGTON, 15 May—It's not exactly small at 30 feet long (9 metres), but you might want to call this newly identified dinosaur the littlest giant.

Scientists in Argentina on Wednesday announced the discovery of the fossilized remains of a unique member of the famous long-necked, plant-munching dinosaurs known as sauropods, the largest land creatures in Earth's history.

The dinosaur, named Leinkupal laticauda, may be the smallest of the sauropod family called diplodocids, typified by the well-known Diplodocus, which lived in North America, they said.

It also is the first of them found in South America. It lived about 140 million years ago, millions of years after scientists had previously thought diplodocids had disappeared, according to Argentine paleontologist Pablo Gallina, one of the researchers.

"Finding Leinkupal was incredibly exciting since we never thought it possible. A diplodocid in South America is as strange as finding a T rex in Patagonia," added another of the scientists, Argentine paleontologist Sebastián Apesteguía, referring to the North American dinosaur predator Tyrannosaurus rex.

Apesteguía called Leinkupal "a very small guy in a lineage of giants."

"We don't know the weight but considering that many of its bones were very delicate and light and most of its body was formed by neck and tail, the weight could not be impressive, actually no more than an elephant," Apesteguía said.

Sauropods, one of the most successful dinosaur groups, were recognizable for their long necks and tails, huge bodies and pillar-like legs.

Some sauropods like Argentinosaurus, which

also lived in Argentina but 50 million years later, weighed up to 90 tons and measured more than 100 feet (30 metres) long. The last sauropods lived until the very end of the age of dinosaurs, about 65 million years ago. Diplodocids lived in North America, Europe and Africa during the Jurassic period, the middle of the three acts of the age of dinosaurs, Gallina said. Until now, they were thought to have gone extinct by the end of the Jurassic, about 145 million years ago.

But Leinkupal shows that this family lived on at least into the earliest stages of the Cretaceous period.

Diplodocids were more slender than some other families of sauropods. Their back legs were longer than their front legs, and they boasted extremely long necks and whip-like tails that they may have used to fend off predators.

Reuters

An exhibitor shows a smog tester at the 17th China Beijing International High-Tech Expo (CHITEC) in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 May, 2014. The annual technology expo kicked off on Wednesday. XINHUA



IBM expects hardware business to grow in 2015

NEW YORK, 15 May—International Business Machines Corp said it expects its hardware sector to grow in 2015 as the company invests in research and development and divests low-performing ventures.

The comments come less than one month after the world's largest technology

service company reported its lowest quarterly revenue in five years, weighed by sluggish global demand for its hardware, which plunged 23 percent in the first quarter of 2014. The company added that growth in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa remain strong, and blamed falling revenue in China on government reforms affecting state-owned clients, and on the country's hardware-heavy portfolio.

"We move on and we spread ourselves out, more industries, more clients, cloud, data, et cetera, around there," said IBM Chief Executive Ginni Rometty at an investor briefing on Wednesday. Chief Financial Officer Martin Schroeter said to stabilize

the hardware sector IBM would continue to "refresh" hardware and further invest in research and development.

"Quite frankly, we are seeing very good growth out of software, good growth out of services, but challenges in hardware," said Schroeter. "We will stabilize that hardware base and I am comfortable we will make that happen in 2014," he said.

He reiterated the company's EPS target for 2015 of at least \$20. He expects a shift to higher-value business to bring in \$3.25 and share repurchases to add \$2 in earnings per share by 2015.

Higher tax rates will cost IBM \$1.50 per share as tax credits run out, he said.

Reuters



A worker is pictured behind a logo at the IBM stand on the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 26 Feb, 2011.—REUTERS

Google gets take-down requests after European court ruling

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 May—Google Inc is already getting requests to remove objectionable personal information from its search engine after Europe's top court ruled that subjects have the "right to be forgotten," a source familiar with the matter said on Wednesday. The world's No 1 Internet search company has yet to figure out how to handle an expected flood of requests after Tuesday's ruling, said the source, who is not authorized to speak on the record about the issue.

The decision by the Court of Justice of the European Union, which affects

the region's 500 million citizens, requires that Internet search services remove information deemed "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant." Failure to do so can result in fines.

"There's many open questions," Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt said at the company's annual shareholder meeting on Wednesday in response to a question about the ruling and its implications on Google's operations.

"A simple way of understanding what happened here is that you have a collision between a right to be forgotten and a right to

know. From Google's perspective that's a balance," Schmidt said. "Google believes having looked at the decision, which is binding, that the balance that was struck was wrong."

He was not asked about the recent take-down requests. Google will need to build up an "army of removal experts" in each of the 28 European Union countries, including those where Google does not have operations, the source said. Whether those staffers merely remove controversial links or actually judge the merits of individual take-down requests are

among the many questions Google has yet to figure out, the source said. Europeans can submit take-down requests directly to Internet companies rather than to local authorities or publishers under the ruling. If a search engine elects not to remove the link, a person can seek redress from the courts. The criteria for determining which take-down requests are legitimate is not completely clear from the decision, said Jeffrey Rosen, a law professor at the George Washington University and head of the National Constitution Centre.

Reuters

S Korea unveils first urban maglev train



South Korea's first urban maglev train is seen in Incheon, South Korea, on 14 May, 2014. XINHUA

INCHEON, (South Korea), 15 May—South Korea on Wednesday

unveiled its first ever domestically-developed urban maglev train and planned

to start the passenger service in mid-July. The urban maglev train, with a

maximum speed of 111 kilometres per hour, runs from Incheon international airport to Yongyu at a route length of 6.1 kilometres.

The train was awarded with the performance certification on four trains for passenger service after passing all 52 test items required by national regulations at a trial ride ceremony on Wednesday.

"Comparing with the traditional light rail train, the maglev train has so many advantages as it floats above its rails by using magnetic force. It has no

friction, little noise and vibration," said Han Kyu-Hwan, vice chairman and CEO of Hyundai-Rotem Ltd, the corporation manufacturing the train. The bogies wrap halfway around the rail, eliminating the risk of derailments or rollover accidents, he added.

He said the construction cost of the Incheon international airport demonstration line were 42.7 billion won (41.6 million US dollars) per kilometres, similar with other light rail system. But the maintenance and labor costs will be lower as it has

no consumable parts such as wheels, gears or bearings. The maglev train can also save 20 to 30 percent energy and run in a totally environment-friendly way.

South Korea's ministry of land, infrastructure, and transportation launched the Urban Maglev Programme in 2006, aiming at developing the urban maglev system for commercial service on the demonstration line and promoting eco-friendly, safe, comfortable and economical urban transportation service to home and abroad.—Xinhua

Tropical cyclones packing more punch further from the equator

WASHINGTON, 15 May — People in heavily populated Pacific and Indian Ocean coastal regions beyond the tropics should take heed, US scientists said on Wednesday, because tropical cyclones increasingly are packing their biggest punch farther from the equator.

Over the past 30 years, the location where these powerful storms reach their maximum intensity has shifted away from the equator and toward the poles in both the northern and southern hemispheres at a rate of about 35 miles (56 km) per decade, they said. That amounts to half a degree of latitude per decade. The trend may be linked to factors that have contributed to global climate change including human activities like the burning of fossil fuels, the researchers said.

The scientists documented the greatest migration in tropical cyclones in the northern and southern Pacific and south Indian Oceans. This march away from the equator was not seen in the Atlantic, although hurricanes have registered increases in average

intensity due to factors that may be counteracting the poleward trend seen elsewhere, the researchers said.

The storms that menace coastal regions with damaging winds and flooding are known as hurricanes in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific, typhoons in the western Pacific and tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean and Southern Hemisphere. The movement of maximum intensity means regions further north and south of the equator that have not dealt with many of these storms may now be in the crosshairs.

“We found that the tropics are becoming less hospitable to tropical cyclones and the higher latitudes are becoming less hostile,” said Jim Kossin, an atmospheric research scientist with the National Climatic Data Centre of the US government’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) who led the study appearing in the journal *Nature*.

“So places in Japan and South Korea could find themselves at greater risk,” Kossin said in a telephone interview. “Places in the



A pedestrian looks at a tree broken by a strong wind as he walks past it on a sidewalk in Seoul on 2 Sept, 2010. — REUTERS

southern Philippines might experience reduced risk.”

As these storms creep into higher latitudes, some regions closer to the equator may experience reduced risk of being battered by them, the researchers said. On the other hand, these regions in the tropics that rely on rainfall spawned by these storms for fresh water resources may experience water shortages as the storms migrate away from them, they added.

Gabriel Vecchi, an atmospheric scientist at NOAA’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, said the researchers could not say with certainty whether increases in greenhouse gases or stratospheric ozone depletion have caused the poleward movement. But Vecchi said the latitude of maximum intensity has moved toward the poles at roughly the same rate as an expansion of the Earth’s tropics over

the same period, and other studies have attributed the tropics’ expansion to human activities.

The scientists tracked the trend using satellite and other data spanning from 1982 to 2012 collected by NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center. While the study documented the trend over a period of three decades using the data, it may very well have begun well before, Kossin said.

Reuters

Over 600 Chinese enter Cambodia to flee anti-China riots in Vietnam

PHNOM PENH, 15 May — More than 600 Chinese business people and tourists have crossed Vietnamese border into Cambodia to escape anti-China riots in Vietnam, Cambodian National Police spokesman Kirt Chantharith confirmed on Thursday.

“On Wednesday alone, over 600 Chinese nationals entered Cambodia through Bavet international border checkpoint in Svay Rieng Province,” he told *Xinhua*. “The figures did not include those traveling to the country by air.”

“They just stay in Cambodia for a while, when the situation in Vietnam eases, they may go back,” he said. Thousands of Vietnamese rioters launched anti-China violence and set fire to at least 15 Chinese-invested factories in Vietnam.

About 10 Chinese remained unaccounted for on Thursday after rioters attacked Chinese companies in Vietnam’s central Ha Tinh Province, sources said. — *Xinhua*

EU to beat 2020 climate change targets, split over 2030 ones



An octopus-shaped kite flies over visitors on a smoggy day during a kite festival in Chongqing on 6 April, 2014. — REUTERS

ATHENS, 15 May — The European Union will cut its carbon emissions in 2020 by a bigger margin than it has pledged it would under United Nations climate change treaties, a meeting of the bloc’s environment ministers was told on Wednesday.

“Europe will be over-achieving in 2020,” Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency said

after presenting his organization’s findings to ministers and European Commission officials in Athens.

The EU has unilaterally pledged under the UN Kyoto Protocol for Climate Change to reduce its emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.

The bloc has already almost met that target and now expects to beat it easily by 2020. “For the year 2020, total emissions are

projected to be 24.5 percent below base year levels,” it said in a document submitted to the UN on 30 April.

Environmental campaigners welcomed the lower EU emissions but said this was no substitute for setting deeper targets.

“Without targets and new policies there is no guarantee that circumstances won’t change and emissions rise back up,” said Wendel Trio of green group coalition CAN Europe.

The ministers were meeting ahead of next month’s resumption of UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, when nations with Kyoto targets had agreed to review their commitments under the pact.

Trio said there was no chance the EU would agree on a deeper commitment at the summit but urged the bloc to toughen its goal eventually to “pile pressure on other big emitters into taking more action.”

Scientists and environmental campaigners have urged the bloc to continue its leadership in tackling climate change to ensure global temperature rises are kept below the 2 degree Celsius level that UN-backed scientists say is needed to prevent a huge increase in droughts, flooding and rising sea levels.

But EU member states remain split over how to meet an even more ambitious Commission proposal to cut carbon emissions by 40 percent in 2030, the bloc’s Greek EU Presidency said.

“There are three groups of member states,” said Greek Energy and Environment Minister Yannis Maniatis. Some member states support the Commission’s proposal while others hesitate to adopt any targets at all. A third group, including Greece, wants to go even further, Maniatis said.

Reuters

Australian seeks damages for being barred from whale museum

WAKAYAMA, (Japan), 15 May — An Australian woman and a colleague have filed a suit seeking payment of 6.7 million yen (\$65,700) in damages from the town government of Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture, for being barred from entering the town’s whale museum, their legal agent said on Thursday.

The woman, a member of a dolphin conservation group, filed the suit with the Wakayama District Court, saying she and her colleague had visited the Taiji Whale Museum on Feb. 9 but were not allowed to enter. Details of her colleague’s identity were not immediately available.

The town of Taiji is one of Japan’s major whaling bases, along with the cities of Abashiri and Hakodate in Hokkaido, Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture, Minamiboso in Chiba Prefecture and Ikitsuki Island in Nagasaki Prefecture. Taiji is also one of Japan’s two bases for dolphin drive

hunting. In the suit, the Australian woman said museum officials put up a notice written in English and Japanese saying that people who oppose whaling are not allowed to enter the museum.

She argued that this runs counter to Japan’s Constitution which bans discrimination in political, economic or social relations because of race, creed, sex, social status or family origin. Museum officials had violated her freedom of thought and conscience, she claimed. The Taiji Whale Museum said the museum employees put up the notice during the Japanese whaling season which started in September 2013 and ran through last February.

Museum director Katsuki Hayashi told reporters the museum regards whaling as a form of fishing and that museum officials are required to protect the culture of the town, denying they intended to discriminate against the Australian woman. — *Kyodo News*

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

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

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IMF says Mali cash delayed over questionable jet purchase



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) logo is seen at the IMF headquarters building during the 2013 Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

DAKAR, 15 May—The International Monetary Fund says it will delay the disbursement of \$6 million in aid to Mali pending a clarification from the government on the purchase of a \$40 million presidential jet, an IMF spokesman said.

The controversy over the jet, and a separate loan for military supplies, risks undermining confidence in Mali's donor-backed recovery from twin crises in 2012. These involved the military ouster the president and the occupation of its vast northern desert regions by al Qaeda-linked Islamist fighters.

The IMF spokesman said the organization questions the rationale of and

procedures that led to Mali buying the jet, given the country's pledges to fight poverty.

The IMF has also flagged concerns about a separate 100 billion CFA franc (\$209.02 million) state guarantee issued for a loan secured by a private company with a Malian bank to provide supplies for the army.

"Getting satisfactory information about these transactions and reassurance that the authorities still stand behind the fiscal stability and sound public financial management practices objectives of their arrangement with the IMF will take time," the spokesman said.

Reuters

Explorer hopes for quick return to possible Santa Maria wreck

NEW YORK, 15 May—An underwater explorer who claims to have found the wreckage of Christopher Columbus' flagship, the Santa Maria, off the north coast of Haiti hopes to begin excavating the site as early as next week.

Barry Clifford, a Massachusetts marine investigator who recently led a reconnaissance expedition to the site, told a Press conference at the Explorers Club in New York on Wednesday that the start of any excavation depends on approval from the Haitian government. Clifford also said he needs to locate a facility to potentially house any of the remains.

He and a team of marine explorers say evidence "strongly suggests" the artifacts from the shipwreck off Haiti belong to the Santa Maria, which Columbus used on his maiden voyage to the New World in 1492.

Some experts and Haitian officials have reacted with scepticism to the possible discovery, saying they doubt that enough of the vessel remains to make a definite match.

"I think the evidence is overwhelming that the ship is most likely the Santa Maria," Clifford said, citing its location close to the spot



Marine investigator Barry Clifford speaks during a news conference at the Explorers Club in New York on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

where the ship is believed to have gone down, as well as the wooden remains of the keel seen at the site, along with a cannon.

Clifford, 68, said he has held talks with Haiti President Michel Martelly seeking approval to start excavating. He urged Haitian officials to take steps to protect the artifacts, and said some items, including the cannon, appeared to have been looted from the site.

The wreck was discovered in about 10 to 15 feet of water near a reef almost five miles offshore, Clifford said. On his next expedition he said he hoped to recover pieces of wood and other materials used to

build the ship.

The Santa Maria was one of three vessels that left Spain to look for a shorter route to Asia.

The ship sank on Christmas Day in 1492 and had to be abandoned. Afterwards, Columbus left behind 39 men at La Navidad, a fortified camp, and sailed back to Spain. He returned a year later to find the fort destroyed and none of his crew alive.

Clifford said he based his conclusions on the wreck's proximity to La Navidad, and data from Columbus' diary.

The precise location of La Navidad is not known, though archaeologists from the University of Florida

have excavated a possible site about 10 miles east of the city of Cap Haitien, on Haiti's north coast.

Clifford's team first discovered the wreck in 2003, but was unable to identify the ship.

Among artifacts found during a previous exploration of the site was a 15th-century cannon. The cannon and other key items have since been taken by the suspected looters, Clifford said.

The artifacts were found underneath a large mound of ballast rock Clifford said that can be matched to a quarry near the port of Columbus' departure in southwestern Spain.

But experts on Columbus' voyages say similar rocks were also used in other ships at the time, some of which traversed the Caribbean.

The Spanish government has not been in touch with Clifford, said a spokeswoman for Spain's Ministry of Culture, who asked not to be named.

"The two governments (Spanish and Haitian) are in touch and both agree that there are doubts over whether it is the Santa Maria and that we need more information," the spokeswoman said.—Reuters

Scientists to study Amazon rainforest fate if CO2 levels rise

SAO PAULO, 15 May—A group of scientists from more than 20 institutions around the world will gauge the impact on the world's largest rainforest if a time comes when the planet has 30 percent more carbon dioxide (CO2) than today, according to a project launched on Wednesday. A large experiment including towers that will pump CO2 into plots of dense forests will be built in a region north of Manaus, in the Brazilian Amazonas state.

Sensors and field observation will evaluate the reaction of the trees when subject to a concentration of carbon dioxide 200 parts per million (ppm) higher than the current 400 ppm, already the highest level ever.

Predictions by the UN's panel on climate change (IPCC) indicate that 600 ppm could be the

level of CO2 concentration in 50 years time.

Tropical forests around the world are a key aspect on global warming.

They store billions of tonnes of carbon and their potential to continue to absorb heat-trapping gases from the atmosphere is critical to determine by how much temperatures could rise. Little is known so far

about how tropical forests will react as CO2 levels rise. "It is the first time this kind of experiment is conducted in a tropical forest," said Carlos Nobre, a scientist who heads research policy at Brazil's Science Ministry and is a member of the IPCC.

"The outcomes will be of great importance for other tropical forests, the

global carbon cycle and to understand how these forests will be affected by climate change throughout this century," he said.

Some experts believe the larger amount of carbon dioxide would be beneficial to trees that in turn could absorb larger quantities of carbon, slowing the rise on temperatures.

Reuters



A man from the Bare tribe holds his child near the Negro River at the Cartucho community during the last day of the "Expedicionarios da Saude" (Brazilian Health Expeditions) medical expedition to the area in Santa Isabel do Rio Negro, in Amazonas state, northern Brazil on 12 Nov, 2010.

REUTERS



Jury President Jane Campion (C) and jury members actor Willem Dafoe (L), actress Leila Hatami (2ndL), actress Jeon Do-yeon (4thR), director Sofia Coppola (3rdR), director Jia Zhangke (2ndR), actor and director Gael Garcia Bernal (R) pose during a photo call before the opening of the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Sexism in film industry hinders women: Cannes jury head Campion

CANNES (France), 15 May — The scarcity of female directors in the film industry is “undemocratic”, the head of the Cannes film festival jury Jane Campion said on Wednesday, speaking out against sexism in the business that keeps many women’s films out of view.

The comments by Campion, the only woman to have ever won the festival’s prestigious Palme d’Or prize, came on the opening day of the 12-day event on the French Riviera, which in years past has been criticised for not presenting enough films made by women.

“I think you’d have to say there’s some inherent sexism in the industry,” Campion told journalists and film critics at a jury press conference in advance of the screening of the festival’s opening-night film, Olivier Dahan’s “Grace of Monaco”. “It does feel very undemocratic and women do notice,” she said. “Time and time again, we don’t get our share of representation.”

This year, the festival’s 67th season, the event features a majority female jury,

with French actress Carole Bouquet, US director Sofia Coppola, South Korean actress Jeon Do-yeon and Iranian actress Leila Hatami joining Campion.

But out of 18 films, only two by female directors are in the running for the Palme d’Or — “Le Meraviglie” (The Wonders) by Italian director Alice Rohrwacher and “Futatsume No Mado” (Still the Water) by Japan’s Naomi Kawase.

Two years ago, influential French daily *Le Monde* published an open letter signed by female directors and actresses accusing the film industry of a double standard. “At Cannes, women show their breasts, men show their films,” the letter said. Jane Roscoe, the newly appointed director of the London Film School, agreed that film remains a male-dominated industry.

The fact that Cannes named a mostly female jury “does not mask the reality that the film industry, like many others, remains a male bastion despite some progress by women,” she told Reuters.—Reuters

Jay Z, Beyonce and Drake score most BET Awards nominations

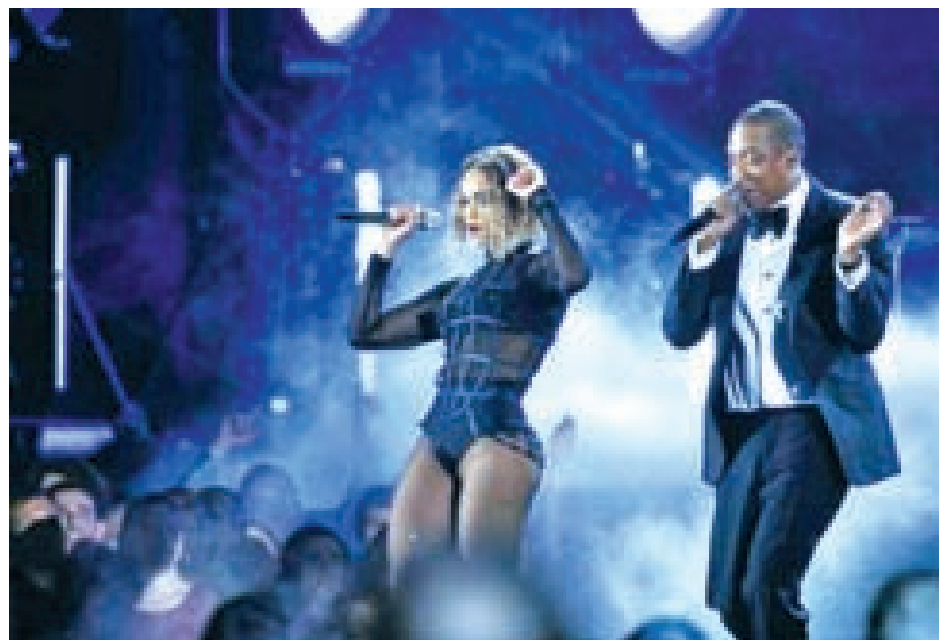
NEW YORK, 15 May — Music’s power couple Jay Z and Beyonce, and rapper Drake led the BET Awards nominations announced on Wednesday with five nods each, followed by R&B singer Pharrell Williams and hip-hop singer August Alsina with four.

Jay Z and Drake will vie for best male hip-hop artist along with Future, J Cole and Kendrick Lamar. The two will also battle it out for video of the year with other nominees Beyonce, Chris Brown and Williams.

Beyonce also earned nods for best female R&B/pop artist and best collaboration, with husband Jay Z on “Drunk in Love,” as well as nominations for video of the year for “Drunk in Love” and her song “Partition.”

“This year’s nominees represent the best of our culture,” Stephen Hill, BET’s president of music programming and specials, said in a statement.

The annual BET



Beyonce and Jay-Z perform “Drunk In Love” at the 56th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 26 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Awards began in 2001 to celebrate African-American and other minorities in categories spanning music, film and sports. The awards will be presented live on the cable TV network BET, Black Entertainment Television, which is part of Viacom Inc, on 29 June from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

In the film category, Oscar nominees Angela Bassett and Oprah Winfrey as well as Gabrielle Union, Kerry Washington and Academy Award winner Lupita Nyong’o scored nods for top actress.

Oscar nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor, Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker

along with Idris Elba, Kevin Hart and Michael B Jordan will compete for the best actor award. Tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, basketball players LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, and Blake Griffin and boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. earned nominations in the sports category.—Reuters



Singer Bob Dylan performs during a segment honouring Director Martin Scorsese, recipient of the Music+ Film Award, at the 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles on 12 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS

Dylan does it Sinatra’s way

LONDON, 15 May — Bob Dylan has released a version of “Full Moon and Empty Arms”, a hit for Frank Sinatra in 1945, and will follow it with a new album later this year.

The song, posted on Dylan’s official website, was written by Buddy Kaye and Ted Mossman and is based on Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No 2. Artists ranging from Sarah Vaughan to the Platters have also covered it.

Rolling Stone magazine quoted a spokesperson for Dylan as saying: “This track is definitely from a forthcoming album due later on this year.”

No title was given for the album but the website’s home page cryptically featured a picture of Dylan and the words “Shadows in the Night”.

Dylan’s last album “Tempest”, his 35th, was a commercial and critical success when it was released in 2012.

The 72-year-old has just completed a string of dates in Japan and Hawaii as part of his Never Ending Tour and will start a European leg in Cork, Ireland, on 16 June.—Reuters

Cannes to pay tribute to 50th anniversary of ‘spaghetti western’

CANNES (France), 15 May — A restored print of the pioneering 1964 Italian-made spaghetti western “A Fistful of Dollars” will be screened on the closing day of the Cannes Film Festival with director Quentin Tarantino as host, the festival announced on its website.

“To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Spaghetti Western in 1964, the Festival de Cannes will be showing ‘A Fistful of Dollars’ directed by Sergio Leone that same year and starring Clint Eastwood and Gian Maria Volonte,” the posting said.

“The event will be hosted by Quentin Tarantino, a great admirer of Sergio Leone, who has always been open about how much his own film making owes to the influence of the Western’s great Italian masters,” the statement posted late on Tuesday said.

The print to be screened after the prizes are awarded on 24 May has been restored by making a digital version of the original Techniscope colour negative with an original Technicolor print used as a reference, the posting said.

The sound also has been restored, the

statement said.

The Cannes Film Festival, which opens its 67th edition on Wednesday, has a history of presenting restored versions of classic films. One of the other restorations to be shown during the 12-day long festival is the classic cult horror film “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre”.—Reuters

A general view shows the Festival Palace as workers install the red carpet in front of its main entrance for the opening ceremony of the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS



GENERAL

Italy's Berlusconi says he was forced out by EU 'plot'



Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi arrives at the Sacred Family Foundation, where he will serve part of his one-year tax fraud sentence by doing community service with the elderly, in Cesano Boscone, a small town on the outskirts of Milan on 9 May, 2014.—REUTERS

ROME, 15 May — Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi repeated accusations on Wednesday that he had been forced out of office at the height of the euro zone crisis in 2011 as the result of a plot by European Union officials.

Berlusconi's comments followed the publication of a book by former US treasury secretary Timothy Geithner which suggested that the US government had been asked to help force Berlusconi to resign as the crisis escalated

in late 2011.

"At one point that fall, a few European officials approached us with a scheme to try to force Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi out of power; they wanted us to refuse to support IMF loans to Italy until he was gone," Geithner wrote in his book, "Stress Test: Reflections on Financial Crises", extracts from which appeared in the Italian press this week. "We told the President about this surprising invitation, but as helpful as it would have been to have better leadership in Europe, we couldn't get involved in a scheme like that," he wrote. "We can't have his blood on our hands," I said."

Berlusconi resigned in November 2011 after months of tension on financial markets led to fears that investors could refuse to buy Italian bonds, sending the euro zone's third-largest economy into default and breaking the single currency apart.

The 77-year-old media tycoon, currently serving a community service sentence after being convicted of tax fraud last year, said the book showed there had been a "clear violation of democratic rules and an attack on the sovereignty of

our country".

"The plot is an extremely serious piece of news which confirms what I've been saying for some time," he told Rai state television in an interview.

Berlusconi, the leader of Italy's main center-right party, has frequently accused European authorities and Italy's head of state, President Giorgio Napolitano, of mounting a "coup" to remove him from office in 2011.

He made similar accusations earlier this year following the publication of a book based on interviews with his successor Mario Monti and others, which said Monti had been sounded out as a potential replacement premier months before Berlusconi's government fell.

"FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY"

On Wednesday, Berlusconi repeated accusations that Napolitano had been in contact with Monti, the former European Commissioner appointed to lead the technocrat government that succeeded Berlusconi, well before the final crisis.

Napolitano issued a statement on Wednesday saying he was unaware of any pressure exerted on Berlusconi, who resigned

after a split in the center-right camp left him without a reliable parliamentary majority.

He said Berlusconi's resignation had been offered "freely and responsibly" and that it had been caused solely by "Italian political and parliamentary events". Berlusconi has stepped up his attacks on Brussels and euro zone policy makers during the campaign for the 25 May European Parliament elections, encouraged by opinion polls that show rising dissatisfaction with the EU.

With less than two weeks to go, his Forza Italia party is in third place in opinion polls with about 20 percent, behind Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's center-left Democratic Party, on around 34 percent, and the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, on about 25.

Many of his supporters remain convinced that his removal was engineered by foreign powers.

Monti's government imposed a series of austerity measures aimed at restoring market confidence but failed to halt a steep rise in Italy's public debt or restore growth, and ended its term deeply unpopular with ordinary voters.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(16-5-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:35 am
- 2. Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 4. Hyper Sports
- 8:00 am
- 5. News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- 6. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 7. News/ International News
- 9:45 am
- 8. ASEAN Programmes
- 10:20 am
- 9. TV Drama Series
- 12:00 pm
- 10. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 11. Myanmar Movies
- 2:00 pm
- 12. Documentary
- 3:00 pm
- 13. News
- 3:15 pm
- 14. Teleplay
- 4:00 pm
- 15. News
- 4:30 pm
- 16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm
- 17. News
- 5:30 pm
- 18. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- 19. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 20. Amazing World
- 7:00 pm
- 21. News
- 7:20 pm
- 22. TV Drama Series
- 8:00pm
- 23. News /International News /Weather Report
- 8:35pm
- 24. Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- 25. News
- 26. Hyper Sports
- 27. Myanmar Movies

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-5-14 07:00am~
17-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Sons of the lake
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture"
- * Myanmar's Secret Beautifier
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Mon Traditional Wedding
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Mandalay
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bo Yatan-amingalar Palace
- * World News
- * A Day Trip to Thanlyin
- * Local News
- * Shots & Logs (Ep-1) Ko Taike
- * World News
- * Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring
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- * Products of Myanmar — Power Ring
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Na Di Htike"
- * Local News
- * Market of Pyay City Development Committee
- * World News
- * Moving Meditation : Aikido

Malaysia Airlines search halted again

SYDNEY, 15 May — The search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 hit a fresh snag on Thursday after it was found the underwater drone at the heart of the operation had been damaged, forcing what could be another lengthy delay.

The Australian agency coordinating the search effort, now in its third month, said communications equipment on the sophisticated Bluefin-21 drone was damaged on its first day back after almost two weeks away for maintenance and resupply.

The issue was discovered on Wednesday, the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) said, just two hours into the drone's first mission since returning to the search area in the Indian Ocean about 1,600 km (1,000 miles) northwest of the west Australian city of Perth.—Reuters

Additional referees not just standing still, says Collina

TURIN, 15 May — If the five referees system had been in use in 2005, former referee Pierluigi Collina would not have awarded the goal that gave Chelsea a Champions League round-of-16 win over Barcelona.

Chelsea were leading the second leg 3-2 but heading out of the competition on the away goals rule until they won a corner in the 76th minute.

Collina said he kept his eyes firmly fixed on John Terry, knowing that the other Chelsea players would do everything they could to allow their captain a free header.

Sure enough, when the ball was floated across, Terry got free of his marker and sent a low header into the bottom corner from

around 16 metres. But Collina was so focussed on Terry that he did not see a foul by Chelsea defender Ricardo Carvalho on Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes in the goalmouth.

"I was focussed on these two players (Terry and his marker) and I couldn't see what was going on in the goalmouth," Collina, now head of UEFA's refereeing body, told reporters on Tuesday as he showed a replay of the incident.

"My choice was correct because I predicted what had happened (that the ball would go to Terry). But the contribution of someone here (on the goal line) would have been very important and very easy, he would have been there,

three metres away (from Carvalho). He could have informed me there was a foul."

The use of extra referees on each goal-line, officially known as Additional Assistant Referees (AAR), was pioneered by UEFA and approved by football's rule-making body, the International Football Association Board (IFAB), in 2012.

UEFA now uses it regularly in the Champions League, Europa League and European Championship and says that 35 member associations have also adopted the system to some extent.

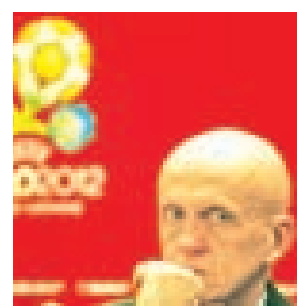
"Some are using additional assistant referees in every match such as Turkey, Italy, Hungary and

Belgium, others use the AAR system only in key matches or in one game per match day, or in the play-off or the last game of the national cup," Collina said.

He added that many people did not appreciate what the extra officials did, especially as they are not allowed under the laws of the game to use flags.

"Everyone knows they are there but very few understand their main purpose," he said. "Too often we hear comments saying that they are there for nothing, not deciding anything, that they are simply standing beside the goal. Very few can appreciate the contribution they make to the refereeing process."

Collina said that AARs could help a referee to



Pierluigi Collina, the UEFA Chief Refereeing Officer, attends a news conference five weeks before the start of the EURO 2012 soccer championships, in Warsaw on 2 May, 2012.—REUTERS

judge whether the ball had crossed the goal-line and also give him an additional pair of eyes.

"They are not just an alternative to goal-line technology," he said. "The

referee shares the control (with the assistant), they can look at the same incident from two different angles," he said.

Collina showed one incident at a corner with two clusters of players in the penalty area, one in the goalmouth watched by the assistant and one on the edge of the area watched by the referee.

"With two people, they can focus on each area," he said. "One man on his own cannot see them. It's almost impossible."

"They can also act to deter players from committing fouls," he said, listing the benefits.

The only thing the assistants cannot do is wave a flag.

Reuters

Sevilla extend Benfica curse with shootout win

TURIN, 15 May — Sevilla defended doggedly in a 0-0 draw before beating Benfica 4-2 on penalties to win the Europa League for the third time on Wednesday as the final curse of Bela Guttmann continued to haunt the Portuguese side. Beaten 2-1 at the death by Chelsea in the same game 12 months ago, Benfica slumped to their eighth successive European final loss, putting a dampener on what had been a triumphant season. Benfica had the best of the opening 90 minutes but failed to take their chances and the confidence seemed to ooze away from them in extra-time. The writing appeared to be on the wall when Sevilla won the toss before the penalties and

chose the end in front of their fans. Paraguay striker Oscar Cardozo, who has had an unhappy season and missed a penalty for his country in the 2010 World Cup quarter-final against Spain, took a stuttering run-up before Benfica's second penalty was saved by Beto. Beto also stopped Benfica's next spot-kick, a half-hearted Rodrigo effort, although the Sevilla goalkeeper appeared to move well off his line on each occasion. Kevin Gameiro then fired home Sevilla's fourth to clinch their third Europe League/UEFA Cup title.

"In the end, they (Benfica) were pushing forward more as we were tired and all the games that we have played this sea-

son took their toll," Sevilla coach Unai Emery said.

"However, we have learnt to fight and cope with the difficult moments and we came out on top." Benfica's losing run is often referred to as the "curse of Bela Guttmann", the Hungarian coach who led them to successive European Cups in 1961 and 1962.

On leaving the club in acrimonious circumstances, Guttmann said they would never win another European title without him.

"We were better but in football, the best team doesn't always win," Benfica coach Jorge Jesus said. "We had the more chances over 120 minutes but we didn't take them." Sevilla, playing their 19th match in



Sevilla's coach Unai Emery (centre left) holds the trophy after they beat Benfica on penalties in their Europa League final football match at the Juventus stadium in Turin on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

this season's competition, gave Benfica an early scare

when Vitolo cut the ball back to Carlos Bacca and

Guilherme Siqueira dived in to intercept.—Reuters

Hiroshima, Frontale bow out of ACL on away goals

SYDNEY, 15 May — J-League champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima surrendered a two-goal first-leg advantage and crashed out of the Asian Champions League on Wednesday night after a 2-0 defeat away to Western Sydney Wanderers in the round of 16. And Japanese interest in the competition ended an hour later as Kawasaki Frontale won 2-1 at FC Seoul but went out on away goals, the tie finishing 4-4 on aggregate.

A brace by Naoki Ishihara and a stoppage-time strike by Kosei Shibasaki had put Sanfrecce in the driving seat after last week's 3-1 win at Edison Stadium. But Shannon Cole fired Sydney into the lead early in the second half, and Brendon Santalab grabbed the second with five minutes left to make it 3-3 overall, sending the Australians into the last eight on away goals.

Ishihara had an early opportunity to put Hiroshima 4-1 ahead on aggregate,



Western Sydney Wanderers striker Brendon Santalab (R) scores his side's second goal past Sanfrecce Hiroshima goalkeeper Takuto Hayashi (I) during the second half of a second-leg round of 16 match in the Asian Champions League at Parramatta Stadium in Sydney on 14 May, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

when he brought a good save out of Ante Covic on 12 minutes.

Former Japan midfielder Shinji Ono, playing his last game for the Wanderers before returning home to join J2 side Consadole Sapporo, fired just wide from distance at the other end for Sydney,

who enjoyed long spells of pressure in the first half.

A completely unmarked Iacopo La Rocca squandered a golden chance when he headed over following a pinpoint corner from Ono in the 53rd minute, but Sydney leveled with man-of-the-

match Ono again involved two minutes later.

The former Feyenoord star got another great cross in from the byline and Yoshifumi Kashiwa's headed clearance fell to Cole, who smashed his shot high past Sanfrecce keeper Takuto Hayashi.

Kyodo News

Federer suffers early defeat in Rome, Nadal survives

ROME, 15 May — Roger Federer will be returning to his newborn twins earlier than expected after his Italian Open adventure ended with a 1-6, 6-3, 7-6(6) second-round defeat by Frenchman Jeremy Chardy on Wednesday.

Federer had been hoping to get his claycourt form back in gear after skipping last week's Madrid Open to attend the birth of his twin boys Leo and Lenny but the winner of a record 17 grand slam titles will now be flying back home to his family. Fourth seed Federer made a promising start but, with dust whipping up off the surface and the ball playing tricks, Chardy fought back with some brutal forehand winners and saved match point in the tiebreak before sealing victory.

World number one Rafael Nadal laboured into the third round with an energy-sapping 7-6(1), 6-7(4) 6-2 victory over dangerous Frenchman Gilles Simon.

The 13-times grand slam winner has endured a slow start to the season,

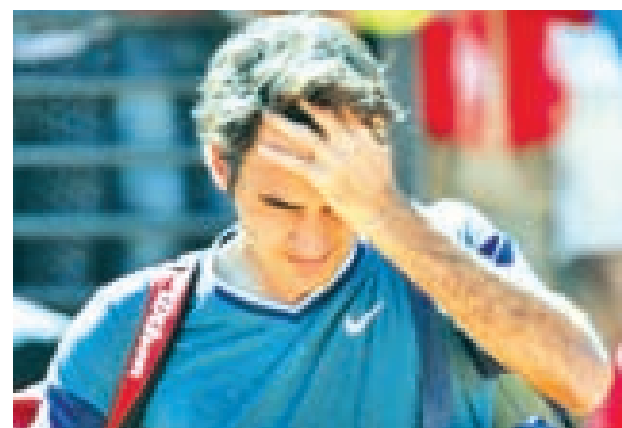
winning just three titles and suffering a number of uncharacteristic losses on his favoured clay surface.

He won the Madrid Open on Sunday after his final opponent Kei Nishikori of Japan was forced to retire through injury having been on the brink of victory and Nadal was forced to endure another scare by Simon.

The 29-year-old forced Nadal into a tiebreak in the opening set but the Spaniard gained the impetus and his heavy groundstrokes gave him the lead.

In the second set Simon, a former world number six, survived an early break, match point, and a brief interruption by an errant pigeon before forcing a deciding set with a series of powerful forehands.

Nadal, the 'King of Clay', coped best in a draining final set and from 2-2 won four games in a row to claim victory but doubts remained about his form ahead of his bid for a record-extending ninth French Open title starting later this month.—Reuters



Roger Federer

Barca ready to seize second chance, says Xavi

BARCELONA, 15 May — Barcelona are ready to grasp their second chance with both hands and snatch the Spanish title from Atletico Madrid in a winner-takes-all clash this weekend, midfielder Xavi said on Wednesday.

Barca looked out of the running for top spot a few weeks ago but with the

leading three sides in Spain all stuttering the title has boiled down to Saturday's match in the Nou Camp.

Atletico have 89 points, three more than Barca who have drawn their last two matches, but a win for the hosts would see them retain the trophy courtesy of a better head-to-head record. "We saw

the situation as black and that we had lost the league but football has given us another chance," Xavi told a news conference. "We play at home in front of our fans and we have all in our favour to win. The crowd need to get behind us due to what we are playing for."

"This is an historic chance and it will be a

spectacular final. Anyone who thought that we still had chances would have been considered crazy."

With a first title since 1996 within touching distance Atletico have picked up only one point from their last two games since reaching the Champions League final.

Reuters