

NLD, 88 Generation call for amendment of Section 436 with launch of signature campaign



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks about constitutional amendment at Bo Sein Hman sports ground in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

As a gesture of support to an amendment of Section 436 of the 2008 Constitution, thousands of National League for Democracy-followers and 88 Generation members gathered at a sports ground in Yangon on Saturday morning.

The Constitutional

amendment talks took place with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the country's main opposition party, National League for Democracy, U Win Myint, NLD's CEC member, and U Min Ko Naing, leader of 88 Generation Students Peace and Open Society, who clarified why the amendment of Section 436 is needed for further changes to the Constitution. They called on those present

to take part in a NLD-88 alliance's nationwide signature campaign that will begin on 27 May till 19 July this year to drum up public support for amending Section 436.

In her call for constitutional reform, the NLD leader expressed her willingness to amend the Constitution through a way of strengthening national reconciliation and allowing mature and respected democratic

practices. She asserted in her speech that winning public's hearts and mind is the one and only way to win elections. She also reiterated her support for constitutional amendments which is critical to building trust in the parliament within the rule of law framework.

Regarding the constitutional amendment, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, on its part, formed a committee

to implement constitutional amendment in February this year. The committee is tasked with the implementation of constitutional amendment by making an analysis of the sections of the Constitution whether to amend or not. The Parliament Speaker called on the committee to conclude its task before a minimum of six months to hold 2015 general elections. According to officials, the committee held its seventh meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday with a decision that Chapter XXII—Amendment of the Constitution that includes Section 436—will be first discussed.

According to Section 436, constitutional amendments need the approval of more than 75 per cent of all (See page 3)

Yangon car crashes: major factors

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 17 May—No seat belt and using a mobile phone have been found as factors accounting for deaths and injuries in some car crashes in Yangon Region, said an official of the Yangon Region Traffic Police Force.

Fifty-two road accidents happened in April, killing 11 men and four women and injuring 43 people, according the YRTPF.

There were 52 road accidents in Yangon Region in March.

"We are planning to renew the public announcement we made in 2004 to



No seat belt, using a mobile phone are found as factors for some crashes in Yangon.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

wear seat belts and not to use mobile phones while driving," the official said.

Mingaladon Township, Bahan Township and Hlinethaya Township were

considered as hot spots for road accidents in April with 18 cases, 21 cases and 20 cases respectively.

Speeding, impatience and road-rage in Mingaladon and Bahan Township as well as careless pedestrians in Hlinethaya Township are the main causes for the accidents, according to the department.

YRTPF is planning to improve its traffic police to vehicles ratio as the number of vehicles is increasing in Yangon Region, the official said.

The current over 800 police makes up just 60 per cent of its organizational set-up and they are planning to improve the police/vehicles ratio, he added.

INSIDE

Myanmar's oldest hospital under renovation



Page-3

Market development in Myanmar discussed

Page-3

Second work-coord meeting on Printing and Publishing Industry Bill held

Page-3

Specialists from IJN, YCH perform free operations on seven pediatric heart patients

Page-2

Property boom interrelates with land grabbing

Page-8

A Brief Rakhine History with Special References to Traditional Chronicles

Page-8

Moderate earthquakes recorded in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—Two moderate earthquakes were recorded in Myanmar on Saturday, officials said. The first earthquake, with the epicenter located about 10 miles southwest of the Mandalay Seismological Observatory, measured 3.5 on the Richter Scale and was recorded just after 10 a.m.

The second earthquake occurred around 4.45 p.m., recorded with 3.0 on the Richter Scale and an epicenter about 10 miles northeast of Pyinmana, about 150 miles south of the Mandalay Seismological Observatory.—NLM

Buddha's relics enshrined in newly built pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May— The ceremony to enshrine Buddha's relics in the newly built pagoda was held in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Saturday morning.

Members of the Sangha and wellwishers put the religious objects into the

relinquary of the pagoda.

The pagoda titled 'Pyi Lone Chanthar Aungmin-galar Sutaung Pyae' was built in the compound of TetU Buddhist monastery in Chaungphyia Village by the family of U Ba Kywe and Daw Amar of Mandalay.

Aye Than

Tax collection system clarified

YANGON, 17 May— The Ministry of Finance gave a clarification of its functions in a ceremony which took place at Myanmar Insurance (Head Office) on Saturday morning here, with Union Minister U Win Shein as chairman and Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein as moderator, sources said.

The union minister gave a briefing on the state budget law, the project law

and the tax law, all of which are to be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by the government as prescribed in the State Constitution.

More efforts should be exerted on coaxing the people into paying the tax on their own volition, he said, stressing that public awareness campaigns should be carried out with added momentum.

MNA

MWEA members to attend ASEAN Youth Elites course in China

YANGON, 17 May— Daw Yin Yin Moe and Mi Phyo Thiri Win, members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, left Yangon International Airport on Wednesday morning to attend the ASEAN Youth Elites course at the Guangxi International Youth Exchange Institute in Guangzhou of China from 14 May to 9 June.—MNA

Daw Yin Yin Moe and Mi Phyo Thiri Win, members of MWEA seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for China.—MNA



Certificates of world peace messenger award offered to venerable monks

MANDALAY, 17 May— The Peace Society World-wide-Kolkata, India, the Indian Board of Alternative Medicines, the India New Age International University, the Europe/USA, and the Pragyan Foundation, India offered certificates of world peace messenger award to venerable monks at Maha Withutayon new monastery in Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay, on Saturday morning.

Dr Vijay Kumar Shah, President of Peace Society Worldwide, explained the purpose of offering the certificates of Peace Mission to the venerable monks and endeavours of the monks.

The Patron of Peace Society Worldwide, New Age International University, the USA, Prajyan Foundation of India, presented the certificate to Shwegyin Sangharaja Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agghiya,



Officials offer certificate of world peace messenger award to a venerable Sayadaw in Mandalay.

Mr. Amar Nath Sen of the Central Committee of Peace Society Worldwide presented certificates Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa of Myataung Shwewaw-

in monastery and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriyabhivamsa of West Khinmagan Moe-tar monastery and the president of Peace Society Worldwide, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicittabhivamsa, the chairman of Mandalay Region Sangha Nayaka

Committee. Wellwisher Suddhamma U Kyaw Win-Suddhamma Theingi Daw Myint Myint Than and family donated robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Schedules of third and fourth legs changed for Myanmar Golf Tour

YANGON, 17 May—The schedules of the third and fourth legs of the Myanmar Golf Tour have been arranged at PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin from 19 to 22 June and Shwe Mann Taung Golf Club in Mandalay from 7 to 10 August.

As Shwe Mann Taung Golf Club will be maintained, the third leg of the tournament will be held from 19 to 22 June and the fourth leg at PyinOoLwin Golf Club from 7 to 10 August.

The tournament will be categorized as professional, amateur men's (0-12H'cap) and women's (0-24 H'cap) under prescribed rules.

The participants will be selected for the third leg. For further information, may contact 09-2037671, 0973080112 and 09-420017835.

Po Thaw Zin



Specialists from IJN, YCH perform free operations on seven pediatric heart patients

YANGON, 17 May—A Malaysia medical team from the National Heart Institute of Malaysia-IJN successfully operated on seven pediatric heart patients aged 4 to 12 years on 15 and 16 May at the Yankin Children's Hospital in Yangon—the second such project under the Heart Centre's Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR initiative.

According to Dr Mary Wong, CEO of Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council-MHTC said,

"This CSR effort with the Yankin Children's Hospital has strengthened the good relations between Myanmar and Malaysia."

Prof Dr Daw Win Win Kyaw of Heart Surgery Ward of YCH participated in the two-day project. She said on Saturday at the hospital, "We selected seven children to conduct operations. Five out of the seven are expected to do well, while the remaining two will need post-treatment monitoring."

According to the sur-

vey, every year 0.8 per cent of all newborns worldwide have congenital heart disease (CHD). It is the most common congenital disorder in newborns. But, the CHD patients can live a long life after an operation, doctors said. "In Myanmar, about 1,000 newborns a year suffer from CHD. Of them, only few children can get help because of lack of money or facilities," said Professor Dr Kyaw Zin Wai of Yankin Children's Hospital.

Prof Dr Daw Win Win



Malaysian and Myanmar Specialists are performing surgical operation at Yankin Children's Hospital.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Kyaw said: "The cost of a surgical operation is more than US\$1,000 per patient in Myanmar. It is very cheap compared with the costs in other countries."

She also urged medical students to become Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons as there aren't enough specialists.

The Yankin Children's Hospital has said it welcomes donations to help more patients who cannot afford surgery.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

NATIONAL

Myanmar's oldest hospital under renovation

YANGON, 17 May— Saturday morning, sources said. After inspecting the renovation work at the hospital, the vice-president addressed a meeting of the committee for hospital ex-

tension and renovation at the Training Centre of the hospital.

In his speech, Dr Sai Mauk Kham said with the hospital now under renovation, priority should be given to building make-

shift shelters for medical treatment to continue. He also called for arrangements of accommodation for patients and their relatives who come from afar.

As the oldest facility with 1500 beds, Yangon

General Hospital dates back over 100 years.

Later, the vice-president and his party inspected the building where the Department of Diversity and National Concord Study will open its office,

and the office of Myanmar Peace Centre in Kamayut Township here. They were given a guided tour of the offices by Union Minister U Aung Min and officials.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects renovation work at Yangon General Hospital.—MNA

Market development in Myanmar discussed

YANGON, 17 May— Local and foreign industrialists had a meeting in which they discussed matters related to the development of a market place in Myanmar, sources said.

The meeting took place at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on Saturday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister at the President's Office U Soe Thane said contin-

uous moves in politics, economy and socio-economic development have put Myanmar back on the world map, calling on local business firms to penetrate international

markets.

Mr Santoyo of Peninsula Press invited interested industrialists in helping Myanmar boost its economy.

MNA



NLD, 88 Generation call for amendment...

(from page 1)

MPs. Moreover, changes to some provisions of the sections of the Constitution require the prior support of more than 75 percent of all the representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Following the approval by the MPs a national referendum will be held in which more than 50 percent of eligible voters have to support the move.

Critics pointed out that it will be hard to amend the Constitution as Defence Services personnel representatives hold 25 per cent of all seats of Hluttaw.

In his speech on the

occasion of the third anniversary since taking office, President U Thein Sein said only right choice and action in the constitutional amendment could create a favourable political climate and avoid crisis. He also added that the country's Armed Forces will continue to play a role in the democratic transition.

One day after the President's speech at the Hluttaw on 26 March, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the role of the Armed Forces which is responsible for safeguard-

ing the Constitution while addressing the 69th Armed Forces Day.

While delivering a speech at a ceremony to honour participants of a literacy movement in Mandalay on Thursday, the President stressed the need to carry out the amendment of the Constitution and the holding of free and fair elections within a legal framework and without harming national sovereignty, saying that unrest will not do any good to the country as only the country and its people will suffer.

The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was adopted through a nationwide referendum on 29 May, 2008.

Union Minister U Soe Thane speaking at meeting on development of market place.—MNA

Education ministry to try new budget system

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—The Ministry of Education and MDRI-CESD/The Asia Foundation jointly conducted a workshop on 'piloting formula-based allocations in the education budget' at the office of the ministry on Saturday afternoon, with an address by Union Minister Dr Daw

Khin San Yi, sources said. The union minister briefed on the purpose of the workshop, calling for concerted cooperation in the effort to raise the education standard.

MDRI-CESD Consultant Dr Hamish Nixon led a group discussion on basic education assignments.

MNA

Second work-coord meeting on Printing and Publishing Industry Bill held

YANGON, 17 May— Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut discussed the completion of the Printing and Publishing Industry Bill with officials from the Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and other related media at

the second work coordination meeting on Saturday at Printing and Publishing Enterprise Office in Yangon.

During the meeting, U Ye Htut said the bill will be submitted to the respective bodies after it has been approved.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut discusses completion of Printing and Publishing Industry Bill.—MNA

Hospital provides free health care to monks, nuns in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—A ceremony to inaugurate an 80 square feet

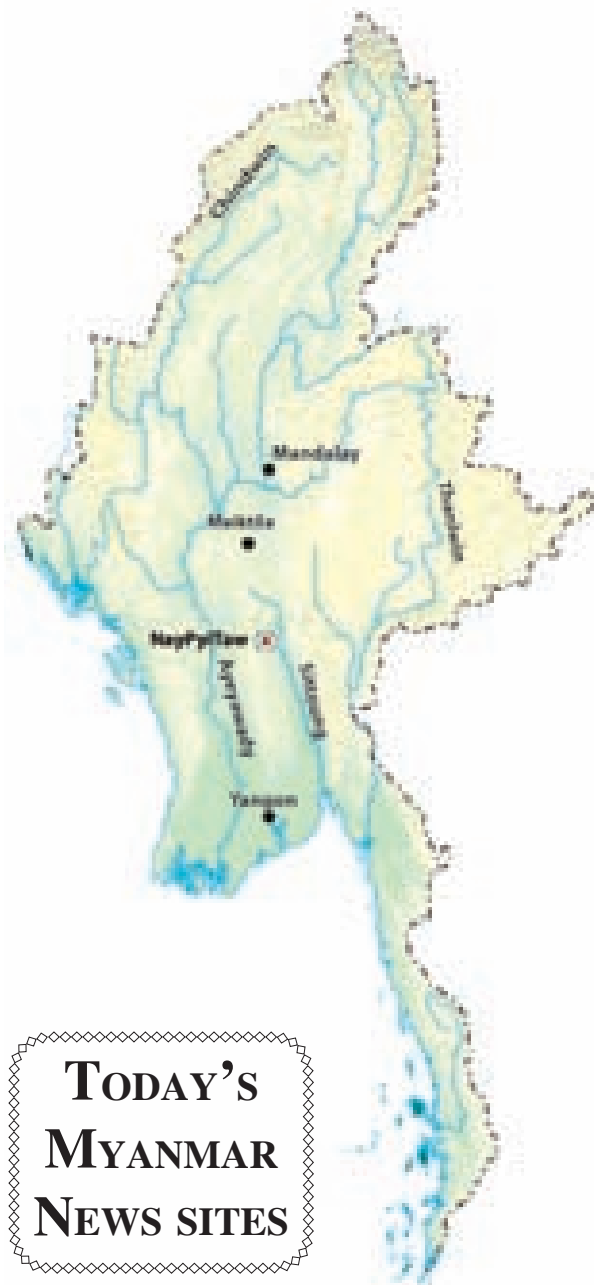
six-storey hospital for monks was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday morning.

The Ministry of Health donated 190 items of medicines and medi-

cal equipment, with donors giving cash to fund the hospital for the fourth time through Union Minister U Tint Hsan and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council.

The ground floor of the hospital has an out-patient ward, the first floor, eye, ear, nose, throat and dental care units, the second floor, operation theatres, the third floor, the nun ward and the fourth and the fifth floors, the medical wards for monks. The hospital identified as Sangha Bhesijjathana Vihara (Sangha Hospital) is giving free health care to monks and nuns.

*Kyaw Thura
(Nay Pyi Taw)*



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

MANDALAY, 17 May—Mandalay Brokers and Millers Maha Kahteintaw Association donated cash to the funds of 13 social welfare units at its office in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday.

The association donated K705,000 each to monastic education schools, orphanages, homes for the aged, schools for girls, women's

vocational training school and homes for women. The deputy head of Social Welfare Department in Mandalay Region spoke words of thanks for donations.

The association formed with about 1200 members and is about 80 years old. It plays a key role in beans and pulses trading in central Myanmar.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



World Bank disburses US\$100 million to improve Ayeyawady River basin

MANDALAY, 17 May—A ceremony to clarify Ayeyawady river basin comprehensive development project and hydrological system development project being implemented by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems was held at the hall of Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on Friday.

Director U Sein Tun of the directorate explained matters related to Ayeyawady river basin comprehensive development project. It will be imple-

mented with a US\$100 million loan disbursed by the World Bank.

The project will add waterway signs along the Yangon-Mandalay-Nyaung-U route in Ayeyawady River and solve the problems of narrowing waterway, safety of inland water transport and modernization of hydrological systems and information.

As mineral exploration and logging of forests are being carried out unsystematically, the Ayeyawady River become the fifth silted river in the world, according to the project.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Meiktila's people get gravel road for rural transport

MEIKTILA, 17 May—As a gravel road has been completed stretching from Thaphan to Pintale villages of Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region, local people from Pintale village now have better access to Meiktila and other major towns in the region as they send their domestic products to Meiktila and purchase personal goods and foodstuff.

The government allotted K688.235 million for the construction of the 13.4 miles long Thaphan-Pintale gravel road in 2013-14 fiscal year for ensuring smooth

transport and swift flow of commodities. Myanmarland Development Co., Ltd. built the road from 21 January to 31 March 2014.

The company repaved four-mile Meiktila-Thaphan asphalt road, placed gravels on 3.4 miles long Khanbekay-Seinpanpin road and tarmacked the two-mile Kyaunggon-Yayauk road. Local people thanked the government for repaving the Pintale-Meiktila road section for smooth transportation as it was damaged in the rainy season.

Htay Hlaing (Meiktila)



WORLD

Turkish police fire tear gas in town mourning dead miners

SOMA, 17 May — Riot police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse several thousand protesters on Friday in a Turkish mining town still grieving the death of some 300 workers in the nation's worst ever industrial disaster.

Anger has swept Turkey as the extent of the disaster became clear, with protests aimed at mine owners accused of ignoring safety for profit, and at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government, seen as too cosy with industry tycoons and insensitive in its reaction to the tragedy.

"Stop spraying us with water! Go spray the mine! Maybe you can finally put the fire out!" shouted one man among the crowd, which had been trying to march towards a statue in the town centre honouring miners when police blocked the route and sprayed from armoured trucks.

The confirmed death toll in the disaster reached 292 as Energy Minister



Rescuers wait in front of the coal mine after a mine explosion in Soma, a district in Turkey's western province of Manisa on 16 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Taner Yildiz said eight more bodies were found in the mine on Friday evening. Some 10 more people were believed still trapped and unlikely to be alive, three

days after fire sent deadly carbon monoxide coursing through the mine.

Turkey has experienced a decade of rapid economic growth under

Erdogan, but worker safety standards have failed to keep pace, leaving it with one of the world's worst industrial accident records.

"No coal can warm the

hearts of children whose fathers died in the mine," read one hand-written sign in the crowd of mine workers and residents.

The police interven-

tion in the mourning town could add to public anger towards Erdogan. He survived mass demonstrations and a corruption probe into his government over the past year to remain Turkey's dominant politician, but now risks alienating conservative, working-class voters that form his party's base.

Footage emerged of him apparently slapping a man as residents jeered and jostled his entourage when he visited Soma this week. The man, Taner Kuruca, said Erdogan had indeed slapped him and told Kanal D TV he was then beaten by the prime minister's bodyguards.

Reuters

UN chief urges parties to stop targeting civilian facilities in Syria

UNITED NATIONS, 17 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday urged all parties in Syria to ensure water supplies to civilians and refrain from targeting civilian facilities and infrastructure.

"The Secretary-General is concerned by reports that water supplies in the city of Aleppo were deliberately cut off by armed groups for eight days, depriving at least 2.5 million people of access to safe water for drinking and sanitation," a statement issued by Ban's spokesperson said.

The statement noted that preventing people's access to safe water is a denial of a fundamental human right.

"Deliberate targeting of civilians and depriving them of essential supplies is a clear breach of international humanitarian and human rights law," it said.

The radical groups, who are in control of two main water pumping stations in Aleppo, have managed to cut off drinking water to the government-controlled western part of the city. During Syria's long-standing crisis, the rebels have repeatedly attacked the country's infrastructure, plunging large areas in complete power outages and cutting off water to many areas as well.

Xinhua

Brazil to buy 20 anti-ship missiles from US

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 May — The Brazilian Air Force is in talks to purchase 20 US-made anti-ship missiles, Brazil's G1 news website reported on Friday.

The deal, according to G1, is worth 375 million reais (170 million US dollars), and involves 20 Harpoon missiles manufactured by US company Boeing, including 16 AGM-84L Harpoon Block II missiles designed for attacking ships or above-water submarines, and another four intended for training.

"The acquisition of the missiles gives us the capability to neutralize surface seafaring targets, such as ships or even submarines that are not submerged," G1 cited the Brazilian Air Force as saying.

There was no mention of when the weapons would be delivered. When notifying the US Congress of the deal, the Pentagon was cited by G1 as saying that the weapons will help Brazil "in its cross-border crime fighting operations," as well as in border security and protection of maritime infrastructure and resources.—Xinhua

Venezuela president urges re-start of political dialogue

CARACAS, 17 May — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro urged opposition leaders on Friday to return to political talks intended to stem unrest around the country or face the "repudiation" of the nation.

Moderate leaders of the Democratic Unity (MUD) coalition broke off dialogue this week, saying government officials were insulting them and rebuffing requests for releases of opposition-linked prisoners.

Unrest has flared again in Caracas in recent days, with more than 100 youths arrested during violent clashes with security forces and attacks on government buildings.

Since anti-government protests began in February,



An anti-government tries to take the shield of a National Police during a protest against President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas on 12 May, 2014.—REUTERS

42 people have been killed, more than 800 injured, and about 3,000 arrested, of whom more than 200 remain behind bars.

"We don't accept blackmail from anyone," Maduro said during a ceremony with Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas in Caracas.

"They (the MUD) say they want immediate results. The dialogue itself is a positive result. What are they looking for? In private, they've said things that are impossible."

Biden urges Iraqi gov't to ensure civilian safety in fight against terrorism

WASHINGTON, 17 May — US Vice President Joe Biden on Friday "strongly" urged the government of Iraq to ensure the safety of the civilian population in its "difficult" fight against terrorism.

In a conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki by phone on Friday, Biden welcomed

Iraq's ongoing initiatives to mobilize the population against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an al-Qaida breakaway group in Iraq, the White House said.

The two leaders reaffirmed the long-term partnership between Iraq and the United States and their commitment to

coordination in the fight against ISIL, which represents a threat to the entire region, the White House said in a statement.

Biden also congratulated the Iraqi people on their participation in the parliamentary elections, and emphasized the importance of a new parliament acting to pull the country

together given the many challenges confronting Iraq. Iraq is witnessing some of its worst violence in recent years. According to the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, 8,868 Iraqis, including 7,818 civilians and civilian police personnel, were killed last year, the highest annual death toll in years.—Xinhua

Iceland, Norway to join EU's Horizon 2020

BRUSSELS, 17 May — Iceland and Norway on Friday signed up to join the Horizon 2020, becoming the first non-EU countries to associate to EU's seven-year research and innovation programme. The decision, taken at a meeting of the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Committee, allows these two countries' researchers and companies to participate on the same basis as their counterparts in the EU, the EU statement said.

In return, the two countries will contribute financially to Horizon 2020, launched in January with a budget of nearly 80 billion euros (around 111 billion US dollars) over seven years (from 2014 to 2020).

"Science is global, as are the many challenges we face that we can only solve through research and

innovation. This is why we have to work together, and why we hope to associate many more countries to Horizon 2020," said Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science.

These two countries will bring to Horizon 2020 an excellent science base and clear strengths in specific fields, according to the statement.

Norwegian scientists are addressing global challenges in areas such as the environment, climate change, oceans, food safety and energy research.

Iceland has unique knowledge about geothermal energy production and its research capacities on climate change and marine biodiversity will also benefit Europe, the statement said. —Xinhua



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (1st R) shakes hands with visiting US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel during a Press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, on 16 May, 2014. Israel is not surprised by a UN report claiming Iran is pursuing ballistic missile capabilities, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday told visiting US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel. —XINHUA

Leak source pinpointed to waste container from US nuke lab

HOUSTON, 17 May — Officials have pinpointed the source of a radiation leak at an underground nuclear waste repository in the US state of New Mexico to a container shipped from a national laboratory manufacturing nuclear weapons, US media reported on Friday.

The US Department of Energy said in a statement released on Friday that pictures from the latest entry into the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico confirm that a container from Los Alamos National Laboratory has a cracked lid and evidence of heat damage, local media KOB reported.

It was not the first time that the department linked the radiation release to the waste containers from Los Alamos. Earlier officials said they believed a chem-

ical reaction happened inside the waste drums which were shipped from the laboratory and stored at the underground vault in WIPP.

Investigators suspect a change of "kitty litter" used to absorb liquid in the waste may have led to the chemical reaction. But there is no final word as crews were investigating the cause of the leak, which has shuttered the dump for more than two months and exposed 21 workers.

The Los Alamos laboratory, also located in New Mexico, has halted its shipment of the waste containers in question to a storage site in Texas, a temporary place the lab used to discard its waste after the WIPP was shut down.

The nuclear weapons manufacturer said on Friday that it "is fully cooperating" with state and fed-

eral officials and has taken extra precautions to ensure that similar waste drums at the lab and those sent to Texas "are in a safe and controlled configuration."

The nuclear leak happened on 14 February when sensors detected unusually high levels of radioactive particles in the underground dump. It has been kept shuttered since then. Officials said last week that it could be up to three years before full operations resume at the underground facility.

The WIPP stores "transuranic waste" leftover from nuclear weapons research and testing from the nation's past defence activities, according to the Energy Department's website. The waste includes clothing, tools, rags and other debris contaminated with radioactive elements, largely plutonium.

Xinhua

Obama offers condolences over deadly coal mine blast in Turkey

WASHINGTON, 17 May — US President Barack Obama on Friday called his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul to offer his "heartfelt" condolences over a deadly coal mine explosion in western Turkey, saying his administration was ready to help.

"The president offered

that the United States stands ready to provide any assistance that could help those affected," the White House said in a readout of the phone conversation.

It said Obama also reaffirmed the importance of US relationship with Turkey, a NATO ally.

The death toll has

risen to 299 in Turkey's worst mining disaster that befell on Tuesday on the Soma mine in the country's western province of Manisa. Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said up to 18 miners were still thought to be trapped underground.

Xinhua

UN Secretary-General pins high hope on Shanghai Asian security summit

UNITED NATIONS, 17 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday voiced his confidence in seeing a successful summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), hoping China can play an important role in leading the regional body in its efforts to promote peace and development in Asia.

Ban made the remarks in an interview with reporters ahead of his trip to China, where he will take part in the summit to be held in Shanghai on 20-21 May.

The Secretary-General believed the CICA provides a platform where regional leaders could build mutual trust and demonstrate their commitments to cooperation. "I have great expectation in China's leadership and vision in leading this CICA process." Asia, particularly Northeast Asia, is the source of growth and innovation, and there is a huge, great expectation from the international community that this is an Asian Era, he said.

"To make it possible, Asian nations should be more united, provided their potential to further their future oriented way."

The UN chief urged regional leaders who will attend the summit to look beyond national bounda-

ries and adopt a future-oriented vision in terms of politics, peace and stability, economic growth.

The CICA was established in 1992 as a forum for dialogue and consultations and promotion of confidence-building meas-

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping said on Thursday.

The two-day summit will be attended by participants including 11 heads of state and ten chiefs of international organizations. The dignitaries will



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks during an interview with Chinese media, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 16 May, 2014. Ban Ki-moon on Friday voiced his confidence in seeing a successful summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), hoping China can play an important role in leading the regional body in its efforts to promote peace and development in Asia. —XINHUA

ures and now groups 24 member countries and 13 observers. At the high-level conference, China will take over as the CICA host from 2014 to 2016.

At the upcoming summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping will expound on China's views on the Asian security situation and put forward proposals for beefing up regional security dialogue and cooperation,

include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. They are expected to discuss topics including the Asian security situation, measures to promote Asian dialogues, trust and coordination, according to Cheng. —Xinhua

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Demand for rental units buoys housing starts



Sold homes are seen in the southwest area of Portland, Oregon on 20 March, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 17 May — US housing starts jumped in April and building permits hit their highest level in nearly six years, offering hope the troubled housing market could be stabilizing.

A separate report on Friday showed consumer

sentiment falling in May on worries over income growth, tempering the housing data's upbeat signal on the economy.

Groundbreaking for homes surged 13.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 1.07 million units, the high-

est since November 2013, the Commerce Department said. The increase, which marked a rebound from a cold winter that had weighed on activity, was driven by starts on multi-family housing.

A combination of rising mortgage rates and prices, and slow growing earnings, has pushed homeownership out of the reach of many Americans, helping fuel demand for rental and condo units.

"The current stock of apartments is insufficient to satisfy demand, sending rents soaring across the country and making multi-family units an attractive investment for developers and landlords," said Stephanie Karol, an economist at IHS Global Insight in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Groundbreaking for single-family homes, the largest part of the market, rose 0.8 percent, while starts for the volatile multi-family homes segment surged 39.6 percent.

US Treasury debt yields rose on the data, while the dollar was little changed against a basket of currencies. US stocks traded largely unchanged.

The housing market contracted for a second consecutive quarter in the first three months of 2014, and is expected to add little if anything to growth this year. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said earlier this month that there was a risk a protracted housing slowdown could undermine the economy.

Reuters

Abbott to buy Latin American drugmaker CFR in \$2.9 billion deal

NEW YORK, 17 May — Abbott Laboratories (ABT.N) said on Friday it would acquire Chile's CFR Pharmaceuticals SA CFR. SN in a \$2.9 billion deal that will more than double its branded generic drugs business in the fast-growing Latin American market.

This is the first deal for Abbott since it split into two businesses and spun off its blockbuster rheu-

Chief Executive Officer Miles White said during a conference call with investors. White said the company was still looking at other transactions.

While the Latin American pharmaceuticals market has been attractive to big drugmakers, there are few other big opportunities like CFR because most companies are small, family-owned businesses.



Abbott Laboratories' global headquarters in Abbott Park, Illinois is seen in an undated handout photo.

REUTERS

matoid arthritis drug in a new company, AbbVie Inc (ABBV.N), last year and comes at a time when health mergers have surged.

Abbott plans to focus the branded generics business on about 14 or 15 fast-growing countries in emerging markets.

"Not all geographies are alike, and some are not particular focuses for us,"

The pharmaceutical retail and distribution industry does have some larger companies, such as Mexico's Grupo Casa Saba (SAB.MX) and Brazil's Hypermarcas (HYPE3.SA). Earlier this month, Casa Saba sold its Chilean health retail arm, Farmacias Ahumada, to Britain's Alliance Boots for \$638 million.

Reuters

Inactivity is greatest heart risk factor for women over 30

NEW YORK, 17 May — Heart disease is the single biggest killer of women and inactivity is the biggest contributor to heart disease for all but the youngest ones, according to Australian researchers. They parsed the sources of cardiovascular risk among women of all ages in Australia and found smoking, obesity and high blood pressure are near the top of the list. But if all sedentary women ramped up their activity levels, the largest number of deaths would be averted.

"Understanding the risks associated with the

development of serious health problems can inform more targeted intervention strategies," said the study's lead author Wendy Brown, an exercise physiologist at the University of Queensland.

Heart disease is the leading killer of women in the United States, where an estimated one in four women dies of the disease, and similar statistics prevail in Australia.

To measure the importance of various risk factors for heart disease, Brown and her team analyzed data from a long-term study

that followed Australian women from 1996 to 2011, surveying them about their lifestyle and health every three years. The roughly 30,000 participants ranged from 22 to 90 years old and fell into three groups born from 1973 to 1978, 1946 to 1951 and 1921 to 1926.

The researchers calculated for each group the extent to which the presence of heart disease could be attributed to body mass index (BMI, a measure of weight relative to height), physical inactivity, high blood pressure or smoking. Overall, being sedentary was the greatest

contributor to heart disease among women over age 30, including women as old as 90. Smoking was the biggest culprit among women between the ages of 22 and 27. In that group, where heart disease is rare, smoking accounted for about 60 percent of it, according to the results published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

High blood pressure was least common among the youngest women, and high BMI (overweight or obese) was most common in the middle age group.

Reuters

Seatbelts, airbags also good for kidneys

NEW YORK, 17 May — Seatbelts and airbags are not only good at protecting a person's head and chest during a car crash. They also help protect the kidneys, according to a new report.

Researchers found that survivors of car accidents who wore a seatbelt and had a vehicle with airbags were less likely to have a serious kidney injury or to need one of their kidneys removed than people who didn't take those precautions.

"This provides additional evidence to support the role of these protective devices in motor vehicles," Dr. Marc Bjurlin, the report's lead author, said.

Bjurlin is a urologist at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York. The research was presented Friday at the 109th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Urological

Association in Orlando, Florida.

Seatbelts are designed to spread the force of a vehicle crash across the pelvis and chest while an airbag is meant to soften the impact between the body and car.

For the new study, the researchers analyzed information on motor vehicle accident injuries in 2010 and 2011 from the National Trauma Data Bank. Of 287,174 accidents, there were 2,580 kidney injuries.

The researchers found that when airbags and seatbelts were used together, the risk of serious kidney injuries fell by about 23 percent. The risk of surgery to remove a kidney fell by more than half.

Bjurlin said there are likely multiple reasons why using seatbelts and airbags protects the kidneys.

Reuters

Scientists warn of dengue fever risk during Brazil's World Cup



Boys play a Sunday "pelada" soccer match on a street closed to traffic for the day in Sao Paulo, a World Cup host city, on 4 May, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 17 May — The risk of an outbreak of dengue fever during the upcoming soccer World Cup in Brazil is serious enough to warrant a high alert in three of the 12 host cities, according to an early warning system for the disease.

Scientists who developed the system said the overall threat of the disease during the month-long

competition was low, but they warned that the northeastern venues of Natal, Fortaleza and Recife there faced a serious risk.

Dengue, sometimes called breakbone fever because of the severe pain it can cause, is a viral infection transmitted by a type of mosquito called *Aedes aegypti*. It can range from a mild, flu-like illness to a

potentially deadly one, which develops in around 5 percent of patients. There are no vaccines or effective treatments.

Brazil has more cases of dengue fever than anywhere else in the world. More than 7 million infections were recorded between 2000 and 2013. Rachel Lowe, from the Catalan Institute of Climate Sciences in Barcelona, who helped develop the warning system, said the possibility of an outbreak during the World Cup large enough to infect visitors and spread back to their home countries will depend on a combination of factors.

This include having large numbers of mosquitoes, a susceptible population and a high rate of mosquito-human contact, she said. "Our aim was to take the available evidence on real-time seasonal rainfall and temperature forecasts, transmission dynamics, and social and environmental variables and

combine it with the latest in mapping and mathematical modeling to produce robust risk estimates for the 12 host cities," she said.

The results, published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal on Saturday, showed the overall risk of an outbreak is low in the host cities of Brasilia, Cuiaba, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, and Sao Paulo. But it increases in cities like Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Salvador and Manaus. The cities with the highest risk are Natal, Fortaleza, and Recife, Lowe said. "The ability to provide early warnings of dengue epidemics at the micro-region level, three months in advance, is invaluable for reducing or containing an epidemic and will give local authorities the time to combat mosquito populations in those cities with a greater chance of dengue outbreaks," she said.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 May, 2014

Property boom interrelates with land grabbing

By Aung Khin

Investors are now looking for land not only in downtown Yangon, but also for agricultural land or land outside the city centres. Local business people and those who have close relations with local authorities have bought very cheap agricultural land that has the potential to be profitable in the future. This is a form of land grabbing, causing an increase of land prices.

After buying farm lands, they apply for real

estate permits which will be sold at even higher prices in the future. Some former farms and vacant land now accommodate petrol stations. Such changes can be seen in many towns close to the cities.

Although they have to pay tax to the government in applying for land permits, the applicants and land registration officials mentioned lower land prices in favour of tax reduction, causing the loss of state revenue.

Real estate prices began rising 2007 after the government cut property tax from 50 per cent to 15 per cent, and the Yangon property market has increased up to ten-fold in some areas in the past five years.

The government raised property taxes to 37 per cent in August 2012. However, the actual prices cannot be seen on the papers, and the measure has had little effects.

Considering real estate to be safe, Myanmar people culturally invest in real estate to pass it on to family members. This is also one of the reasons for the high prices on the market. To solve this problem, the dysfunctional banking system of the country should be promoted. Stock exchange should be established for wealthy business people as alternative investment not to put their money only into the property market.

Therefore, the government should revise its property tax policies, application for changing farm lands into real estate and new investment strategies in order to stop further price rises.

Write for us

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

A Brief Rakhine History with Special References to Traditional Chronicles

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

(Continued from Yesterday) starting from Maha Dve-candra up to King Ananda-candra, the engraver of the Anandacandra Stone Inscription in 729 A.D, reigned in the Second Vesali City. Pertaining to the end of it, the chronicles say that, in 776 A.D. King Culacandra died during his shipwreck near the Negrals Cape on his homeward journey from Thindwe (Tagaung), that two Mro brothers Amratu and Amraku succeeded to the throne of Vesali City and then Princes Pe Pru and Ngaton, sons of Amratu and King Culacandra, ascended the throne of Vesali City and that during the reign of King Pe Pru, Vesali City was destroyed due to the attacks of the Shans coming from the north in 794 A.D. King Pe Pru fled to Thabaik Taung and died there.

Then, King Ngaton, son of King Culacandra, established Cambawat City in 794 A.D at a locality on the bank of the Lemyo River six miles south-east of Old Vesali City. After the death of King Ngaton, the people made Prince Khettathin, a son of a nephew of King Culacandra, king of Cambawat in 818 A.D. Soon, he abandoned the city and went south and founded Panca City. It is said that a total of 15 kings reigned in Panca City for 285 years. Then King Letya Minan, a son of King Minbilu, was restored to the throne of Panca City in 1103 A.D with the assistance of a Bagan king. But he deserted Panca City soon and founded the First Parin City (Some sources mention it as First Laungkret) on the western bank of the Lemyo River the same year, where

a succession of six kings ruled until the time of King Koliya. On the death of King Koliya, King Dasaraja, together with queen Ramadevi, ascended the throne and established the Second Parin City near the Laymyo River four miles south-east of MraukU in 1123 A.D. King Min Phone Sa, the third descendant of King Dasaraja, left the city and established Khrait City in 1142 A.D in the upper reach of the Khrait Creek, a tributary of the Lemyo River. During the reign of King Dhanurupo, he shifted the city to the site of Cambawat City and founded Second Cambawat City in 1154 A.D. King Mancuthin, son of King Dhanurupo, reigned in it for two years and established Toungoo City on the eastern bank of the Lemyo River in 1163 A.D, which is also mentioned as Neranjarah City in some chronicles. After the death of King Nganalone, the 16th in the line of the kings who reigned in this city, his son King Alomapyu established the Second Laungkret City on the western bank of the Lemyo River in 1251 A.D. When he died at the age of 29 years, he was succeeded by his son King Rajathugyi. King Minhthi, the ninth descendant of King Alomapyu, was reputed for his righteousness and justice. During the reign of King Min Saw Mon called "Narameik Hla", who ascended the throne of Laungkret in 1404 A.D, the 22nd descendant of King Alomapyu, Laungkret City was attacked by Min Ye Kyaw Zwa, son of King Min Khaung of Inwa in 1406 A.D. King Min Saw Mon fled to Bengal and took refuge at Gaur,

the capital of Sultan of Bengal. After 24 years, Naziruddin Shah, the then king of Bengal, reinstated him in the throne of Laungkret.

Two years later, King Min Saw Mon established MraukU. On the death of King Min Saw Mon, his younger brother Naranu called Minkhri (Ali Khin) succeeded to the throne of MraukU in 1433 A.D. During his reign, he strengthened the friendship between MraukU and Inwa by meeting Inwa King Narapati in Rakhine Yoma and exchanging presents. After the death of King Minkhri, his son King Ba Saw Phru succeeded to his throne. When it came to the time of King Min Khaung Raja, the twelfth king of MraukU Period, Thandwe Myosa Minba, a son of King Min Raja, the eighth descendant of King Min Saw Mon, attacked MraukU and became king in 1531 A.D. As he was a powerful king, he occupied the twelve Bengal towns and was in marriage given the hand of Pe Thida, a daughter of king of Bengal as a tribute. Minister Vimala was appointed Myosa of Chittagoung. It is said that King Thabin Shwehti made three attempts to occupy MraukU but without success. (Myanmar chronicles say that King Thabin Shwehti attacked MraukU only once and that due to intercession of the four monks, the two opposing leaders met and conversed amicably and the Myanmar army returned home). King Minbagyi as a pious king, built many pagodas and temples including the Shitthaung Temple. King Minbagyi was succeeded by his son King Min Tikkha, during

whose reign, the Koe-thaung Temple was built. King Min Rajagyi, a son of King Min Phalaung, the youngest son of King Minbagyi, was installed as king of MraukU in 1593 A.D. On the request of Toungoo King Thiha Thu, King Min Rajagyi marched against and attacked Hamsavati in 1599. By that time, Thai King Branayit launched attacks on Hamsavati and Toungoo. Rakhine king and Toungoo king collectively defeated the Thai troops. On the return journey of the Rakhine troops, Maha Panya Kyaw, a reputed wise minister of Rakhine king, died near the Negrals Cape and he was cremated grandly and a stupa was built over his funerary urn. It was subsequently called "Mawtin Pagoda". After King Min Rajagyi had passed away in 1602 A.D, his son Min Khamaung ascended the throne of MraukU. As, during his reign, twelve Bengal towns rebelled against Rakhine king, he marched against Bengal and put down the rebellions. After the death of King Min Khamaung, his eldest son Srisudhammaraja succeeded to the throne of MraukU in 1622 A.D. During his time, a Portuguese monk Manrique came to MraukU. According to him, it is learnt that King Srisudhammaraja was a diplomatic, sensible, prudent king. During his reign, Rakhine navy was very strong. He made some commercial contacts with the Dutch. So Rakhine Kingdom was prosperous and powerful at that time. He died in 1638 A.D. His son Min Sanay succeeded to his throne the same year. When it came to the time of

King Candasumanaraja (1773-1777 A.D), the kingdom became unstable due to rebellions. As he was a bad king, he was murdered by the public. He was succeeded by King Candavimala, who was soon dethroned by the rebels led by Kaladansa and Rambyesa. The throne was occupied by the leader of the rebels, Rambyesa. He received the regnal title Dhammaritaja and suppressed all rebellions arisen throughout the kingdom. After five years, he passed away. He was succeeded by the husband of his niece Letwe Myin Thadoe Aung, who received the regnal title of Mahathamadaraja, in 1782 A.D. During his reign, the whole Rakhine Kingdom was thrown into complete disarray and six great bandit leaders staged rebellions simultaneously against the king from six different places. So the king had to employ all his military strength in suppressing the rebels and the power of Rakhine kingdom thus became very weak. At that time, son of King Bodaw marched against and occupied Rakhine Kingdom in 1784 A.D. Thus a long line of 48 MraukU kings came to a total end. Thenceforth, Rakhine region was incorporated into the Myanmar territory.

In conclusion, it is found that due to paucity of scientific research and remoteness and obscurity, Dvaravati City, the First Vesali, the First Dhannavati and the Second Dhannavati are still enshrined in legend, that, although modern scholars do not put the beginning of the Third Dhannavati in the 6th century B.C (contemporary with the Buddha), they agree to date

the its end to 326 A.D and the Second Vesali Period from 326 A.D to the end of the 8th century A.D and that, due to contemporary evidences mentioned in the works like some Myanmar chronicles and Mon history books like the Struggle of King Rajadhirat, etc, the accounts on Lemyo and MraukU Periods claimed by Rakhine traditional chronicles are accepted apart from some discrepancies and disparities. Taung Pauk Gyi and Phayabaikpu Stone Inscriptions engraved in old Brahmi scripts discovered in Rakhine con-vince that early part of the Third Dhannavati Period should not be relegated or consigned as a legend. Many ancient Rakhine cities (except some mounds excavated in the Third Dhannavati and the Second Vesali Cities) have been lying buried underneath the ground for many centuries, awaiting excavations. It is thought by the writer that only the spades of archaeologists can determine the true Rakhine history and that the revelation of past may often help solve a knotty problem arisen at present.

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LOCAL NEWS

Pre-monsoon sesame plantation thriving in Pwintbyu Tsp



PWINTBYU, 17 May—About 70% of population of Myanmar is living in rural areas and they are engaged in agriculture tasks as main business.

Pre-monsoon sesame plantations of local farmers are thriving in the rural areas thanks to irrigated water. Farmers in Sanpya Village

in Pwintbyu Township of Magway Region supply irrigated water to the sesame plantations.

“We use the irrigated water from Hsedaw Dam to pre-monsoon sesame plantations through canals and drains. We grew the plants before Thingyan festival period. I produced

150 baskets of sesame per acre last year.

This year, I cultivated sesame plants on nine acres of farmlands. Thanks to Hsedaw Dam near the village, both paddy and sesame plantations thrive in the farmlands this year,” said a local farmer.

Zwe Htet Shin

Skilled workers repair power line for electrification

YANGON, 17 May—A power line fell on the ground on Aungzabu Street in Ward 57 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township on Friday due to the squall but no injury in the incident.

According to the information given by ward authorities, electricians of Township Electrical Engineer's Office carried out repair of power line for regular electrification to the people.

Myint Than (Oxygen)



Loans disbursed to shop owners of Toungoo Myoma Market

TOUNGOO, 17 May—Cooperative Bank Ltd., (CB Bank) disburses K992 million loans to families of Myoma Market that was burnt in last month in Toungoo of Bago Region. The bank delivered the loans to Myoma Market microfinance cooperative society for the first time as of 14 May, said chairman of the society U Myint Swe.

A total of 199 shop owners who could submit the ownership evidence for the shops got K5 million for the front row and K3 million for inner rows.

Those who took loans must pay back K1.3 as interest rate to CB Bank and K0.2 to Myoma Market microfinance cooperative society monthly. If they are failure to pay back the in-

terest for three times, their shops will be confiscated in line with the agreement. Moreover, the shop owners must open their shops at the temporary market with

goods after taking loans during seven days. Toungoo Myoma Market fire engulfed 1229 shops from 19 complexes of 38, losing about K6499.2 million

for buildings and property. The government rebuilt the temporary market with 622 shops at Maida Ground in Toungoo, spending over K200 million.—*Toungoo*



e-Library helps raise reading habit of people

THATON, 17 May—Thaton District Information and Public Relations Department installed the device of public digital library service at Thuwun-nabhumi religious building in the precinct of Shwe-sayan Pagoda in Thaton, Mon State, on Thursday.

“During the trip of paying homage to the pagoda, the pilgrims may read any books as they like through mobile phones. We inform the people of all strata for this opportunity to raise reading habit,” said U Maung Oo, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees.



The device of public digital library service can serve the readers to take books through WiFi service in 650 metres diameter area. “Whenever I visit the pagoda, I download the e-books. I thank all the au-

thorities for installation of e-library facility,” said a local. Thaton District IPRD serves the readers with mini library, mini book corners, mobile library both in rural and urban areas.

Thaton District IPRD

Knowledge about anti-human trafficking shared to locals

PYAWBWE, 17 May—Talks on anti-human trafficking was given to locals at the monastery in Bawdigon Village of Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region, on Thursday, said Police Inspector Myint Thein of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad (Meiktila).

“Rural people are one of the targets of human traffickers. So, our squad made field trips to the villages to share knowledge with the people to be free from danger of human traffickers. We gave lectures on background history of human trafficking, endeavours of Myanmar government to combat human trafficking and human smuggling, and employment for the people in overseas.

Moreover, we gave



similar talks in Htayanka, Nyaungsauk and Yanaung villages of the township,” he added.

The police distributed pamphlets on preventive measures against human trafficking to the attendees.

The police squad plans to hold educative talks on trafficking in persons in Yamethin, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi townships on a wider scale.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Project duties assigned to township officials

NYAUNGLEBIN, 17 May—A ceremony to assign duty of regional projects was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on Friday.

Township Administrator U Thihan Soe assigned duty of agriculture sector to Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Khin Pe,

industrial sector to Head of Hydropower Implementation Department U Aung Aung, service sector to in-charge of post office U Htay Win and agricultural produce to Chaungyin Village administrator U San Shwe respectively. Head of Township Planning Department U Khin Zaw Oo explained accomplishments in projects for 2013-14 fiscal year.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Farming rights certificates issued in Loilem

LOILEM, 17 May—Officials of Loilem District Land Management Committee issued temporary farming rights certificates for confiscated farmlands to the original owners on Thursday at the township administrator's office in Loilem Township of southern Shan State.

District Deputy Commissioner U Aung Hein Kyaw elaborated on the purpose of the certificates presentation and Secretary U Nay Myo Zaw of the Committee on the matters related to these farmlands during the ceremony.—*Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)*

Iranian nuclear talks make no progress as differences remain

VIENNA, 17 May — The fourth round of Iranian nuclear talks ended here on Friday with no agreement reached as differences remain, and the negotiations would continue.

“We didn’t make any progress, but the negotiations would continue,” Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told reporters after the three-day meeting.

But “it doesn’t mean that we are disappointed. It doesn’t mean that we have failed,” he added. “We should wait for the time we can start drafting (an agreement) when the positions are closer to each other.”

Ahead of the latest talks, both US and Iranian officials admitted that the negotiation would be “very difficult.” Diplomatic sources told *Xinhua* that new rounds of talks would take place before the 20 July deadline.

Iran and the so called P5+1 group — Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany — are trying to pave the way for a comprehensive solution to the decade-long Iranian nuclear issue.



A view of the Arak heavy-water project 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran is seen on 26 Aug, 2006.—REUTERS

Western countries accuse Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons and demand that Iran significantly scale back its nuclear programme and subject it to more transparency.

Teheran, however, insists that it has the right to develop peaceful nuclear programmes under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and that its nuclear activity is for peaceful purposes only.

Besides, deep differences remain on such issues as Iran’s nuclear fuel fabri-

cation capability, transparency of its nuclear plan as well as its ballistic missile programme.

The next round of talks will happen on 16-20 June, said Wang Qun, head of China’s delegation and director general of the Arms Control and Disarmament Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The negotiation has already entered “deep water,” and it will not be easy as many complex and sensitive issues are included, added the Chinese envoy.

Since Iranian President Hassan Rouhani took office, Teheran has promised greater transparency on its nuclear plan to address Western concerns, hoping to resolve the issue through diplomatic means. In return, it has asked Western countries to ease sanctions on his country, especially the oil embargo.

However, Iran will not retreat from defending its nuclear right, Araqchi told Iranian media, noting that the deadline could be extended for six months if

a final deal failed to come up by 20 July. He added that Teheran will not allow discussions of its missile or defence programmes in the nuclear talks.

A senior US official stressed earlier this week that Iran’s ballistic missile programme must be addressed in the talks as the UN Security Council’s resolutions on Iran “do say that any missile capable of delivering a nuclear weapon must be dealt with.” A 2010 UN Security Council resolution bans Iran from developing ballistic missiles suited to carry nuclear warheads.

When asked about the missile programme, a diplomatic source told *Xinhua* on Friday that some issues should be decided and resolved by all sides in these multilateral talks.

Under a deal reached in Geneva last November, Iran agreed to suspend some of its nuclear activities from 20 January to 20 July, while Western countries were supposed to ease its sanctions. The arrangement was meant to buy time for diplomacy to find a final solution to the issue.—*Xinhua*

38 militants killed in Afghan cleanup operations

KABUL, 17 May — Afghan security forces killed 38 militants in military operations in separate provinces within the last 24 hours, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

“The army, police and intelligence agency personnel conducted cleanup operations in Nangarhar, Paktiya, Farah, Kunduz, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor and Nimroz province, killing 38 Taliban militants, injuring 25 and arresting six other armed militants over the past 24 hours,” the ministry said in a statement.

The Afghan National Police had also found and defused 28 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and roadside bombs over the same period of time, the statement noted.

The statement did not disclose if there were any casualties on the side of security forces.

The security forces have recently intensified operations across the country as spring and summer known as the fighting season is drawing near.

Xinhua

UN monitors warn on human rights in east Ukraine, Crimea



Pro-Russian rebels temporarily reinforce trenches at a fortified rebel-held area on the outskirts of the eastern Ukrainian town of Sloviansk on 15 May, 2014.—REUTERS

GENEVA, 17 May — Human rights violations have escalated in eastern Ukraine and serious problems are emerging in Crimea, United Nations monitors said in a report released on Friday.

The 34-strong UN monitoring mission’s report, which covered the period from 2 April to 6 May

and which Russia criticized as politically motivated, said police and local authorities in eastern Ukraine connived in illegal acts and the takeover of towns by armed groups, undermining the rule of law.

The UN findings echoed a statement published on Monday by the Organization for Security and

Cooperation in Europe, whose experts had identified “a significant number of serious human rights violations” during a visit to Ukraine in March.

Ukraine is preparing to hold presidential elections on 25 May and the UN monitors said a fair and democratic ballot would be an important factor in

helping to calm the situation. But several candidates had reported intimidation and attacks and the monitoring mission said it had concerns about their security.

“Those with influence on the armed groups responsible for much of the violence in eastern Ukraine (must) do their utmost to rein in these men who seem bent on tearing the country apart,” UN human rights chief Navi Pillay said in a statement accompanying the report. The UN report also cited a “wave of abductions and unlawful detentions” of journalists, activists, politicians, representatives of international bodies and members of the military. Russia’s Foreign Ministry said the report lacked any semblance of objectivity, and accused its authors of following “political orders” to whitewash the pro-Western leadership, while ignoring “the crudest violations of human rights by the self-proclaimed Kiev authorities”.

Reuters

Putin, Xi to attend military exercise launch in East China Sea

MOSCOW, 17 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin will join his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at a ceremony to mark the start of a joint military drill in the East China Sea during his official visit to China next week, Putin aide Yuri Ushakov was quoted as saying on Friday by *Itar-Tass* news agency.

The rare appearance by the two leaders at a joint military exercise will likely serve as an occasion for Russia to demonstrate its ties in Asia to the United States and western European nations, which are confronting Moscow over the Ukraine crisis.

China, meanwhile, may seize the opportunity to keep the United States and Japan in check as Washington and Tokyo reaffirm close security ties over the Japanese-held Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, claimed by

Beijing, and US President Barack Obama touts his pivot toward Asia in foreign policy.

China’s National Defence Ministry said the military drill will be held at the mouth of the Yangtze River and northern waters of the East China Sea between 20 and 26 May. The commencement ceremony is expected to take place near Shanghai.

Putin is scheduled to hold talks with Xi in Shanghai and later attend the ceremony.

The Japanese government has said the joint military exercise will have no impact on Tokyo’s effective control of the Senkaku Islands but that it will pay close attention to it.

Moscow has taken a neutral stance on the Senkaku issue but welcomes China’s refraining from criticizing Russia over the Ukraine situation.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA's planet-hunting Kepler telescope given new mission



An artist's impression of the Kepler spacecraft. It is basically a wide-field, 95-megapixel photometer fed by a 36-inch (0.95-m) telescope.—REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL (Fla.), 17 May — NASA plans to revive its planet-hunting Kepler space telescope for a new mission after a positioning system problem sidelined the observatory last year, officials said on Friday.

The telescope was launched in 2009 to search

for Earth-sized planets suitably positioned around their parent stars for liquid water, a condition believed necessary for life.

Kepler scientists are still analyzing data to find a true Earth analog but already have added 962 confirmations and 3,845 candidates to the list of 1,713 planets discovered beyond the solar system.

Kepler's steady gaze was broken last year when it lost the second of four positioning wheels. Three are needed for precision pointing. "Good news from NASA HQ," Kepler deputy project manager Charlie Sobeck wrote in a status report posted on the Kepler

website. "The two-wheel operation mode of the Kepler spacecraft ... has been approved." The first observations of the new campaign, called K2, are scheduled to begin on 30 May. Kepler worked by monitoring about 150,000 target stars for slight but regular changes in brightness, a possible sign of a planet passing by, or transiting, relative to the telescope's line of sight.

An Earth-sized planet moving around its host star as close as Earth circles the sun would transit once every 365 days.

Scientists want to see at least three transits to be sure any telltale light dips are caused by a passing and

not a stellar flare or other phenomenon. Engineers developed a plan to use pressure from sunlight to balance the telescope, though it no longer will be stable enough to catch the faint signs of small, transiting planets.

NASA approved a two-year follow-on mission encompassing all types of stars, rather than just stars like the sun. The observations also will include star clusters, supernova and objects beyond the Milky Way.

Kepler currently costs NASA about \$18 million a year. The telescope flies in an orbit about 40 million miles (64 million km) from Earth.

Reuters

Russian rocket burns up shortly after blastoff

Moscow, 17 May — Russia said on Friday a Proton-M rocket carrying an Express-AM4R communication satellite had burned up in the atmosphere above China, with no debris reaching the Earth.

"The third stage (of the rocket) disintegrated at an altitude of 160 km at a velocity of 7 km per second," the Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos, said in a Press release.

The rocket had an engine problem at the 540th second after launch at 01:42 local time (2142 GMT Thursday) at Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan, it said.

Roscosmos said all components of the rocket, the Briz-M booster and the satellite, as well as fuel, burned up during re-entry to the atmosphere.

"Preliminary information shows no debris reached the Earth," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted Roscosmos head Oleg Ostapenko as saying.

He declined to name the reasons for the crash, but said the Briz-M/Express bundle did not separate from the third stage of the rocket.

Ostapenko said Roscosmos planned to launch two more Protons in 2014.

On July 2, 2013, a Proton-M rocket with three Glonass-M navigation satellites aboard exploded less than one minute after lift-off at Baikonur.

Xinhua

Polar explorers' telegraph station back in service in high Arctic

OSLO, 17 May — Visitors to the high Arctic can now walk in the footsteps of great polar explorers like Roald Amundsen and send messages from the telegraph station that was first to receive news of the North Pole's conquest nearly 90 years ago.

Norway has renovated Amundsen's telegraph station at Ny-Aalesund, the world's northernmost permanent settlement on the remote Svalbard archipelago, and tourists, arriving mostly on cruise ships, will from next week be able to use it to send electronic messages around the world.

Blakkisrud, who heads the telecom firm Telenor's heritage programme, which paid for the refurbishment.

"Amundsen sent several messages to Ny-Aalesund from the journey and a few years later when he got lost in a plane searching for Nobile, who was himself lost out in the ice. The station also received two telegraphic messages from him, which was the last we ever heard from Amundsen," Blakkisrud said.

Those would be the last messages ever received from Amundsen, whose remains or his airplane have never been found.

The town transformed

The villa of polar explorer Roald Amundsen, the first man to reach the South Pole in 1911, is seen in Ny-Aalesund in Norway's high Arctic, on 28 May, 2013.

REUTERS.



Amundsen, the first to reach the South Pole in 1911, had his sights on the North Pole but settled for Antarctica when American Robert Peary beat him to the top of the world. When credible doubts later emerged about Peary's feat Amundsen took up the quest again. In 1926, along with Italian airship designer Umberto Nobile, he sailed over the North Pole in a zeppelin, becoming the first to officially reach the pole.

"This station was their only connection," says Dag

into a mining colony after the expeditions but was abandoned after a 1962 accident killed 21 workers. It now functions as a research station.

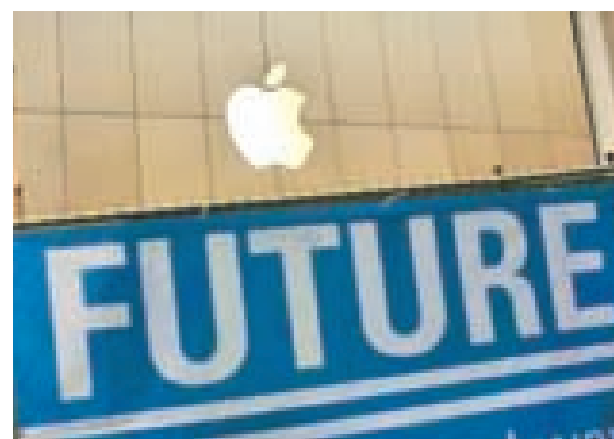
"We brought back all the original equipment left when the town was abandoned 50 years ago. The telegraph will be the only way for tourists to send a message home as there is no mobile phone reception here," said Aasne Dolve Meyer, an adviser at Kings Bay AS, which runs the town.—Reuters

Apple, Google settle smartphone patent litigation

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 May — Apple Inc and Google Inc's Motorola Mobility unit have agreed to settle all patent litigation between them over smartphones, ending one of the highest-profile lawsuits in technology. In a joint statement on Friday, the companies said the settlement does not include a cross license to their respective patents.

"Apple and Google have also agreed to work together in some areas of patent reform," the statement said. Apple and companies that make phones using Google's Android software have filed dozens of such lawsuits against one another around the world to protect their technology. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs called Android a "stolen product."

Google and Apple informed a federal appeals court in Washington that their cases against each other should be dismissed, according to filings on Fri-



The Apple logo is pictured on the front of the company's flagship retail store near signs for the central subway project in San Francisco, California on 23 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

day. However, the deal does not apply to Apple's litigation against Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Apple has battled Google and what once were the largest adopters of its Android mobile software, partly to try to curb the rapid expansion of the free, rival operating system.

But it has been unable to slow Android's ascendancy, which is now

installed on an estimated 80 percent of new phones sold every year. Motorola, the US company that pioneered the mobile phone, no longer ranks among the biggest smartphone makers. Both Motorola and HTC Corp have been eclipsed by Chinese Android adopters such as Lenovo Group Ltd —which is buying Motorola —and Huawei and Xiaomi.

Reuters

Pinterest wins new funding, raising valuation to \$5 billion

NEW YORK, 17 May — Pinterest has raised a new \$200 million round of funding that gives it a valuation of \$5 billion, the photo pin-up site said on Thursday.

Pinterest, which allows users to create online bulletin boards based on various themes such as travel, decorating, or sports, said in a statement it would use the capital to invest in technology, develop its advertising programme further, and expand internationally.

Pinterest said it raised

money from existing investors SV Angel, Bessemer Venture Partners, Fidelity, Andreessen Horowitz, FirstMark Capital, and Valiant Capital Partners.

The company last raised money in October 2013 at a \$3.8 billion valuation in a round led by Fidelity Investments.

News of the funding round was first reported by ReadWrite.

Pinterest said it has raised a total of \$764 million so far from the time of inception.—Reuters



A portrait of the Pinterest logo in Ventura, California December 21, 2013.—REUTERS

UN study finds peacekeepers avoid using force to protect civilians



UN peacekeepers drive their tank as they patrol past the deserted Kibati village near Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, on 7 Aug. 2013. — REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 17 May — United Nations peacekeeping missions routinely avoid using force to protect civilians who are under attack, intervening in only 20 percent of cases despite being authorized to do so by the UN Security Council, an internal UN study

found. “There is a persistent pattern of peacekeeping operations not intervening with force when civilians are under attack,” the report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services said.

“Peacekeepers are absent from many locations when civilians come under

attack, and when they are present, are unable or unwilling to prevent serious physical harm from being inflicted,” the 26-page report said. Of 507 incidents involving civilians that were included in UN reports between 2010 and 2013, 101 sparked immediate response from peacekeepers, the report said.

Presented this week to the UN General Assembly Fifth Committee, which deals with the UN budget, the report focused on eight of 10 UN peacekeeping missions with a Security Council mandate to protect civilians: Lebanon, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, Abyei and South Sudan. It excluded the newest operations in Mali and Central African Republic.

“While no mission can be expected to protect all civilians all the time, each can reasonably be expected to provide protection in areas of highest risk,” the report said. “Force was mostly likely to be used to protect civilians when troops were engaged in self-defense or defense of UN personnel and property.”

Reuters

Lao market blaze caused by short circuit: Vientiane Vice Mayor

VIENTIANE, 17 May — Vientiane Vice Mayor Saythong Keoudouangdy has attributed March’s Thong Khan Kham market blaze to a short circuit caused by old wiring according to state-run daily *Vientiane Times*, Friday.

Saythong described the heroism of the first responding firefighter who had almost contained the fire in its early stages before cooking gas canisters started to ignite. “The firefighters could not bring the fire under control because some objects, including fireworks and gas, catch fire very easily,” Saythong said. The vice mayor indicated that investigations were underway to identify those who violated legislation regarding what can be sold. Authorities will also question the previous owner of the marketplace

on maintenance that may have affected events.

Thong Khan Kham marketplace was located in the heart of Vientiane and was the largest of its kind in the capital. Beloved by locals and tourists the market sold everything from food to clothing and fabrics to religious items.

Many shop owners lost their livelihoods in the fire having invested heavily to replenish their stocks in the lead up to Lao New Year. Saythong urged vendors to move to a temporary market nearby where they could set up their shops without any fees.

The old market site will be converted into a shopping mall. Construction of the mall will begin on 1 June and is expected to take 15 months to complete.—Xinhua

Two Colombian guerrilla groups announce truce ahead of presidential elections

HAVANA, 17 May — Colombia’s two guerrilla groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), have decreed a unilateral eight-day ceasefire to coincide with the 25 May presidential elections, a rebel spokesman announced on Friday.

“We order all our units to cease any offensive military action against state armed forces or economic infrastructure, from 00:00 hours on Tuesday, 20 May, to 24:00 on Wednesday, 28 May,” said FARC

spokesman Ivan Marquez in Havana, Cuba, where FARC and Colombian government officials are negotiating a peace deal.

Marquez described the gesture as a “beacon of hope” for a bilateral ceasefire, and an initiative that responds to a popular demand “that deserves to be heard.”

The statement, read to reporters before delegates resumed their daily negotiations behind closed doors, was signed by the leaders of both guerrilla groups.

This is the third unilateral truce announced by

the FARC since peace talks began in November 2012 to end a half century of armed conflict, and the first time both rebel armies have proposed a joint unilateral ceasefire. The ELN is also looking to enter into peace talks with the government.

The government delegation in Havana, led by Humberto de la Calle, refused to comment on the guerrillas’ announcement.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos is running for re-election on a platform that includes brokering peace with the rebels. — Xinhua



Students visit a stall at the Road Safety exhibition organized by Metropolitan traffic police in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 16 May, 2014. The exhibition aims to arouse awareness of road safety. — XINHUA

Venezuelan, Palestinian leaders sign oil deal

CARACAS, 17 May — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas on Friday witnessed the signing of agreements on trade, finance, public banking and oil. The two leaders held a closed-door meeting before attending the signing ceremony of the agreements, one of which agreed that Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA would supply Palestine with diesel.

Maduro said during the meeting they discussed the incorporation of

Palestine as an observer to the Petrocaribe oil bloc and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas.

He also stressed the unwavering position of Venezuelans for the Palestinian cause, of which late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was a faithful exponent.

“No one can deny the Palestinian people’s right to live in their land, have an independent state and live in peace. No one can deny their right to life. Today the Palestinian cause without question is a global cause,”

said Maduro.

Abbas thanked the Venezuelan government for its support, saying the agreements will contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations, which were initiated by Chavez.

“These agreements we have signed have been the result of joint work,” Abbas said.

The Palestinian leader arrived here late Thursday for a three-day visit, during which he paid tribute to Chavez and Latin American independence hero Simon Bolivar.—Xinhua

Italian police arrest 18 in probe on mafia infiltration

ROME, 17 May — Police in Florence on Friday arrested 18 people, including two agents working in Italy’s government and parliament, in a probe on mafia infiltration in the area, local reports said.

The two agents, working for the office of Italian prime minister and the parliament’s lower chamber, were suspected of furnishing politicians, businessmen as well as mafia suspects with privileged information on criminal investigations.

According to media

sources, the two policemen could have also built ties with former industry and interior minister Claudio Scajola, who was detained last week on charges of helping a fugitive convicted for mafia links.

Scajola was found to be in close relations with Amedeo Mataracena, a former MP who was convicted for mafia links, and his wife to help the fugitive escape to Libano.

Italy in recent weeks has been hit by a series of major corruption scandals

involving top officials and politicians.

Following Scajola’s arrest, a former senator and close ally of three-time premier Silvio Berlusconi, Marcello Dell’Utri, was convicted for mafia association.

On Thursday, an MP of ruling Democratic Party, Francantonio Genovese, was arrested for embezzlement, days after prosecutors in Milan uncovered a network of bid rigging linked to next year’s world exposition.

Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1434)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1434) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (044)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (044) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

Brazil oil, gas market welcomes Chinese investment

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 May — Brazil welcomes Chinese investment in oil and gas exploration, which offers gainful business opportunities and a favorable regulatory environment, a senior Brazilian energy official said.

"All companies interested in investing in Brazil are welcome and important for the country's development. There are currently 39 local and 38 foreign companies operating in Brazil's oil and gas market," said Magda Chambriard, director-general of Brazil's National Petroleum Agency (ANP).

"That shows how dynamic the Brazilian market is, as it offers a trustworthy regulatory environment and good business opportunities for both Brazilian and foreign companies," she told *Xinhua* in an interview.

Chambriard highlighted October's bidding on the Libra oilfield, in which Brazil for the first time auctioned exploration rights to an offshore

pre-salt reserve.

The multinational five-firm consortium that won the right to explore the Libra field includes Chinese companies CNOOC and CNPC, as well as Brazil's own state oil giant Petrobras, France's Total and Anglo-Dutch Shell. Petrobras is the operator of the business, as required by law in Brazilian pre-salt exploration.

The ANP faced criticism at the time for labeling the auction as a success, despite the fact that only one consortium submit a bid and many major oil firms, such as BP and Exxon Mobil, did not participate.

"The consortium that won the Libra auction is formed by five of the world's top 10 energy companies in market value, which have the three key elements for a successful venture: high technology, long-term vision and financial capacity," Chambriard said.

Xinhua

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office, Commencing from (19.5.2014).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (18.6.2014) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphi/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371969, 372362, 371284

**Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health**

Extension of the Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)

Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested foreign investors for the request of the Expression of Interest regarding the above title from 1.04.2014 to 7.04.2014 in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper and to be submitted by 15.05.2014 during office hours.

Now, MPE hereby announces that the additional information for LOEI shall be as follows;

- The submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 26.05.2014 from 15.05.2014,
- The endorsement from the respective embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of company's registration or nearest shall be submitted.
- No submission of LOEI shall be considered in Tender Process and only the companies who had met MPE's requirements shall be proceeded for the Invitation to Tender.**

Two Turkish soldiers wounded in PKK attack

ANKARA, 17 May — Two soldiers were wounded in an attack on a military outpost in Turkey's eastern province of Tunceli by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) on Friday, local *To-day's Zaman* reported.

A group of PKK militants armed with rifles assaulted a military unit in the Sutluce village of Tunceli on Friday. The two injured soldiers were immediately sent to a nearby hospital. In response Turkish army later launched a crackdown operation in the region.

Similar attacks happened earlier on Thursday when some PKK militants opened fire at a group of soldiers in a rural area of Turkey's southeastern province of Hakkari, seriously injuring a soldier.

Also on Thursday the Turkish authorities announced that PKK members had kidnapped nine workers in the nearby province of Sirnak.

A settlement process to end decades of unrest between the government and the PKK militants were launched in October 2012. But the PKK refused to lay down weapons, which is required by the Turkish government.

The PKK, blacklisted as a terrorist group by Turkey and some other countries, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland for the Kurds in southeastern Turkey. Since then, more than 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the group. —*Xinhua*

Over 300 students perform Kunfu with fans at Chongde Primary School in Chongfu Town of Tongxiang City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 16 May, 2014. The school has promoted the traditional Chinese martial arts like Taichi and Kunfu fan as exercises for students since 2003.

XINHUA



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Energy

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) from Interested Parties

For Sales and Distribution of Jet Fuel

- The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The MPPE is currently distributing jet fuel in 11 airports in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of jet fuel in Myanmar's airports and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, the Government and the MPPE are seeking an experienced partner to form a joint venture. The purpose of the future joint venture company is to operate and improve the existing Jet Fuel Distribution Enterprise's business activity at the Yangon International Airport first. At a later stage, negotiations will be opened with the MPPE to expand the joint venture to the remaining 10 airports.
- Interested foreign companies should please submit the Letter of Expression of Interest together with a completed Pre-Qualification Application form (posted on MOE's website) attached with the following documents endorsed by Myanmar Embassy in the respective country, to Managing Director, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw, by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014, at the latest, by hand.
 - Certificate of incorporation
 - Memorandum of association
 - Articles of association
 - Company profile
 - Financial statements for last three years
- Pre-qualification applications that cannot include all the documents under the above paragraph (3) and that cannot reach the above address by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014 will not be considered.
- Applicants shall be the company running jet fuel distribution at least three International airports in three different countries.
- Documents and detailed information regarding EOI are available at <http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement> and applicants can personally contact jetfueltender@gmail.com and the following address if they have any further queries:

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel:067-411488;067-411053;067-411119;067-411135
Fax: 067-411101
Email:mppe.ho2@mptmail.net.mm

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Bulgaria seizes nearly 55 kg heroin at Danube Bridge

SOFIA, 17 May —Bulgarian Customs and border police have seized 54.737 kg heroin at the Danube Bridge checkpoint near Russe at the border with Romania, officials said on Friday.

The illicit drug, split into 50 packages, was found shortly before midnight under the bed in the cab of a foreign truck carrying textiles and other stuff

from Turkey to a western European country, National Customs Agency (NCA) said in a statement.

The driver of the vehicle, a Greek citizen, and his Bulgarian companion, were arrested on the scene.

Bulgaria, with 20,000 to 30,000 heroin users, is a transit country for the highly addictive drug. In 2013, the Customs Agency seized 179 kg of heroin. —*Xinhua*

Hollywood's 'Dragons' mix with Turkish delight at Cannes

CANNES, (France), 17 May — The glitz of Hollywood and its “How to Train Your Dragon” franchise shared centre stage at the Cannes Film Festival on Friday with a Turkish movie lasting more than three hours that quotes Shakespeare and uses a Schubert sonata as its theme.

There could hardly have been a bigger cinematic tent than the Palais des Festivals venue in the Mediterranean seaside town where “How to Train Your Dragon 2” got a special screening alongside Turkish director Nuri Ceylan’s masterly competition entry “Winter Sleep” about an intellectual bully who runs a “Hotel Othello” in the snowswept Anatolian steppe.

The one brought Hollywood glamour, even of the animated variety, to a festival that is a bit short on that front. Fans wearing Viking helmets with huge horns meandered across La Croisette, Cannes’s palm-lined boulevard, ahead of the film’s global premiere on Friday night at the festival.

Cannes-regular Ceylan’s searing study of a former actor convinced he



(L-R) Cast members Jay Baruchel, Kit Harington, Cate Blanchett, America Ferrera and Djimon Hounsou pose on the red carpet as they arrive for the screening of the film “How to Train Your Dragon 2” out of competition at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 16 May, 2014.—REUTERS

is always in the right took its time to unfurl to a gripping climax, played out in a snowstorm, in a film that is a strong favourite to win the Palme d’Or on 24 May.

“Master at his work again, he is truly the most contemporary master I have ever seen,” said film critic Sunil Doshi of the Indian newspaper *The Mint*, who was among the packed

cinema audience who gave the film a standing ovation.

“It’s amazing, just awesome.” The audience response to the film by Ceylan, who won a best director award at Cannes in 2008 for his “Three Monkeys”, came a day after British director Mike Leigh’s “Mr Turner”, based on the life of the pre-Impressionist English painter JMW

Turner, got a resounding rave from critics. Those two films helped to balance a negative critical and audience response to the festival’s opening film, “Grace of Monaco” starring Nicole Kidman as the American actress Grace Kelly who married Prince Rainier of Monaco. Another competition entry, Canadian director Atom Egoyan’s

“The Captive”, tackling the dark topic of paedophilia, also got a lukewarm welcome at a screening hours before “Winter Sleep”.

In Ceylan’s film, Haluk Bilginer plays Aydin, a once-successful actor on the Turkish stage one of whose fondest memories is having been praised by and had his photo taken with the Egyptian actor Omar Sharif.

He has retired to run a hotel in the Anatolian steppe, a landscape of stark, silo-like rock outcroppings and severe winters, where he lives with his young wife Nihal (Melisa Sozen) and his sister Necla (Demet

Akbag). He battles both of them into intellectual submission by posing as a man of principle who writes a column for a local newspaper defending the importance of faith, even though he never goes to mosque, and insisting on having the last word in an argument.

Meanwhile, the lawyers and debt collectors he has hired based on the property wealth inherited from his father repossess the television of a tenant family whose rent has fallen into arrears, prompting the family’s young son to throw a rock through his car window.

Reuters



A figure of Toothless the Dragon character walks on the Croisette during a photocall for the film “How to Train Your Dragon 2” at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 15 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Kim Kardashian, Kanye West to celebrate wedding in Florence



Kim Kardashian and Kanye West

FLORENCE, (Italy), 17 May —US television personality Kim Kardashian and rapper Kanye West will celebrate their wedding in Florence on 24 May, an official from the mayor’s office confirmed on Friday.

The official said the couple had rented the 16th century Belvedere Fort for 300,000 euros (\$411,100)

for the occasion, which will be presided over by a Protestant pastor.

However, as the castle is not an authorized site for weddings, there was some question about whether the event will be an officially recognized marriage ceremony or a celebration with some looser status.

Asked how he was

feeling as the day approached, West told the local *La Nazione* daily: “Quite emotional. But very happy. I’m a romantic: I gave Kim a wall of flowers for Mother’s Day. Family is everything for me, it’s the antidote to the stresses of fame. Family and creativity relax me.”

The couple will be accompanied by their daughter North, who West said was “conceived here, among the masterpieces of the Renaissance”. “It was our first honeymoon. It’s one of the most beautiful cities in the world, for me, it’s the most beautiful in Europe.” Representatives for Kardashian and West did not immediately respond to requests for comment.—Reuters

Michael Jackson documentary sold at Cannes Film Festival 2014

CANNES, 17 May — A documentary chronicling Michael Jackson in his last years has been acquired at the Cannes Film Festival.

Michael: The Last Photo Shoots follows the late superstar as he prepared for his ill-fated comeback. It features interviews

with his photographers as well as stylists and friends. Renowned photographer Bruce Weber photographed Jackson in 2007 for the re-release of *Thriller* on its 25th anniversary, and celebrity photographer Matthew Rolston shot him the same year for *Ebony* magazine, his first US magazine interview in years.

Lightning Entertainment has ac-

quired the international sales rights. Its executive vice president, Ken Dubow, said in a statement on Thursday that the documentary will provide fans with “a rare behind-the-scenes look into his life.”

Michael died shortly before his London comeback concerts in 2009. *Xscape*, a second posthumous album, was released this week.—PTI



Xscape, Michael’s second posthumous album, was also released this week.

PTI

Sanjay Gupta: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is the lead in My Jazbaa

MUMBAI, 17 May — Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta on 16 May confirmed that actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan will essay the female lead in his new movie *Jazbaa*.

“Yes guys it’s true. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan will play the dynamic female lead in my action/thriller *Jazbaa*,” Gupta posted on Twitter, putting to rest rumours about her presence in the film. Aishwarya’s official spokesperson confirmed the news. Known for directing entertainers like Kaante and Shootout at Lokhandwala, Gupta is perhaps

collaborating with Aishwarya for the first time.

The former beauty queen and actress is currently attending to her commitment as a brand ambassador for global cosmetics brand L’Oréal Paris at Cannes. She was due to make an appearance at the 67th Cannes International Film Festival gala on 16 May, but she was unable to reach in time due to an air traffic controllers’ strike in France. She will now make an appearance on 21 May. On the big screen, Aishwarya was last seen in *Guzaarish* in 2010. —PTI



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

GENERAL

Big spending PSG, Man City punished for excessive losses



Manchester City's captain Vincent Kompany (C) celebrates with the English Premier League trophy following their soccer match against West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 11 May, 2014. —REUTERS

LONDON, 17 May—Manchester City and Paris St Germain, two of the newly rich clubs in European soccer, have been fined up to 60 million euros (\$82.23 million) and had their squads capped for next season's Champions League after breaching UEFA's financial rules.

As part of their settlement with UEFA, Premier League champions City, owned by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour, and Qatari-owned French champions PSG have also agreed to curbs on transfer spending over the next two seasons.

City said their transfer spending would be capped at a net figure of 60 million euros this summer but added that the restrictions would not greatly impact their plans.

The deals broadly

matched recent media reports of the likely sanctions under new rules that prevent clubs from running up unlimited financial losses. City made clear that they had reluctantly agreed a deal with UEFA, believ-

ing they had complied with the rules.

However, had they fought on they would have risked a ban from next season's Champions League.

"In normal circumstances, the club would



Paris St Germain's Blaise Matuidi (R) celebrates with Edinson Cavani (L) after scoring a goal against Evian Thonon Gaillard during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris, on 23 April, 2014. —REUTERS

"Chinese Bridge" language competition held in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 17 May — The 13th annual Melbourne "Chinese Bridge" Proficiency Competition for students of Chinese language and culture was held here Saturday at the RMIT University in association with the local Confucius Institute.

Chinese deputy Consul-General in Melbourne Huang Guobin told the 160-strong audience and students who attended the opening ceremony that the competition is a bridge of friendship and culture exchange, through which Australian students would have more exchanges with

Chinese students and know more about Chinese language and culture.

"Languages are carriers of national cultures, and they represent the civilization of nations. Chinese language has a history of thousands years, and the Chinese civilization has immense impact on the world, with efforts from both sides, I strongly believe Chinese culture will eventually become popular in the vast land of Australia," said Huang.

A total of seven students from local universities joined the competition, which was divided into

two parts — a speech on the theme "My Chinese Dream" and a Chinese cultural performance.

After nearly three hours of intense competition, Shahzad Billinoria from Monash University won the competition.

The 13th "Chinese Bridge" competition, a Chinese language contest for non-native Chinese speaking college students is underway around the world. Launched in 2002, the "Chinese Bridge" project played an ever-growing role in promoting the study of Chinese language and culture.—Xinhua

wish to pursue its case and present its position through every avenue of recourse," City said in a statement.

"However, our decision to do so must be balanced against the practical realities for our fans, for our partners and in the interests of the commercial operations of the club," it added. This will effectively be the end of the process unless rival clubs decide to challenge the punishments as too lenient.

Critics of the "Financial Fair Play" rules say they will entrench the established order in European soccer and prevent teams with wealthy owners from challenging the elite.

They also said that the threat to ban teams from Europe was a hollow one as UEFA would not want to weaken its lucrative Champions League competition. PSG and City will each get 40 million euros of the fine back should they stick to the terms of their settlement with UEFA in coming seasons. They will only be able to name 21 players in their Champions League squads for next season, while rivals will be able to pick from a pool of 25.

They are also not allowed to increase their wage bills next season. City, who have spent hundreds of millions of pounds since Sheikh Mansour bought the club in 2008, said they expected to move into profit from next season after heavy losses to build a team to compete with the best in Europe.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(18-5-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:20 am

2. Physical Exercises

6:25 am

3. Documentary

7:20 am

4. MRTV's Youth Programme

8:00 am

5. News/ International News

8:30 am

6. Documentary

9:00 am

7. News/ International News

9:30 am

8. Documentary (ASEAN)

10:45 am

9. (38) Phyar Mingalars

12:00 pm

10. News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

11. Round Up of The Week's International News

2:35 pm

12. Documentary

2:50 pm

13. Musical Programme

3:30 pm

14. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

4:00 pm

15. News

4:20 pm

16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm

17. News

5:15 pm

18. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm

19. News/ Weather Report

6:20 pm

20. Cartoon Series

7:00 pm

21. News

7:15 pm

22. Weekly Entertainment News

8:00 pm

23. News /International News /Weather Report

8:45pm

24. Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 pm

25. News

26. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-5-14 07:00am~19-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Let's explore the Customs of Mindut
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Family of Toys
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
- * World News
- * The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
- * Local News
- * While I visited around Taunggyi
- * World News
- * ...Changes
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - Charitable Associations
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady: Kalayar Moe
- * Local News
- * The Long-Lasting Royal Tradition
- * World News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations (Gem Stone Painting)
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
- * World News
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * Local News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Youth Leader



Armored fighting vehicles take part in a joint exercise in Leopoldsburg, Belgium, on 16 May, 2014. Belgian Army and Air Force conducted joint exercise in Leopoldsburg on Friday.

Xinhua

Myanmar youth, Lao Toyota at 2-2 draw



Myanmar football academy team played a 2-2 draw with Lao Toyota FC at the Aung San Stadium on Saturday afternoon as the matches of Group (B) kicked off for the Asian Champions Trophy U-16 2014.

As part of preparations for taking part in the ASEAN U-16 Championship, the Myanmar youth team participated

in the Asian Champions Trophy U-16 2014. Myanmar youths put pressure on Lao Toyota FC with much football possession in the first half. Okka Bo scored an opening for Myanmar in the 12th minute and Zwe Thet Paing, the second for the home in the 17th minute.

After scoring the goals, Myanmar team declined its tempo, so Laotian

youths speeded up their attacks. Before the whistle of the first half, Lithara of Laos kicked one goal into the Myanmar's net. He also seconded for the Laos team in the 73rd minute to equalize the match.

Myanmar will play against Guangzhou FC in the second match on 24 May.

By Nyi Myat Thawda;
Photo: Soe Nyunt

Barcelona announce agreement on new Messi contract

MADRID, 17 May — FC Barcelona confirmed on Friday that the club has reached an agreement with Leo Messi to extend the striker's contract with the club.

"FC Barcelona has reached an agreement to adjust the terms in the contract binding Leo Messi to the club as a professional first team player. The revised and updated contract will be signed over the next few days," said a message on the Barcelona website.

Although the club has not yet released any details of the deal, it is expected the new contract will make Messi the best paid player

in the world, with a salary of around 20 million euros (27.4 million US dollars) a year, more than Cristiano Ronaldo agreed to in his recent new contract with Real Madrid.

Messi's current deal expires in 2018 and negotiations over the new contract have been ongoing for several months, although they were stopped for a short while after Sandro Rosell was forced to resign as club president in January. Despite not celebrating his 27th birthday until June, Messi has played more games for the Barca first team than any other foreigner (424) and is the

club's all-time highest goalscorer (354).

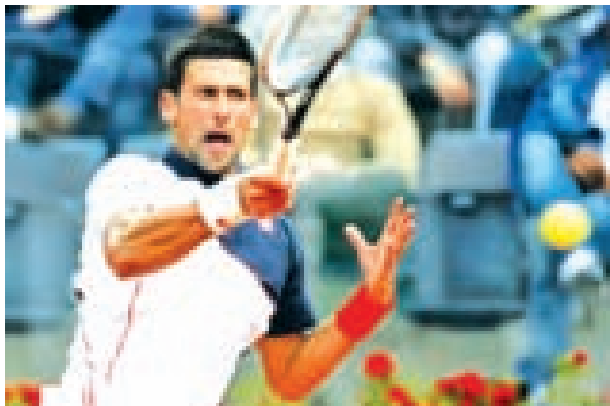
He joined Barca as a 13 year-old and since breaking into the first team when he was just 16 in the 2004-2005 season. He has won 21 major titles, including 6 Spanish Leagues, 3 Champions League titles, 2 Spanish Cups, 2 Clubs World Championships, 2 European Supercups and 6 Spanish Supercups.

He will hope to add another title to that account on Saturday when Barcelona entertain Atletico Madrid knowing a win will see them retain the BBVA Primera Liga title.

Xinhua



Resilient Nadal fends off Murray, Djokovic subdues Ferrer



Novak Djokovic of Serbia

ROME, 17 May — Rafa Nadal overcame a first-set thrashing by Andy Murray to reach the semi-finals of the Italian Open with a 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory that kept him on course to meet rival Novak Djokovic in Sunday's climax.

World number one and seven-times winner Nadal was a set down after only 37 minutes and trailed 4-2 in the decider, but kept his composure to book a last-four clash with rising talent Grigor Dimitrov.

"Every win is special but this is a win that means a lot to me... I feel like I played as well as I have done for a while," Nadal said.

"I didn't ever think I was playing that badly despite being 6-1 down. I felt

more positive than in the last match.

"I didn't have any negative thoughts inside me tonight. I closed out the match at the first opportunity and that's because of the positive energy I had."

On the other side of the draw, Djokovic maintained his hopes of a third Rome Masters title and 19th Masters Series crown although he was forced to dig deep to beat a tenacious David Ferrer 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in a high-quality quarter-final.

Wimbledon champion Murray won the first five games in a blistering opening in which he limited Nadal to a handful of opportunities, including three wasted break points in the third game.

Yet Nadal came back

strongly at the start of the second set, winning the first three games after Murray took a knock to his right knee stretching for a shot that hindered his movement around the court.

Murray was visibly less mobile after that and Nadal powered on to level the match.

It looked as though it would be plain sailing from then on but Murray fought back to lead a pulsating final set, only for Nadal to break right back and take match with a burst of nine points in a row.

"I'm disappointed with the game I played at 4-2, I was still in a good position but you don't get many chances against him. He finished very well and was physically stronger than me in the end," Murray said.

"Maybe I rushed a bit. I feel like I had the right shots in that match but messed them up."

Serbia's Djokovic looked to be in full control when he led 5-2 in the opening set but Spaniard Ferrer fought back to 5-5 and although he lost the opener the tone was set for an intense duel.

Djokovic eventually prevailed on his second

match point having double-faulted on his first, the point in between being a 38-stroke baseline rally of extraordinary quality.

Dimitrov reached his

first masters Series semi-final when German veteran Tommy Haas retired from their match with a shoulder injury.

Celebrating his 23rd birthday Dimitrov was presented with a cake on the court which his coach Roger Rasheed splatted all over the Bulgarian's face.

"It was one of the most memorable days of my life," said Dimitrov. "I was just talking to my team, it's my first win on my birthday, so it feels good. It's a bit unfortunate, the way it ended up. But I'm just a happy birthday boy today."

In the women's Italian Open at the same atmospheric Foro Italico venue top seed Serena Williams breezed past Shuai Zhang

6-1, 6-3 in a one-sided contest.

The American roared out of the traps, winning five games in a row and crushing any chance of resistance from the Chinese.

Zhang raised her game towards the end of the first set and made a decent fist of the second, but Williams's driving forehand and serving power was too much for the world number 43.

Williams will get the chance to avenge her Australian Open defeat to Ana Ivanovic in the semis after the Serbian 11th seed followed up her impressive win over Maria Sharapova with a thrilling 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 win over Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro.

Home fans were given something to shout about when Sara Errani reached the semi-finals with a superb 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 victory over world number two Li Na — her first career win against a player ranked in the top three.

The Italian will have another tough challenge in the semi-finals in the shape of world number eight Jelena Jankovic, who beat Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-4.—Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain