

UPWC, NCCT extend meeting on drafting text for ceasefire until Friday



Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and U Hla Maung Shwe at joint briefing after second day meeting of UPWC and NCCT on single text document at Myanmar Peace Centre.—PHOTO:YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

The Union Peace-Making Work Committee-UPWC and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team-NCCT on Thursday announced to extend their two-day meeting for another day until Friday to conclude discussions on the two remaining chapters of a single text document for a nationwide ceasefire, with officials saying that discussions on Thursday ended with Chapter 5.

During a media briefing, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win who leads the NCCT side, and U Hla Maung Shwe of the Myanmar Peace Centre said the meetings are taking place

with momentum and that they had “full and frank exchange of views” for reaching an agreement on the proposed points of the two sides.

But some points needed further approval and will be brought to leaders from both sides, the NCCT leader voiced. U Hla Maung Shwe also said the document might be finalized at the next meeting as only a second draft is expected to be drawn at Friday’s meeting.

While responding to a question about whether Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act has been discussed, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, Secretary-General of KNU, said talks on the issue will be taken into consideration af-

ter reaching an agreement on the document.

Responding to a question about a SNLD member who has been charged under Section 17 (1), U Hla Maung Shwe said Un-

ion Minister U Aung Min, UPWC chairman, is also dealing with that case.

During the meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, no discussion on the Commander-in-Chief’s six-point principles on the ongoing peace process was made, with discussion focusing on the draft, officials said.

The definition of the word “Revolution” will be discussed at the next meeting, with the time and place to be decided at Friday’s meeting, said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

Before the end of the joint briefing, U Hla Maung Shwe informed the media that both sides are striving for sooner completion of the single text document, expressing his belief that it could be concluded at the next meeting.

Regarding the forma-

tion of a 10-member conflict mediation team, the Kachin State government was waiting for the arrival of KIO officials, with U Hla Maung Shwe saying that they had not arrived by Thursday evening.

During the media briefing, PNLO’s Col Khun Okkar, one of the members of NCCT, said representatives from the Armed Forces had been quick to react in attempting to facilitate the meeting by making calls to their boss when something needed urgent approval.

Regarding some points discussed at today’s meeting, he briefed the media that NCCT raised the question on the inclusion of the Three Main National Causes in the document and definition of these three points.

Since Wednesday, UPWC and NCCT have been holding talks on a second draft single text document for a nationwide ceasefire at Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon.

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Peatlands in Inlay Lake basin facing threats from modern agriculture

YANGON, 22 May—Peatlands in the Inlay Lake basin are facing a number of threats including conversion for agriculture, clearance and burning of vegetation, domestic waste and agrochemicals, according to the Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA).

A joint Myanmar-international team of peatland specialists discovered a total of 9,021 hectares of peatland near Inlay Lake in northeast Myanmar during surveys conducted between 15-27 February, 2014.

The 9,021 hectares (ha) of peatlands represents the largest single area identified during 18 months of surveys in different parts of Myanmar. In addition, 1,599 ha of peatlands were found in the nearby Heho Basin where peatlands are all cultivated and covered with soil eroded from nearby hills.

Calcareous mound



Cultivation of vegetables in natural peatland area on the edge of Inle Lake. (FREDA)

spring peatland found in Taung Bo Gyi Village in the northwest corner of the Inle Lake wetland are very rare and has been protected by the local community who do not allow any cultivation on it – to maintain its function to provide drinking water supply to part of the village and nearby monastery, according to Faizal Parish, Director of Director of the Global Environment Centre.

The peatlands of Inlay Lake play a key role in stabilizing water levels and improving water quality of the lake. The floating peatlands are also integral to the culture and economy of the local Intha Community who have cultivated the peat in floating gardens for hundreds of years.

Although the floating vegetation around Inlay Lake has been known for years, it was not

recognized that these were part of a much larger peatland system along the margins of the lake.

The peatlands at Inlay are home to a range of rare and threatened species including the Eastern Sarus Crane, Ferruginous Duck and a number of endemic fish species. During the survey freshwater crabs were observed breeding in burrows on the calcareous mound spring at Taung Bo Gyi.—NLM

Storm warning for Rakhine coast

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—According to meteorological observations at 16:00 hrs MST on Thursday, the depression over the East Central Bay of Bengal is centred at about 125 miles West-Southwest of Gwa, 160 miles Southwest of Kyaukpyu, 190 miles South-Southwest of Sittway. It is forecast to move initially Northeast wards and then North-Northwest wards.

The present stage of the depression is coded as orange stage and is moving towards the coast of Rakhine.

Under the influence of the depression, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State with the likelihood of locally heavy falls in those areas.

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40-45 mph. Trawlers, vessels and ships in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine coasts are advised to avert possible danger by depression.—NLM

Work committees prepare for parliamentary session



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivers speech at coordination meeting of The Central Committee for Organizing Parliamentary Sessions for 2014 and its work committees.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—The Central Committee for Organizing Parliamentary Sessions for 2014 and its work committees had a coordination meeting at Zabuthiri Hall of the Parliamentary Building here on Thursday morning, with an address by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House, sources said.

In his speech, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said parliament has entered its third year and fifth months, with nine regular sessions, noting that there will be two more sessions this year and three in the following year. He called for open and frank discussions on the strengths and weaknesses of the previous sessions in order for the tenth

session to turn out productive. Nearly 150 laws have been amended, repealed and enacted, with about 50 now under discussion at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Upper House and Lower House, he stated.

Thura U Shwe Mann called on ministries and work committees to help parliament promptly pass laws, stressing that con-

certed efforts are to be made by all sides involved in the legislative process.

Responsible officials from respective work committees briefed the Speaker on measures being taken for security, information centres, transportation, accommodation, communication, voting machines, health, and electricity supply.—MNA

Planning course opens in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw makes a speech at opening ceremony of rural, urban and regional planning course (1/2014).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw made a speech at the open-

ing ceremony of rural, urban and regional planning course (1/2014) in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

With the aim of devel-

oping rural and urban plans, the Ministry for National Planning and Economic Development is conducting courses on

planning at rural, urban and regional levels.

A total of 90 officials are taking the one-week course.—MNA

Contract on waste water treatment technical cooperation signed

YANGON, 22 May—The Board of Directors of Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd, the Rector of Yangon Technological University-YTU and the Managing Director of Myanmar Water Engineering & Product Co., Ltd signed a contract on waste water treatment technical cooperation on Thursday at donation of water server and cooperation contract signing ceremony at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

During the ceremony, Board of Director Mr Takahiro Ikeda presented documents related to the water servers worth US\$ 3000 to

Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and U Kyin Aung, the Board of Trustees of the

Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Yangon Mayor said: "The committee thanks the two companies for contributing water serv-

er, research equipment and US\$ 3000 to water purification research programme."

MNA



Yangon Chief Minister U Myint Swe makes a speech at contract signing ceremony.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of organizations on expiry of the one year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Khin Maung Maw	Director-General Fisheries Department Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
(b) U Hla Maw Oo	Director-General Directorate of Trade Ministry of Commerce
(c) U Toe Aung Myint	Director-General Trade Promotion Department Ministry of Commerce
(d) U Min Htut	Director-General Internal Revenue Department Ministry of Finance
(e) Daw Yin Yin Mya	Managing Director Myanma Economic Bank Ministry of Finance

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as the heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Swe Tun	Director-General Deputy Director-General Department of Civil Aviation Ministry of Transport
(b) U Kyaw Myint	Managing Director General Manager (Deputy Director-General) Myanma Port Authority Ministry of Transport

MOAI, Mitsui Co., of Japan discuss to make agricultural investment in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—A meeting between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation-MOAI and the Mitsui Company of Japan on Thursday was held to discuss construction of modern rice mills, production of advanced agricultural products and investment in rice production at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mr Kazuo NAKAYAMA, Executive Managing Officer, Chief Operating Officer of Food Resources Business Units of Mitsui Company of Japan said:

"This is the third time for the work coordination meeting on making investment in Myanmar's agriculture sector and the company welcomes the Ministry's assistance." Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said the Ministry will provide full assistance to the company to construct rice mills and make investment according to law, rules and regulations. The Japanese company joined the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation-MAPCO for making the agricultural investment.—MNA

Farmers to get agricultural loans at 5% interest rate

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—The Myanma Economic Bank under the Ministry of Finance disbursed K 1156.052 billion as agricultural loans to farmers in 2013-14 fiscal year. This year, a plan is underway to deliver the loans to farmers in June of 2014-15 cultivation season.

In the past, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank issued agriculture

loans to farmers. In 2014-15 fiscal year, MEB will present K 983.577 billion to the farmers under supervision of region and state governments. Now, the government will collect 5% interest per year for the loan.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation urged the farmers to pay back the loans to the government in time.

MOAI

President U Thein Sein meets ASEAN Labour Ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—President U Thein Sein held a meeting with ASEAN Labour Ministers who attended the 23rd ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting-ALMM at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

With ASEAN's massive labour force amounting to 285 million, top on the agenda was job creation, developing the quality of the workforce and providing social security to the workers.

Since 2000, ASEAN's work on labour and human resources has been guided by the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) which is held every two years.

framework to prepare the region's labour force to deal with globalisation and trade liberalisation.

In collaboration with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, a number of activities and various studies have been completed, are on-going or being prepared by ASEAN. ASEAN has worked with Dialogue Partners in several areas such as Industrial Relations, Social Protection, and Human Resource Development.

ASEAN's effort on labour is led by the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) which is held every two years.

MNA/ASEAN



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with ASEAN Labour Ministers.—MNA

Vice President calls for protection of migrant workers at 23rd ALMM

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham held the opening speech of the 23rd ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw, calling on member states to strengthen cooperation in order to protect migrant workers.

ASEAN governments are working together to protect migrant workers, but enhanced cooperation among

employers, migrant workers, international organizations and non-governmental organizations is required, he said.

The meeting was attended by labour ministers and deputy ministers, vice secretary general of the ASEAN Secretariat, ambassadors, the assistant director-general of the ILO and senior officials.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with delegates to 23rd ALMM.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun in Manila for WEF on East Asia

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Vice-President U Nyan Tun left Yangon for the Philippines by air on Wednesday morning to attend the 23rd World Economic Forum on East Asia, which is due to take place in Metro Manila from 21 to 23 May, sources said.

The vice-president addressed an informal talk on Myanmar's reform held at Shangri-La Hotel on Tuesday, following an introductory speech by Mr Klaus Schwab, chairman of World Economic Forum on East Asia.

In an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing global environment, our economies and societies have become more and more interlinked and interdependent with each other. We are experiencing challenges and opportunities not only at national level but also at regional and global scale.

I would like to touch upon the progress of transformation in Myanmar. As we are aware, transformation is a crucial tool for a country's development. In doing so, political stability and de-

velopment of infrastructure are the most fundamental factors for ensuring and enhancing the development of a country.

Keeping in mind the importance of peace as a prerequisite for development, we have adopted new approach and policies on peace-building. We have secured ceasefire agreement with 14 armed ethnic groups. Recently, we have agreed on a single text for a nationwide ceasefire and peace agreement which, I hope, will soon lead to permanent peace in every corner of the country.

In political front, all reforms measures have been taken with an inclusive and participatory approach together with greater transparency and sense of accountability. With this approach, we are able to bring all stakeholders together in our political life. To ensure political stability, we are building a more predictable political system and we are witnessing a new political culture of dialogue which is taking root within our society. Additionally, measures such as granting amnesties are also consoli-

dating confidence in our national reconciliation efforts.

I believe that Myanmar is now on the right track to a democratic society. In order to promote and protect the rights of people, a sound legal system must be in place first. The Government has been undertaking ten programmes of legislation since it took office such as: (1) Amendment of regulations to be in line with the Constitution; (2) Submission of bills that guarantee basic rights of citizens; (3) Amendment of public health and social welfare laws.

We also take into serious consideration of economic reforms that are necessary to sustain the political stability. Moreover, the government has adopted the Framework on Economic and Social Reform — FESR with a people-centered approach to enhance economic development and to raise the living standard of Myanmar people. This framework is an essential policy tool of the government to realize both the short-term and long-term objectives on economic and social priorities in Myanmar.



Vice-President U Nyan Tun speaking at informal meeting on reform process in Myanmar.—MNA

It also serves as a good reference for various entities of government to develop more detailed sectoral and regional plans. It is also a guideline for building lasting cooperation with international development partners for mutual benefits. Moreover, we have re-established our engagements with the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank.

All these efforts have led Myanmar to 7.3% GDP growth in 2012-2013. We are now projecting a 9.1% GDP growth for 2013-2014.

In the months to come, the Government will focus on seven priority areas and

implement projects such as electricity, water supply, agriculture sector development, job creation, tourism development, financial sector and trade and investment development that will directly benefit our people.

To achieve effective implementation in these priority areas, we are encouraging private sector participation and are creating conducive environment for foreign investors. To protect the interest of domestic and foreign enterprises, we have promulgated Myanmar Foreign Investment Law. The regulatory body, Myanmar Investment Commission was reinstituted with clear

and transparent procedures. Investor's interest in Myanmar is growing and foreign investment is flowing into the country with the amount of US\$ 4.1 billion for the fiscal year of 2013-2014. Myanmar is a country endowed with excellent investment potentials. In order to exploit such potentials, we are introducing concepts of sharing prosperity, equitable and accountable development and inclusive green growth.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun met Chairman of the Board of Mitsubishi Corporation Yorihiro Kojima and his delegation at Shangri-La Hotel.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council member inspects progress of Pyinmana Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Myint Aung Than inspected drains in wards of Pyinmana Township on Tuesday.

The committee member instructed officials to construct brick drains for 2,000-feet long drains in the locomotive shed in Yanaung Ward 2, and 11,000-feet long drains on both sides of U Pwar Street and Okkyin Ward, as well as 5,000-feet long drains near the Agricultural Institute.

He also looked into progress made at Rubber Dam on Ngaleik Creek in Shwechi Ward.



Rubber Dam has been completed by 60 per cent and will upon completion be of benefit for Pyinmana

residents, officials said.

Shwe Kokko

YCDC officials visit markets in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area



NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—A team led by the head of the Animals and Slaughter Department of Yangon City Development Committee visited a similar

department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee on Wednesday.

Deputy Director U Khaing Soe Latt of the department of Nay Pyi Taw

Development Committee and visitors from YCDC viewed the fish and meat shops at Arharathukha Market in Pyinmana, with market manager U Maung Maung conducting the tour.

The officials were informed about the sales by meat and fish shops in the area.

Yuzana Market in Pyinmana has 12 rooms for the wholesale of meat and fish. As of June this year, the wholesale shops will distribute meat and fish to the markets in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

*Min Min Latt
(Mann Tekkatho)*

Brahminy bird statue and new park under construction in downtown Bago

BAGO, 22 May—Bago is getting two new attractions, officials have said, with a statue of a pair of Brahminy birds—the symbol of Bago — and a park being built in front of No 3 Basic Education High School in downtown. The statue and park are located in front of the western wall and moat built by King Bayintnaung.

Officials hope the move will attract even more visitors as Bago Region is famed for ancient cultural heritages and has been attracting a large number of tourists.

Meanwhile, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum said it working on preserving the Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago.

San Lin (Bago)

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Officials check development in Hsipaw Tsp



HSIPAW, 22 May—Vice-Chairman of Shan State Development Committee U Sai Hsaing Pu and the responsible officer of the Shan State Development Affairs Department (Lashio) U Nay Lin on Tuesday inspected process of development tasks, buildings and shops, and drains in Hsipaw.

In a meeting with township level officials, they gave instructions on the implementation of projects funded by the Shan State government for the development of Hsipaw Township and solving the problems of squatted buildings and shops in the public area.

Hsipaw Ko Latt

Two houses destroyed in landslides in Katha Tsp

KATHA, 22 May—Rising water levels recently eroded the bank at Daunggyi Village of Katha Township, Sagaing Region.

River erosion caused landslides in the village, destroying two houses.

Some residents managed to move their belongings to a safer place so “there was no injury,” according to Daw Tin Ngwe of Daunggyi Village.

Sagaing Region Hluttaw MP U Sein Tun and of-

ficials on Tuesday inspected the damaged caused by the landslides and met some of the victims. They allotted land plots to the families and provided K 35,000 to each family.

District IPRD



Trade fair in NyaungU attracts large number of visitors

NYAUNGU, 22 May—Golden Lion Co., organized a trade fair and festival on the ground of Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU of Mandalay Region from 21 to 25 May. The trade fair showcased various kinds of personal goods, foodstuffs, textiles and other products, attracting a large number of locals. Highlight of the fair were music and fashion shows on Wednesday, organizers said.—*Kyaw Htay*



LOCAL NEWS

Pyinmana Township CRC focuses on child rights



NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Pyinmana Township Committee of the Rights of the Child held a meeting at the hall of Township General Administration Department on Thursday morning. Secretary of the committee Head of Township Social Welfare Department Daw Sanda Sein explained the formation of

the committee and its duty and functions.

Daw Thida Sein of UNICEF explained that the committee must protect the children against sexual abuse, ignorance and exploitation in line with the laws, rules and regulations.

The committee must supervise the activity to give talks on prevention against exploitation and trafficking in persons over the children and to take action against those who offended such crimes over the children.

The township committee was formed with 21 members including departmental officials, those NGOs and townsenders.

Shwekokko

Thameehla Lake benefits locals in Myittha Tsp



MYITTHA, 22 May—King Anawrahta built Thameehla Lake, west of Yitkan Village, near Myingyan-Myittha-Mandalay Road in Myittha Township.

The four miles long and two miles wide lake benefits the local people with job opportunity and businesses.

Those residing near

the lake successfully cultivate paddy, sesame, chilli, onion, green gram, banana and betel.

Some local fishermen catch fish in the lake and sell them to the village. They can fetch K 2500 per viss of fish and earn about K 5000 per day from fishery, said a local from Kyayedwin Village.—Kyaw Htay

1st International Medical, Hospital and Pharmaceutical Exhibition kicks off

YANGON, 22 May—The 1st International Medical, Hospital and

Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon on Wednesday.

It was jointly organized by Myanmar Pharmaceutical & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association-MPMEEA and Vinesead NMT Ltd.

International medical and pharmaceuticals companies showcased their products such as laboratory equipment, hospital equipment and medical ware, healthcare products, medical books from Vietnam, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Poland, Malaysia, the USA, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and India.

Thant Zin Win

Jaggery production declines in Pakokku region



PAKOKKU, 22 May—Although there are over hundreds of thousands of toddy palm plants in over 5000 toddy plantations in Pakokku Township of Magway Region, the number of toddy farmers is lesser day by day.

Yezagyo, Myaing and Pakokku townships send jaggery to Mandalay, Yan-

gon and deltaic regions by car and by boat yearly.

Lesser number of labour for toddy farms is based on low price of jaggery. Some local people went overseas to hunt the jobs, said a local of Chin-yagon Village.

A toddy farmer must collect toddy liquid from about 100 plants to make it become seven viss of jaggery. Before the Second World War, there were 127,739 acres of toddy palm plants.

In 1940-41, over 2,350,000 toddy palm plants produced 30 million viss of jaggery, said a jaggery merchant.

In Pakokku region, one viss of jaggery is sold at K 950. Jaggery trading reached K 760 per viss on 20 May. Production of jaggery declined in Pakokku this year due to lesser number of toddy farmers.

Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

Pyay District IPRD fulfills reading requirements of local bookworms

PYAY, 22 May—Pyay District Information and Public Relations Department has installed the device of public digital library service in front of Shwephonepint Pitakat Library on Lanmadaw Road in Pyay on Wednesday.

The device stores over 6000 copies of books for readers who can apply mobile phones, laptops, tablets and notebook for reading through WiFi service. The reader can apply download for the books in 650 metres radius area.

"We do not need to borrow the books from the shop. Now, we can read the e-book from the device of public digital library service," said a driver of trishaw from the stand near My-

oma market.

"We may download the e-books. We can read the books at taxi stand. I thank the officials for their initiatives," said taxi driver Ko Zaw Naing from the Padaung bus terminal.

Over 100 readers arrive at the library of the District IPRD daily. Those who have no chance to visit the library can download the e-books from the device of public digital library service with the use of their electronic equipment.

Staff of the department will inform the people of application for downloading the e-books, said the head of District IPRD and the librarian of Shwephonepint Library.

Pyay District IPRD

Yinmabin's farmers smile for good price of sesame

YINMABIN, 22 May—White sesame, red sesame and Japan white sesame plantations are thriving in the five-acre farmlands of U Tin Win in Yinmabin Township of Sagaing Region.

The plantations are irrigated from the artesian wells sunk in the township through the 99-artesian well sinking project.

"Seeds of sesame for one acre cost about K 5000. Water is supplied to the sesame plantations from the artesian well and plantations are fed with T-super fertilizer and other inputs. So, cultivation for one-acre sesame cost about K 40,000. However, sesame fetches good price, hence the farmers are to focus on cultivation of sesame," said farmer U Tin Win.

"After the sesame, I will grow paddy and wheat. I harvested sesame in June

and July last year. I got K 60,000 per basket of sesame. I believe price of sesa-

me will be good this year," he added.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



Libyan renegade general challenges government as clashes rock Tripoli

ABYAR, 22 May — A Libyan renegade general called on the government to hand over power to the country's top judges, mounting a challenge against Tripoli as heavy fighting erupted in the capital on Wednesday.

Western powers fear a call by General Khalifa Haftar for army units to join his campaign will split the nascent military and trigger more turmoil in the oil producing country which is struggling to restore order three years after the fall of strongman Muammar Gaddafi.

The government is unable to control the militias who helped oust Muammar Gaddafi in a NATO-backed 2011 uprising but are now defying authority.

"I call on the top judicial council to form a crisis government to oversee the next elections," said the retired general, dressed in uniform and surrounded by senior officers.

The council is independent and is one of the few state bodies respected



A firefighter stands near smoke and rubble of buildings damaged after explosions that took place at midnight, in the Salaheddin district of Tripoli on 21 May, 2014. —REUTERS

by normal Libyans tired of anarchy and militias.

Haftar said government and parliament had lost any legitimacy because they were unable to purge the OPEC producer of ex-

tremists roaming around unchallenged.

His campaign got a boost after Libya's top air defence commander declared support for his campaign which kicked off on

Friday with a strike against Ansar Sharia and other militant groups in the eastern city of Benghazi.

Culture Minister Habib Amin also announced his backing, the first

government minister to join Haftar's forces. He said parliament had failed to fight "terrorists", echoing Haftar's rhetoric.

"I don't recognise the (General National

Congress (assembly) anymore," Amin told *Reuters*.

Tripoli residents reported several loud explosions early on Wednesday near the al-Yarmouk air defence barracks after air defence top commander Juma al-Abani released a video message saying he was joining "Operation Dignity", Haftar's campaign against Islamists.

Heavy fighting involving anti-aircraft machine guns mounted on trucks also broke out overnight near an army camp in Tajoura, an eastern suburb, witnesses said.

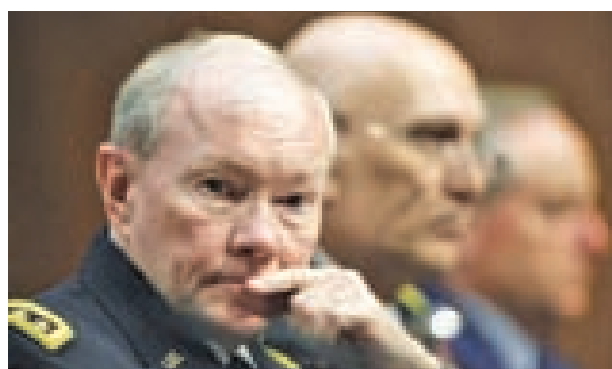
The city was quiet by dawn.

At least two people from Mali died in the fighting, a health ministry source said.

Compounding the political chaos, state news agency LANA said on Wednesday the interior ministry had also joined Haftar's campaign, a report that was dismissed minutes later by the acting interior minister.

Reuters

US-Egypt military ties will depend on Egypt's actions: US general



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff US Army General Martin Dempsey listens to testimonies from fellow service chiefs during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Defence Department proposals relating to military compensation, on Capitol Hill in Washington on 6 May, 2014. —REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 22 May — The future of US military ties with Egypt, curtailed after a crackdown on opponents by the army-backed leaders, will depend on the actions of the future government, the top US military officer said ahead of Egyptian elections next week. "I think we should maintain a relationship with the US military and Egyptian military. I think that that relationship will be affected by their actions and whether they make progress on their political transition," said General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint

Chiefs of Staff.

"I think that (the military-to-military) relationship should largely be defined by our common interests. We have a lot of common interests in particular in countering terror," Dempsey told a small group of reporters during a visit to Brussels for talks with NATO officials.

Although presidential elections on Monday and Tuesday could provide the country's leaders new legitimacy, many Obama administration officials question whether Egypt should again become the premier

US partner in the Arab world.

US support for Cairo was upended by the political transformations triggered by the 2011 popular uprising that toppled President Hosni Mubarak.

Last month, the Obama administration announced it would resume some military assistance suspended when the Egyptian army ousted the elected Islamist president, Mohamed Mursi, last year. Washington also said it would provide attack helicopters to help Egypt fight militants based in the Sinai peninsula.

General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is expected to become Egypt's next president, told *Reuters* last week the West risked letting militant groups in places like Egypt, Libya and Syria spread beyond the region if it did not act decisively to help fight them. Dempsey spoke of common Egyptian and US interests in fighting militants, pointing to the growing threat in the Sinai peninsula and from the turmoil in neighbouring Libya.

US officials say last month's move to resume some aid was a calibrated

step to help Egypt fight insurgents rather than a sign of tolerance for the harsh treatment of dissent.

Egypt has cracked down on the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist party that propelled Mursi to power, and other opposition groups. Western officials have condemned mass death sentences passed on Brotherhood supporters.

The Obama administration has repeatedly criticized such actions and continues to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars more in aid, along with other hardware that Egypt had requested, including Harpoon missiles and fighter jets.

Dempsey said he was confident Egypt would use the sophisticated US weapons for their intended purpose and that Washington would check that they were not used to commit rights abuses.

"If they were to use them for purposes that violated the end-use agreement, then we have the ability to interdict the supply chain and that system would not be much use to them any longer," Dempsey said.

Reuters

Syrian al-Qaeda reach foothills of Israeli-held Golan

AMMAN, 22 May — Atop the hill of Tel Ahmar just a few kilometres from Israeli forces on the Golan Heights, Syrian Islamist fighters hoist the al-Qaeda flag and praise their mentor Osama bin Laden. One of the men, a leader of al-Qaeda's Nusra Front, compares their battlefield — a lush agricultural region where dead soldiers lie on the ground near a charred Soviet-era tank — with the struggle their comrades waged years ago in Afghanistan.

"This view reminds us of the lion of the mujahideen, Osama bin Laden, on the mountains of Tora Bora," he can be heard saying in a video posted by the group, which shows the fighters in sight of Israeli jeeps patrolling the fortified frontier. Last month's capture of the post was followed days later by the seizure of the Syrian army's 61 Infantry Brigade base near the town of Nawa, one of the biggest rebel gains in the south during the three years of Syria's war.

The advances are important not just because they expand rebel control

close to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and the Jordanian border, but because President Bashar al-Assad's power base in Damascus lies just 40 miles (65 km) to the north.

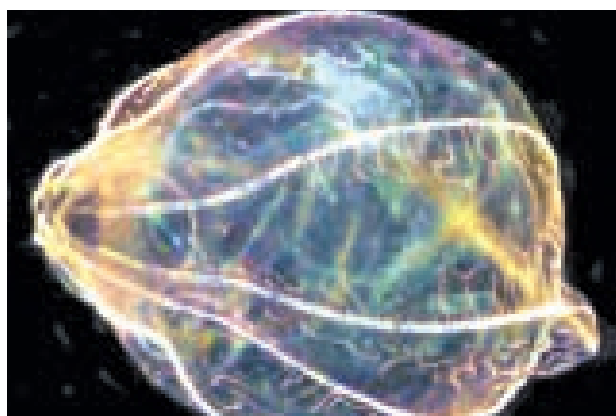
They have brought heavy retaliation from Assad's forces, including aerial bombardment. The army has also sent elite troop reinforcements to the south in recent days after rebels pulled out of Homs city, relieving pressure on the army there. The reinforcements reflect Assad's determination, on the eve of a June 3 presidential election likely to extend his power for another seven years, not to lose control of the towns of Nawa and Quneitra in the Golan foothills.

Rebels last year briefly took the Quneitra border crossing with Israel and now control many rural villages in the area.

"The regime has rung alarm bells, fearing that the fall of Nawa and Quneitra could open an axis towards Damascus," said Brigadier General Assad Zoubi, who headed an air force academy before defecting in early 2012. —*Reuters*

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Brains of simple sea animals could help cure neural disorders



A comb jelly is pictured in this undated handout photo courtesy of Whitney laboratory for Marine Biosciences, University of Florida. —REUTERS

ORALNDO, (Fla), 22 May — A Florida scientist studying simple sea animals called comb jellies has found the road map to a new form of brain development that could lead to treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. "There is more than one way to make a brain," University of Florida researcher Leonid Moroz, who led an international research team, told Reuters.

Moroz said his research,

published on Wednesday in a report in the magazine Nature, also places comb jelly-like creatures on the road map to a new form of brain development that could lead to treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. Moroz said that finding should lead to a reclassification of the animal kingdom's "tree of life" and reshape two centuries of zoological thought.

Comb jellies are

different from common jellyfish. Moroz said his team found that comb jellies' molecular makeup and the way they developed was radically different — although still complex — from all other animals, involving different genes and neural transmitters. Traditional scientific reasoning has held that simple nerve nets evolved all the way up to a human level of complexity along a single path. But it now appears that comb jellies took a different route, using neurochemical language that does not exist in other animals.

"All other animals have the same chemical language and these guys have completely different language. It's not only different grammar. It's a different alphabet," Moroz said. Comb jellies, for example, don't use dopamine, implicated in Parkinson's disease, to control brain activity. They also can regenerate their brains in less than four days. In one experiment, a comb jelly regenerated its brain four times. — Reuters

Deutsche Bank to defend capital increase at annual meeting

FRANKFURT, 22 May — Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE) will defend plans to raise 8 billion euros (\$11 billion) in equity on Thursday when management stands before shareholders at an annual general meeting, less than a week after announcing the surprise plan. Germany's largest bank launched the capital increase in a surprise move only weeks after first hinting that it was unable to retain enough profit to fortify its finances ahead of a regulatory health check slated for later this year.

Shareholder approval is not required but some investors will express anger with the issue and with the lack of progress on resolving a long list of investigations

that has dogged the bank since the 2008-2009 financial crisis. "With the capital hike, the bank builds an extra cushion so that it is better prepared for the ECB test," said Stefan Best, managing director at Standard & Poor's in Frankfurt.

Announcing the hike, Deutsche diluted and delayed its turnaround targets originally set for 2015, pleading for patience as the bank, like many of its rivals, struggles to restructure and restore profitability.

Management has pointed to "tectonic shifts" that have opened opportunities in investment banking. European rivals UBS (UBSN.VX) and Barclays (BARC.L) have withdrawn from areas

such as bond trading where Deutsche believes it can succeed as a big European player on a stage dominated by US rivals like Goldman Sachs (GS.N) and JPMorgan (JPM.N).

"Whether Deutsche Bank comes out of the

financial crisis as a winner in investment banking remains to be seen," Best said.

Separately, management will ask shareholders to approve a proposal permitting senior staff to receive bonuses worth twice base pay. —Reuters



The headquarters of Deutsche Bank are pictured in Frankfurt on 29 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS

GM adds 284,000 older cars as number of US recalls this year hits 29

DETROIT/WASHINGTON, 22 May — General Motors Co is recalling more than 284,000 older Chevrolet small cars in the United States and other markets because of a potential fire hazard, bringing US recalls at the automaker this year to 29 and a record number of vehicles.

The two recalls are the latest announced by GM, the largest US automaker. The recall with the highest profile was of cars with

defective ignition switches linked to at least 13 deaths.

The Detroit company has been criticized by safety advocates and fined by US safety regulators for its delayed response in catching the faulty switch.

A day after recalling 2.6 million vehicles globally, most of them in the United States, GM is recalling 284,913 Chevrolet Aveo and Optra cars in the United States and other markets from model years

2004 to 2008.

The problem with the cars stems from a faulty part in their daytime running lights that could overheat and cause a fire, according to documents filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

GM said it was aware of some fires related to the problem but did not say how many. It said there were no reports of injuries or fatalities.

Meanwhile, GM Chief Executive Mary Barra met on Wednesday with Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, who chairs a Senate panel investigating GM's ignition switch recall, as well as other Democratic lawmakers including Senator Charles Schumer of New York, Senator Edward Markey of Massachusetts, Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado and Rep. John Dingell of Michigan. — Reuters

Lloyds sues RBS for \$709 million over rights issue

LONDON, 22 May — Lloyds Banking Group is joining a class-action lawsuit against government-owned Royal Bank of Scotland, seeking 420 million pounds (\$709 million) over the bank's handling of its 12-billion-pound rights issue, the Herald Scotland newspaper reported.

The Scottish daily said on Wednesday that Lloyds is suing RBS through nine of its pensions and investment management subsidiaries along with 40,000 individual and institutional

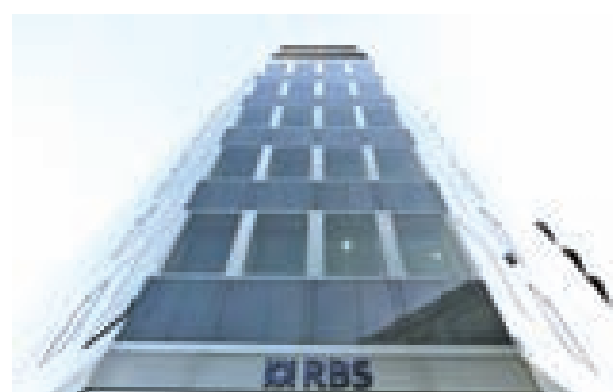
investors already seeking redress from RBS.

Hundreds of investors had previously joined an unprecedented group legal action against RBS, alleging they were misled during an emergency cash call in 2008, and claiming damages of about 4 billion pounds (\$6.7 billion).

RBoS Action Group, which represents the largest group of shareholders, last week filed claims and said it would lodge more this week. "The management in the relevant insurance

businesses gave careful consideration as to whether it was in the interests of policyholders to join the legal proceedings and decided it was in their best interests," the Herald Scotland cited a spokesman for Lloyds insurance arm, Scottish Widows, as saying.

The newspaper counted Lloyds entities that filed papers to sue RBS earlier this week as Scottish Widows Plc, Scottish Widows Unit Fund Ltd, Pensions Management Ltd, Scottish Widows Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Clerical Medical Investments Group, Halifax Life, Clerical Medical Management Fund Ltd, HBOS Investment Fund Managers Ltd and St Andrews Life Assurance. 15 May marked the six-year anniversary of when the shares RBS sold in its emergency rights issue began trading and could be the cut-off point under British law after which damage claims can no longer be accepted. — Reuters



A sign is seen outside a Royal Bank of Scotland building in central London on 28 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

Too little sleep can affect many aspects of young kids' health

NEW YORK, 22 May — In a new study, children who regularly got too little sleep had worse physical, emotional and social health than those who slept the average amount.

"Sleep is important for a lot of reasons, and can influence health and well-being and cognitive functioning," said lead author Christopher A Magee. "The typical sleep pattern appeared to have the best outcomes as measured in this paper," he told Reuters Health in an email.

But since this is a relatively new area of research, the researchers can't say

for sure that this pattern of sleep causes better health and wellbeing, said Magee, of the University of Wollongong in Australia.

Genetics do influence the regulation of sleep, but the results suggest that environmental and social factors, like household financial hardship, may play a role as well, he said.

The researchers used Medicare Australia data from a group of almost 3,000 children to track the kids' health and quality of life at four points between birth and seven years of age.

Reuters



The 2007 Chevrolet Aveo makes its global debut at the 2006 Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles, California in this file photo taken on 5 Jan, 2006. — REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 May, 2014

Measures to reduce poverty

By Myint Win Thein

Myanmar is taking measures to reduce poverty from the current level to between 26 and 16 percent in 2015. In other words, urgent efforts are required to achieve this goal and to reduce poverty by up to 10 percent during 2014.

It is easier said than done to reduce poverty. There are many challenges to establish good liv-

ing conditions for those who struggle to survive. There are several measures for poverty reduction, namely upgrading infrastructure and guaranteeing water and electricity supply, construction of schools, hospitals and roads and creating financial capital to set up businesses for people. If these measures are implemented effectively, poverty will be reduced considerably.

At present, measures are being taken to for the development of rural regions including underdeveloped border areas. Infrastructures such as roads, schools, hospitals, clinics, etc. are being built, repaired or upgraded with added momentum, officials claim. At the same time, measures are reportedly being taken to improve availability of clean drinking water and electricity in the rural areas.

In addition, the Ministry of Cooperative is ac-

celerating its efforts to lend financial capitals to low-income families in rural areas and is selling farm machinery such as tractors, winnowing machines and sewing machines, motor vehicles, motorcycles and trishaws in installments.

The Ministry of Cooperatives has lent around K145 billion for financial capital to people and has sold a total of 4,765 farming machineries with an installments payment system.

The more effectively the above-mentioned measures are implemented, the faster poverty can be reduced.

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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 14/2014

9th Waning of Kason, 1376 ME(22nd May, 2014)

Ten representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Lower House Election Law to substitute ten representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following ten Lower House of representatives under the Notification No. 1/2011 of the

commission dated 20-1-2011, the Notification No. 2/2012 of the commission dated 6-1-2012, the Notification No. 22/2012 of the commission dated 22-4-2012, the Notification No. 41/2012 of the commission dated 16-10-2012, the Notification No. 6/2013 of the commission dated 11-3-2013, the Notification No. 16/2013 of the commission dated 24-6-2013 and the Notification No. 27/2013 of the commission dated 27-9-2013.

The Lower House representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) BC 20255 | BC 18086 |
| Brig-Gen Kyaw Shwe | Col Tin Soe |
| (2) BC 27015 | BC 24091 |
| Lt-Col Aung Myat Thein | Lt-Col Aung Min Swe |
| (3) BC 27066 | BC 25227 |
| Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Lin | Lt-Col Tet Tun |

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| (4) BC 27439 | BC 27409 |
| Lt-Col Thant Zin | Lt-Col Naing Win |
| (5) Navy 3626 | Navy 3847 |
| Cdr Kyaw Kyaw | Lt-Cdr Nyi Nyi Tun |
| (6) Navy 3779 | Navy 4111 |
| Cdr Soe Naing | Lt-Cdr Kyaw Thura |
| (7) BC 27506 | BC 34892 |
| Major Tin Tun | Major Moe Myint Aung |
| (8) BC 31594 | BC 37188 |
| Major Kyaw Soe Min | Major Zin Myo Hlaing |
| (9) BC 33184 | BC 37241 |
| Major Tin Kyaw Oo | Major San Yu Thein |
| (10) Navy 3649 | Navy 4038 |
| Lt-Cdr Than Zaw Oo | Lt-Cdr Aye Min Soe |

By Order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. 15/2014

9th Waning of Kason, 1376 ME(22nd May, 2014)

Eight representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Upper House Election Law to substitute eight representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scru-

tinized and substituted the following eight Upper House of representatives under the Notification No. 2/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011, the Notification No. 23/2012 of the commission dated 22-4-2012, the Notification No. 13/2013 of the commission dated 12-6-2013, the Notification No. 17/2013 of the commission dated 24-6-2014 and the Notification No. 28/2013 of the commission dated 27-9-2013.

The Upper House representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| (1) BC 28284 | BC 28274 |
| Lt-Col Myo Thit Oo | Lt-Col Thein Lwin |
| (2) BC 28148 | BC 26991 |
| Lt-Col Zaw Lin | Lt-Col Myint Win |

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (3) Navy 3606 | Navy 4154 |
| Cdr Kyaw Kyaw Htoo | Lt-Cdr Ko Ko |
| (4) BC 23270 | BC 24108 |
| Major Zaw Myint | Major Aung Thet Myint |
| (5) BC 32372 | BC 31776 |
| Major Win Kyaw Kyaw | Major Maung Maung |
| (6) BC 30426 | BC 34500 |
| Major Aung Naing Oo | Major Kyaw Thet Oo |
| (7) BC 25168 | BC 35600 |
| Major Khin Maung Cho | Major Than Zaw Tun |
| (8) BC 28310 | BC 35354 |
| Major Myo Aung | Major Thein Lwin Htay |

By Order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission



Myanmar Hockey Federation President U Htin Zaw Win presents championship trophy to Yangon Command team in Hockey League.

Yangon Command clinches title in Hockey League

YANGON, 22 May—The 11th National Sports Committee Chairman Cup Hockey League reached the final match that was held at Theinbyu Hockey Turf Pitch in Yangon on Thursday afternoon.

In the final match, Yangon Command team emerged champion with a 3-0 win over Central Command team.

Yangon Command team secured the championship, followed by Sky Wings and Central Command team.

Officials of the Myan-

mar Hockey Federation presented prizes to the winning teams and best player awards in respective places to the winners.

President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win gave the championship trophy to Yangon Command team.

Than Swe (Pabedan)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (22-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K662,500 per tical: Selling K663,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K662,500 per tical: Selling K663,000

FE RATE

USD Buying K 963 - Selling K 967.5

SGD Buying K 765 - Selling K 773

Euro Buying K 1315 - Selling K 1330

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ THE TWENTY THIRD ASEAN LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING (23rd ALMM) 22 MAY 2014, NAY PYI TAW, MYANMAR

1. The Twenty Third ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (23rd ALMM) was convened on 22 May 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It was preceded by the Seventh ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (7th ACMW) and Tenth ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (10th SLOM) on 17-20 May 2014. The 23rd ALMM adopted the theme, “Enhancing Competitive Labour Force for Harmonious, Progressive and Prosperous Workplace”.

2. The Opening Ceremony of the 23rd ALMM was officiated by H.E. Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In his Opening Speech, the Vice President welcomed all the Ministers and delegates of ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries to the 23rd ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting and related meetings. He underscored the importance of cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries for the successful implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme. He stressed the importance of competitive and productive labour force for the fulfillment of social and economic objectives of ASEAN Member States. He underscored that promotion of systematic skills development programmes and skills recognition are crucial as ASEAN move towards its vision for a free flow of skilled labour within the region. He noted the significant cooperation among ASEAN Member States in protecting and promoting the rights of migrant workers. He encouraged for further cooperation with other stakeholders including international organizations, employers’ and workers’ organizations and NGOs to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers. He also stressed the need to protect the rights of migrant workers in accordance with the relevant international treaties.

3. The 23rd ALMM was attended by the ASEAN Labour Ministers / Head of Delegation from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and their respective delegations. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and staff representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of Ministers / Head of Delegation is enclosed.

4. The Ministers in attendance paid a courtesy call to H.E. Thein Sein, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Exchange of Views on Enhancing Competitive Labour Force for Harmonious, Progressive and Prosperous Workplace

5. The Ministers exchanged views and underlined that in building a competitive ASEAN labour force towards the ASEAN Community by 2015, the issues of labour market information, skills mismatch, skills development, life-long learning, skills recognition and national qualifications as well as promotion of sound industrial relations are common concerns and would need to be addressed by ASEAN through concerted efforts and close cooperation. The Ministers called ASEAN Member States to undertake strategies and efforts towards a productive, innovative and dynamic workforce, while supporting business and industries to creating good jobs and harmonious workplace. The Ministers also acknowledged the need for ASEAN to remain united against global and regional challenges. The Ministers called for closer cooperation amongst ASEAN Member States and with Dialogue Partners, international organizations, tripartite partners and other relevant parties in promoting human resources development.

Relevant Decisions of Other ASEAN Meetings

6. The Ministers took note of relevant decisions made by the Leaders at the 23rd and 24th ASEAN Summits held

on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, and on 11 May 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, respectively, and other related ASEAN Meetings convened since last year. The Ministers exchanged views on strategies to effectively implement those directives / relevant decisions concerning ASEAN cooperation in the labour sector.

Status and Monitoring of the ASCC Blueprint Implementation

7. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the implementation progress of the ASCC Blueprint, particularly on the Action Lines concerning labour issues, by SLOM and its subsidiary bodies. The Ministers agreed with the initiatives of the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) to accelerate the implementation of labour-related strategic objectives of the ASCC Blueprint through prioritisation of projects and activities to be carried out under the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme 2010-2015 in a timely and efficient manner.

8. The Ministers noted the adoption of the ASCC Blueprint Mid-Term Review Report by the Leaders at the 23rd ASEAN Summit. The Ministers were encouraged to note that about 90 percent of all Action Lines in the ASCC Blueprint have been addressed since 2009. The Ministers supported the MTR recommendations towards further enhancing the activities and mechanisms in the ASCC pillar.

9. The Ministers also expressed its support to the development of the ASEAN Community’s post-2015 vision. In this regard, the Ministers requested SLOM to develop its post-2015 strategic objectives towards the vision of a better quality of life and decent work for all, productive employment, skill development, competitive workforce, affordable and accessible social protection for all, and harmonious and progressive workplace.

10. The Ministers applauded SLOM for the completion of data collection for the set of indicators developed for the ASCC Scorecard to track the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint Strategic Objectives concerning the labour sector. The Ministers supported the initiative of SLOM to update the data to serve as feedback to the planned final evaluation of the ASCC Blueprint.

Implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme (2010-2015)

11. The Ministers noted the achievements made by SLOM and subsidiary bodies under the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme 2010-2015 since the 22nd ALMM held on 10 May 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Ministers lauded the initiatives and commitment of ASEAN Member States to lead the implementation of various projects and activities.

12. The Ministers took note of the results of the Workshop on Mid-term review of the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme 2010-2015 held in Da Lat, Viet Nam on 29-30 April 2014 and supported the recommendations of SLOM to accelerate implementation. The Ministers supported the initiative of SLOM to embark on initiatives to promote labour-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the region, strengthen the labour market information systems in ASEAN Member States, and enhance inter-sectoral dialogue to promote closer coordination and effective response to the impact of ASEAN economic integration to the labour sector.

13. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress made thus far in drafting the ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers by ASEAN Member States in accordance with the scope and timelines of the phased approach of the instrument drafting, and tasked the ACMW Drafting Team to sustain its momentum in these efforts to finalise the instrument drafting process by the end of 2014 and take necessary actions to facilitate timely finalisation.

14. The Ministers were satisfied to note the progress of

the operationalisation of the Plan of Action to Revitalize ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET) 2011-2016, including the development and regular updating of the ASEAN-OSHNET Scorecard, the First ASEAN-OSHNET Conference held on 8 May 2014 in Singapore, widening the ASEAN-OSHNET’s regional and international cooperation with new partners, and on-going effort to produce a publication to capture the work done to celebrate 15 years of the ASEAN-OSHNET in 2015. The Ministers also welcomed the development of the ASEAN-OSHNET Awards aimed at raising OSH profile in the region, and tasked SLOM to finalise the Terms of Reference.

15. The Ministers were also satisfied with the progress of work of the SLOM’s Working Group on Progressive Labour Practices to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN (SLOM-WG) under its current Work Plan 2010-2015. Various projects and activities have been completed, including the convening of the publication of the Second Comparative Study on Labour Laws and Practices, Third ASEAN Labour Inspection Conference held on 3-4 July 2013 in Bali, Indonesia, Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on Maternity Protection in the Workplace held on 6-7 May 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, Second Workshop on Decent Work for All held on 28 April 2014 in Da Lat, Viet Nam, Fifth Regional Seminar on Industrial Relations: “Social Dialogue and Labour Law Reform on the Legal and Regulatory Framework on the Employment Relationship” held on 28-29 February 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, as well as the First Organizing Committee Meeting was held 9-10 December 2013 in Ho Chi Minh and the First Technical Committee Meeting was held on 16-22 March 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, as preparations of the 10th ASEAN Skills Competition scheduled for October 2014 in Ha Noi.

16. The Ministers were pleased with the concrete initiatives of the Working Group on HIV Prevention and Control in the Workplace (SLOM-WG-HIV) undertaken thus far, including the development of the ASEAN Business Coalition on AIDS (ASEAN BCA) and ASEAN Red Ribbon for Outstanding Workplace Awards (ARROW), on-going initiative to compile good practices on the implementation of policies and programmes in the workplace on the prevention and management of HIV and AIDS in ASEAN Member States, and convening of the ASEAN Workshop on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace on 27-28 February 2014 in Singapore.

17. The Ministers endorsed the initiative of SLOM to streamline SLOM-WG-HIV under the ASEAN-OSHNET to allow more comprehensive response to the issue of HIV prevention and control in the workplace under the broader ambit of occupational safety and health.

Strengthening Labour Cooperation with Dialogue Partners and Other Entities

18. The Ministers agreed to strengthen the cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners in the labour sector and in support of the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015. The Ministers were pleased to note the significant achievements made under the framework of the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and were keen to foster the collaboration and explore new initiatives with the Plus Three countries under ALM’s Work Programme 2010-2015.

19. The Ministers reiterated ASEAN Member States’ continued interest to dialogue with and engage ASEAN Dialogue Partners, International Labour Organization (ILO) and other relevant organizations, employers’ and workers’ organizations, civil society and other relevant external parties to support the implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme 2010-2015.

24th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting

20. The Ministers agreed that the 24th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting would be held in Lao PDR in 2016.

21. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, particularly the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, for the warm hospitality extended to the ASEAN delegates and excellent arrangement of the Meeting.

Thai army stages coup after talks between rivals fail

BANGKOK, 22 May — Thailand's army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha took control of the government in a coup on Thursday saying the army had to restore order and push through reforms, two days after he declared martial law.

Prayuth made the announcement in a television broadcast after he held a meeting with all rival factions aimed at finding a solution to six months of anti-government protests.

"In order for the situation to return to normal quickly and for society to love and be at peace again ... and to reform the structure of the political, economic and social structure, the military needs to take control of power," Prayuth said in the televised announcement.

The broadcast came shortly after soldiers took the leader of anti-government protests, Suthep Thaugsuban, out of the meeting that was aimed at finding a solution to a drawn-out power struggle that has polarized the country and battered its economy.

The crisis is the latest installment in a long battle between supporters of ousted former Prime Min-



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha gestures during a news conference at The Army Club after the army declared martial law nationwide to restore order, in Bangkok on 20 May, 2014.

ister Thaksin Shinawatra and opponents backed by the royalist establishment.

The army had declared martial law on Tuesday, saying the measure was necessary to prevent violence, but it rejected accusations the measure amounted to a coup.

CALL FOR COMPROMISE

Prayuth had called on the two sides in a first round of talks on Wednesday to agree on a compromise that would have hinged around the appointment of an interim prime minister, political reforms and the timing of an election.

Wednesday's talks ended inconclusively with neither side backing down from their entrenched posi-

tions, participants said.

The army had let rival protesters remain on the

streets but it banned them from marching to prevent clashes. It has also clamped down on the media, including partisan television channels, and warned people not to spread inflammatory material on social media. After the coup announcement, a senior army official said troops would escort protests away from their rally sites.

Leaders of the ruling Puea Thai Party and the opposition Democrat Party, the Senate leader and the five-member Election Commission had joined the second round of talks at an

army base in Bangkok.

Acting Prime Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan told reporters before the talks that his government could not resign as its enemies were demanding as that would contravene the constitution.

"The government wants the problem solved in a democratic way which includes a government that comes from elections," he said.

Government officials were not available for comment after the coup announcement.

VIOLENT PROTESTS

Former telecommunications tycoon Thaksin has lived in self-exile since 2008 to avoid a jail term for graft, but still commands the loyalty of legions of rural and urban poor and exerts a huge influence over politics, most recently through a government run by his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra.

Yingluck was forced to step down as premier by a court two weeks ago, but her caretaker government remains nominally in power, despite the declaration of martial law and six months of sometimes violent protests aimed at ousting it. Thailand's gross domestic product contracted 2.1 percent in January-March from the previous three months, largely because of the unrest, adding to fears it is stumbling into recession. The protesters say Thaksin is a corrupt crony capitalist who commandeered Thailand's fragile democracy, using taxpayers' money to buy votes with populist giveaways.

They wanted a "neutral" interim prime minister to oversee electoral reforms aimed at ridding the country of the Shinawatra family's political influence before any new vote.—Reuters



Soldiers take up a position at a checkpoint on a main road near a pro-government 'red shirt' supporters' encampment in Nakhon Pathom Province on the outskirts of Bangkok on 22 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Terrorist attack kills 31, injures 94 at Urumqi market

URUMQI, 22 May — A market attack in Urumqi that left at least 31 dead and 94 injured on Thursday morning was terrorist violence, according to authorities. Two vehicles, without license plates, broke through roadside fences and plowed into people at an open air market at Park North Street near Renmin Park at 7:50 am and explosive devices were set off, said a statement issued by the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's publicity department.

In response to the attack, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to severely punish terrorists and spare no efforts in maintaining stability.

Xi asked local authorities to solve the case quickly, put the injured under proper care and offer

condolences to families of the victims. A work panel led by Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun has headed for Xinjiang to join the investigation.

All the injured were rushed to hospitals. The regional government has launched an emergency response system and organized medical efforts for treatment of the injured, said the statement. Witnesses said two off-road vehicles driving from north to south plowed into people in the market. Explosives were thrown before the vehicles exploded.

Many of the injured were elderly people who frequently visited the morning market, according to witnesses. A business owner in the market told Xinhua he heard a dozen big bangs.—Xinhua



Police officers stand guard near a blast scene, which has been cordoned off, in downtown Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 22 May, 2014.—XINHUA

Abu Sayyaf bomber captured in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (Philippines), 22 May — A bomb expert belonging to terrorist group Abu Sayyaf was captured by the government security forces on Thursday morning in southern Philippines, a security official said. Senior Inspector Joseph Ortega, police regional spokesman identified the suspect as Najir Ajilul who uses several aliases including Arab-Arab, Jamil and Abu Robin. Ajilul was arrested in a secluded village of Siocon town, Zamboanga del Norte Province. Ortega said Ajilul was the second Abu Sayyaf bomber who was captured in a week. Police said the suspect fired at approaching soldiers. Ajilul was cornered following a brief exchange of fire with the government security forces.

Troops recovered from the suspect a fragmentation grenade and his handgun, a .45 caliber pistol. Police said the suspect is a member of the Abu Sayyaf's urban terror group, the terrorist group's hit squad.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Technology reveals details of thousand-year-old mummies

LONDON, 22 May — The British Museum will unveil eight mummies from ancient Egypt and Sudan through high technology to visitors in London from Thursday on. At this new exhibition named Ancient Lives New Discoveries, the British Museum will display the bodies of the eight people who have been preserved naturally or by deliberate embalming, however, after scanned by the advanced CT scanner.

The exhibition will unlock hidden secrets of those people, as well as people's lives about 4,000 years ago that have never been revealed before.

"Those CT scans have been specially processed to produce amazing 3D images of the mummies what's inside them. So we can learn about how old these people were, what were their state of health, how were they mummified. Lots of interesting questions which we

do not get much information from written sources will be solved through the technology," said John Taylor, curator of Ancient Egypt and Sudan.

The eight mummies on this exhibition were selected from different places in Egypt and Sudan. They were from all walks of life and at different ages with different genders, including two children, a temple singer and a doorkeeper. Through the unprecedented innovation, scientists gained some unexpected developments.

One mummy, which is found in a woman's coffin and generally believed for hundreds of years to be female, was proved a man through latest CT scanners, while a spatula was found inside the skull of a female mummy, which was believed belonging to ancient Egyptian embalmers.

Xinhua

New Facebook feature will recognize, share users' music, TV shows



A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. — REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 May — Facebook Inc will add technology to its mobile apps that recognizes the music, movies or television shows its users are enjoying, in the company's latest move to give prominence to media and entertainment on its social network.

The new feature, which must be activated by the user and is off by default, would create a status update on Facebook that identifies the song a user is listening to and provide a 30-second preview of it that's available to the user's friends.

Facebook, which announced the move in a post on its official blog on Wednesday, is working with streaming music services Spotify, Rdio and Deezer to offer the music previews.

If a television show is detected, Facebook would

highlight the specific season and episode that the user is watching and share it in their news feed.

The new tool comes as Facebook is increasingly competing with Twitter Inc to become the main online venue where consumers discuss television shows, sports and other entertainment in real time.

The new feature activates the microphone on a smartphone and detects the music, movie or television show playing in the background, similar to the way the popular Shazam app works.

Once users activate the feature, the technology attempts to recognize the music or video playing in the background any time a Facebook user composes a status update.

Reuters

Qinghai-Tibet Plateau glaciers shrink 15 pct in 30 yrs

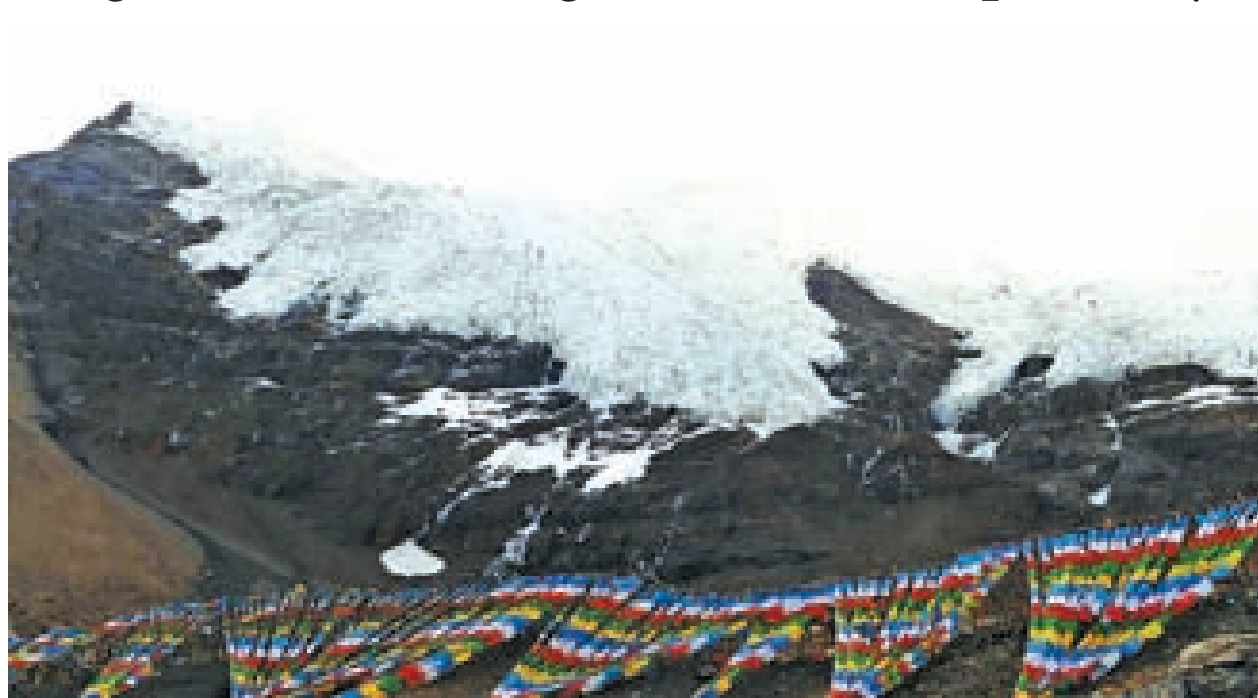


Photo taken on 20 April, 2014 shows the shrinking Karuola glacier, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. According to the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and surrounding areas have shrunk by 15 percent from 53,000 to 45,000 square kilometers over the past three decades. — XINHUA

LHASA, 22 May — Southwest China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the major source of the country's largest rivers, has seen its glaciers shrink rapidly over the past 30 years, a national research institute revealed on Wednesday.

According to the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), glaciers on the plateau and

surrounding areas have shrunk by 15 percent from 53,000 to 45,000 square kilometers over the past three decades. As the highest place in the world's mid-latitude regions, the plateau is more likely to be affected by global warming.

Kang Shichang, a state laboratory director with the Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute of CAS,

said glaciers in the plateau have been shrinking since the 20th century and speeded up since the 1990s.

More and bigger cracks have appeared in ice at regions of an altitude above 6,300 meters in Mount Qomolangma, a sign of rapidly melting glaciers, he said. China has more than 46,000 glaciers, mainly in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. They are a reliable indicator

of climate change, and easy for scientists to observe.

Kang said retreating glaciers have impacted meltwater rivers and led to more glacier-lake outbursts.

"It can increase water flow of major rivers in the short term, but in the long run, a continuation of the retreat will eventually deplete the glacial ice and substantially reduce or eliminate runoff," he added. — Xinhua

Hackers raid eBay in historic breach, access 145 million records

BOSTON, 22 May — eBay Inc said that hackers raided its network three months ago, stealing some 145 million user records from a database in what is poised to go down as one of the biggest data breaches in history based on the number of accounts compromised.

It advised customers to change their passwords immediately, saying they were among the pieces of data stolen by cyber criminals who carried out the attack between late February and early March.

eBay spokeswoman Amanda Miller told Reuters those passwords were encrypted and that the company had no reason to believe the hackers had broken the code that scrambled them.

"There is no evidence of impact on any eBay customers," Miller said. "We don't know that they decrypted the passwords because it would not be easy to do."

She said the hackers copied a massive user database that contained those passwords, as well as

email addresses, birth dates, mailing addresses and other personal information, but not financial data such as credit card numbers.

The company had earlier said a large number of accounts may have been compromised, but declined to say how many.

Security experts advised eBay customers to be on the alert for fraud, especially if they used the same passwords for other accounts. "This is not a

breach that only hurts eBay. This is a breach that hurts all websites," said Michael Coates, director of product security with Shape Security.

He said there is a significant risk that the hackers have or will unscramble those passwords. Companies typically only ask users to change passwords if they believe there is a reasonable chance attackers may unscramble encrypted passwords, he added.



John Donahoe, chief executive of eBay, speaks at the Reuters Global Technology Summit in San Francisco, on 17 June, 2013. — REUTERS

Once the passwords are unscrambled, attackers could use automated software that seeks to log into thousands of popular services, including Facebook, Twitter, popular email services and online banking sites, he said.

eBay said it had not seen any indication of increased fraudulent activity on its flagship site and that there was no evidence its PayPal online payment service had been breached.

eBay said the hackers got in after obtaining login credentials for "a small number" of employees, allowing them to access eBay's corporate network.

It discovered the breach in early May and immediately brought in security experts and law enforcement to investigate, Miller said. "We worked aggressively and as quickly as possible to insure accurate and thorough disclosure of the nature and extent of the compromise," Miller said when asked why the company had not immediately notified users. — Reuters

Court orders flight suspension at Atsugi base over plane noise

YOKOHAMA, 22 May — A Japanese court on Wednesday ordered the government to suspend nighttime flights by Self-Defence Force aircraft at a base near Tokyo due to excessive aircraft noise, but rejected the plaintiffs' demand to halt the flights of US military planes. The Yokohama District Court decision involving Atsugi air base marks the first time a ruling on the suspension of flights has been made since noise pollution suits involving air bases in Japan started being filed in the 1970s.

In the landmark decision, Presiding Judge Hiroyuki Samura said residents' health is "seriously affected" as a direct result of aircraft noise because their sleeping and other aspects of their daily lives are disturbed.

To ease their suffering, the court ordered the state to suspend flights of SDF aircraft daily from 10 pm to 6 am, with exceptions made for cases which the defense minister deems "necessary."

The ruling shocked the government, with Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera releasing a statement that the decision is "partially unacceptable" and that the government will respond properly.

A senior Defence Ministry official told *Kyodo News* that the government has no other choice but to



Plaintiffs celebrate in front of the Yokohama District Court in Kanagawa Prefecture on 21 May, 2014, after the court ordered the government to suspend nighttime flights by Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force at Atsugi base due to excessive aircraft noise. The base near Tokyo is jointly used by the US Navy and Japan's MSDF.

KYODO NEWS

appeal the ruling as it could affect SDF operations. The court's decision is a "step forward although not a 100 percent" victory, Eiji Fujita, the 80-year-old head of the plaintiffs, said after the ruling regarding Atsugi, which is jointly used by the US Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force.

The court also urged the state to pay about 7 billion yen in damages, which the Justice Ministry said is a record high for aircraft noise suits involving bases. The amount of compensation does not include future damages. The plaintiffs had asked for flights to be suspended from 8 pm to 8

am, but this was rejected by the court because the time slots 8 pm to 10 pm, and 6 am to 8 am would affect the operations of the base and would not be beneficial to the public.

As for US planes, the court said the state has no jurisdiction over the US military's use of Atsugi

as that use is based on an accord between Japan and the United States. In Washington a Defence Department spokesman played down the ruling. "It is my understanding that this decision does not apply to the United States Navy," Col Steven Warren, head of the Pentagon's Defence

Press Operations, told reporters at the Pentagon on Wednesday.

The suit was the first to seek the suspension of flights and the banning of US military aircraft, and the fourth filed since 2007 involving the base which occupies roughly 5 million square meters of land straddling the densely populated cities of Ayase, Ebina and Yamato in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo. The court decided that the time period for which flights have been suspended will not affect MSDF operations as the MSDF has already voluntarily refrained from conducting flight exercises from 10 pm to 6 am at Atsugi.

But the MSDF said its planes take off and land at Atsugi even at night sometimes, for example when natural disasters occur.

The plaintiffs, who number around 7,000 and come from eight cities including Ayase and Yamato, have called for the suspension of nighttime and early morning flights at the base, saying the noise of the aircraft is a violation of their personal rights as guaranteed by the Constitution.

The plaintiffs live in areas with a noise level greater than 75 on the Weighted Equivalent Continuous Perceived Noise Level, an international index for gauging airplane noise.—*Kyodo News*

Iran, IAEA agree to resolve more key issues of Iranian atomic plan



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano

VIENNA, 22 May — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran agreed to take further steps to resolve the possible military dimensions of Teheran's nuclear programme, the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog announced on Wednesday.

IAEA said in a state-

ment that it has agreed with Iran on five practical measures to be implemented by Iran by 25 Aug. 2014, including two concerning a long-stalled investigation into the allegation that Iran may make efforts to develop atomic weapons secretly, so-called the possible military dimensions (PMD) of its nuclear plan.

The two new measures in next step of cooperation concerning probe into PMD issues are "exchanging information" with the agency on allegations related to the initiation of high explosives, and providing "mutually agreed relevant information and explanations" on neutron studies and "associated modelling and calculations and their alleged application

to compressed materials".

The statement said "good progress" has been made on the seven practical measures of providing greater transparency of Iran's nuclear plan, which has already met its deadline on 15 May. Under the landmark deal Iran and IAEA made last November, Teheran would provide greater transparency of its nuclear plan, resolving the unresolved issues concerning the allegation that Iran may make efforts to develop atomic weapons secretly.

IAEA has identified 12 PMD issues in its 2011 November report, which said Iran might carry out nuclear weapon programme under the cover of its civilian atomic plan.—*Xinhua*

Chinese FM encourages more investment in Bangladesh for diversified cooperation

SHANGHAI, 22 May — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday met with his Bangladesh counterpart Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Shanghai, pledging to support more Chinese investment in Bangladesh. Wang congratulated Bangladesh on its new membership of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and noted that Bangladesh is an important partner for China in south Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

China treasures traditional friendship with Bangladesh and highly values the progress of bilateral ties, Wang said, adding that China is willing to work with Bangladesh to maintain high-level engagement



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets with his Bangladeshi counterpart AH Mahmood Ali in Shanghai, east China, on 21 May, 2014.—XINHUA

and upgrade bilateral relationship. "China will encourage more enterprises to invest in Bangladesh, support them to carry out pragmatic cooperation in various sectors and make joint efforts in building the economic corridor among Bangladesh, China, India

and Burma," Wang said.

Ali voiced hope to cooperate with China in various fields, including industry, economy and trade, investment, high-tech and personnel training, and play a positive role in promoting the economic corridor construction.—*Xinhua*

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MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (098)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (098) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2014 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (425) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2014 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.

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(10/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -012(14-15)	10" ERW Steel Line Pipe (20 Miles) (API 5L, Grade X 42,3 LPE Coated)	US\$
(2)	IFB -013(14-15)	14" ERW Steel Line Pipe (33 Miles) (API 5L, Grade X 42,3 LPE Coated)	US\$
(3)	IFB -014(14-15)	Pipe Lifting & Aligning Equipments	US\$
(4)	IFB -015(14-15)	Spares for Jumbo Tube & Storade Cascade For CNG Stations	US\$
(5)	IFB -016(14-15)	Spares for ZJ 70L Drilling Rig Control Pannel	US\$
(6)	IFB -017(14-15)	Engine Spares for 30 Ton Mack Truck	US\$
(7)	IFB -018(14-15)	Spares for Mack Truck	US\$
(8)	DMP/L-006(14-15)	Tyre Assorted Size (8) Items	Kyats
(9)	DMP/L-007(14-15)	12V 21 Plate, 12V 17 Plate & 12V 13 Plate Battery	Kyats

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 18-6-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 21st May, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HOA BINH 45 VOY NO (-)

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

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

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Aung Hnang Moe Advocate
May Phyo Rin, H.G.P.
For Abscor Inc.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph 0973220023
Dated: 23 May 2014

A citizen speaks to Thai soldiers patrolling the bustling district of Bangkok, Thailand, on 20 May, 2014, after martial law was declared in the country the same day.—KYODO NEWS



One dead, three injured in shooting near Dallas mall

HOUSTON, 22 May — One person was killed and three others were wounded in a shooting near a shopping centre on Wednesday night in the US city of Dallas, local media reported. Police responded to the incident around 20:00 CST (0100 GMT Thursday) and pronounced a victim dead on the scene in south Dallas.

Police later identified two people who were hurt in the shooting but refused to be sent to hospital because their injuries were minor. A fourth victim was later found receiving treatment in a local hospital.

Police did not release the identities of the victims. There is so far no word on possible motives or how exactly the shooting happened and no arrests have been made. Police said they had dispatched a helicopter to hunt down the suspect.—Xinhua

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General Mills Marketing, Inc., a company incorporated in USA, and having its registered office at Number One General Mills Boulevard, Minneapolis, USA is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

HÄAGEN-DAZS

Myanmar Reg. No. 4/9340/2008 (1 January 2008)

In respect of "Dairy products, yogurt, frozen yogurt" in Class 29;

"Ice cream, frozen confections and ice cream made with yogurt, sorbet, sherbet, ice cream bars and frozen yogurt bars, frozen dessert cakes made with ice cream" in Class 30; and

"Restaurant services-namely the preparation and serving of ice cream and other dairy products, ice cream cakes, pastries, coffee, teas and carbonated beverages for on and off premises consumption, ice cream shop services" in Class 43.

Fraudulent or unauthorized use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For General Mills Marketing, Inc.
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
#1505-1508-1509, Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Date 23 May 2014

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Signum International S.&L.I. Luxembourg, Luxemb Branch, a company incorporated in The Netherlands, and having its registered office at Haldenstrasse 4, CH-9005 LUZERN, Switzerland, is the current owner of the Trademark described below, by virtue of the Deed of Assignment dated 26 March 2014 (Reg. No. 4/4162/2014) executed between EF English B.V., (Assignor), and Signum International S. &L.I. Luxembourg, Luxemb Branch (Assignee), whereby Assignor, the original owner had registered the Trademark in Myanmar, assigned it to Assignee.

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U Than Maung, Advocate
For Signum International S. &L.I. Luxembourg, Luxemb Branch
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
#1505-1508-1509, 15th Floor, Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 23 May 2014

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.
- Only the companies that submitted 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.

Ocean advocate Rockefeller awarded at “Sustainability Week” in NY

NEW YORK, 22 May — Documentary filmmaker Susan Rockefeller was given the Sustainability Steward award on 15 May in New York during “Sustainability Week NYC” for her work to protect the oceans.

“My hope is that in the future there will not be a need for a sustainability award, that it will be part and parcel of everyone’s life and all business practices,” Rockefeller told *Kyodo News* ahead of receiving the award in Manhattan.

Rockefeller was honoured in part for her film “Mission of Mermaids,” which was first shown in 2011 to the Japanese Diet as part of the launch of Sailors for the Sea, an organization started by her husband, David, encouraging boat owners to protect oceans. The short documentary looks at the current state of the oceans and how to care for them.

“Susan is really a renaissance woman and when I reviewed her film, ‘Mission of Mermaids,’ I thought this is a lady who is creating imagination and love (for oceans) in her work,” Sustainability Week founder Pamela Peeters told the gala audience at Tesla Motors Inc.’s Manhattan showroom.



Ocean advocate and documentary filmmaker Susan Rockefeller (L) accepts the Sustainability Steward award from Sustainability Week NYC founder Pamela Peeters (R) on 15 May, 2014, during a gala at Tesla Motors Inc.’s Manhattan showroom in New York as part of the weeklong event to promote environmental lifestyle and business practices.

KYODO NEWS

The award ceremony was on the fourth day of a week-long event created by the Belgian-born Peeters to encourage New Yorkers to make eco-friendly habits a way of life.

“Right now, people are disassociated with nature. I call it ‘nature deficit disorder.’ And when you don’t

have a relationship with nature, you won’t feel that need to save it,” she explained to *Kyodo News*.

Apart from programmes focusing on subjects such as business, art and fashion, Peeters wanted to honor a person whose work or service “shows the world a good direction and

what preservation and conservation looks like.”

Peeters, who came to New York in 1999 to start a green television show “Our Planet,” said she chose Rockefeller for the prize because of the filmmaker’s ability to engage audiences about the importance of saving the world’s water.

Apart from film, Rockefeller designs jewelry using environmentally friendly materials to inspire conversation about the ocean. The jewelry is also sold several times a year at Japan’s Takashimaya Co department stores as a fundraiser for her husband’s nonprofit group.

Rockefeller also sits on the board of the marine conservation advocacy organization Oceana and has a motto to “protect what is precious” that guides her.

“Sustainability: it’s really taking care of the resources, the air, the water, all of the life on this planet so that there’s enough for future generations,” she said. Rockefeller’s next film, “Food for Thought, Food for Life,” will focus on food and how the world must tackle the problem of a rapidly growing population on a planet with limited resources. It will premiere in Shanghai this October.—*Kyodo News*



Black Keys members Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney (R) accept their awards for best rock album and best rock song at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 10 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Black Keys score Billboard No 1, hold off Jackson and Parton

LOS ANGELES, 22 May — Grammy-winning rockers the Black Keys debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 weekly album chart on Wednesday, coming in ahead of an album of original songs from late singer Michael Jackson and country music star Dolly Parton’s latest album.

“Turn Blue,” the eighth studio album from the Ohio duo, sold 164,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

“Xscape,” a posthumous collection of eight unreleased tracks from Jackson, sold 157,000 copies, boosted by a high-profile performance featuring a singing and dancing Jackson as a hologram at Sunday’s televised Billboard Awards.

Other new debuts in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 include country music group Rascal Flatts at No 5 with “Rewind,” Dolly Parton’s “Blue Smoke” at No 6 and singer-songwriter Tori Amos at No 7 with “Unrepentant Geraldines.” Christian music singer Michael W. Smith rounded out the top 10 with “Sovereign.”

For the week ended on 18 May, overall album sales totaled 4.5 million, down 11 percent from the comparable week in 2013, Billboard said.

Reuters

Superman and Batman to face off in ‘Dawn of Justice’

LOS ANGELES, 22 May — Time Warner



Director Zack Snyder arrives for the world premiere of the film “Man of Steel” in New York on 10 June, 2013.

REUTERS

Inc.’s Warner Bros studio on Wednesday unveiled the title of director Zack Snyder’s anticipated superhero sequel, “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,” in which the two legendary DC Comics heroes will face off. The film, scheduled for release on 6 May, 2016, is the follow-up to last year’s “Man of Steel,” which grossed \$668 million in worldwide ticket sales. “Dawn of Justice” will see Henry Cavill reprise his role as Superman opposite “Argo” actor and director Ben Affleck as Batman, a choice that split many fans of the franchise.—*Reuters*

France’s Godard at 83 screens a 3D ‘Adieu’ at Cannes



French-Swiss film director Jean-Luc Godard walks on stage as he attends the 2010 Swiss Federal “Grand Prix Design” award ceremony in Zurich on 30 Nov, 2010.

REUTERS

CANNES, (France), 22 May — Octogenarian French filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard sent a film full of 3D images that looked like moving paintings to say what may have been “adieu” to the Cannes film festival on Wednesday, while staying away himself.

It was hard to make much of “Adieu au Langage” (Goodbye to Language), except to say it features a man and a married woman having an affair, a stray dog

and gangsters in a Mercedes who threaten to shoot people in a town on the shore of Lake Geneva.

The film quoted from writings of painters and philosophers and contained shimmering images of water, trees and flowers.

It also punned on the French word “adieu”, using it to mean “goodbye”, “to God” and “oh God”. That suggested - though no one said so officially - that

Godard, the onetime enfant terrible of French film who was a founder of New Wave cinema with his 1960 film “Breathless”, might be waving goodbye.

In a video message to festival director Thierry Fremaux, Godard explained his absence from the red carpet, saying: “Dear old friend, once again thank you for inviting me to climb your 24 majestic steps, slightly lost in the herd.”

His words were accompanied by images of a herd of cattle.

“Adieu au Langage” was the second French film to be shown on the eighth day of the 12-day festival, the other being “The Search”, set in Chechnya and directed by Michel Hazanavicius, an Oscar winner for “The Artist”.

But fans of the Hollywood fairy tale will be in for a shock with Hazanavicius’s latest.

“Welcome to this big shit-hole - Chechnya,” are the movie’s opening words, uttered by a Russian soldier videotaping scenes of burnt-out buildings, dead livestock and, later, the murder of villagers in a war seen by some as Russia’s Vietnam.

Chechnya fought a war in 1994-96 to shake off Russian rule, but was brought back under Moscow’s control by then-prime minister Vladimir Putin in another war in 1999-2000.—*Reuters*

GENERAL

Vietnam to help companies hit by anti-China riots



Firefighters rest near a damaged Chinese owned shoe factory in Vietnam's southern Binh Duong Province on 14 May, 2014. —REUTERS

HANOI, 22 May — Vietnam has promised to provide financial help to businesses hit by anti-China riots which erupted last

week over a territorial dispute between Hanoi and Beijing in the South China Sea. The measures include tax relief, rent waivers and

early lines of credit, the government said in a statement issued late on Wednesday.

The tax relief will include a maximum 30-per cent cut in special consumption tax this year and a two-year delay in payments for taxes that arose before May 2014, it said.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung had asked the finance ministry to press insurers to speed up damage assessments and payouts to affected enterprises.

Vietnam would also ease visa requirements for foreign workers and allow early credits for affected businesses, among other relief measures.

Thousands of people attacked businesses and factories in Vietnam last week, targeting Chinese workers and Chinese-owned businesses after Beijing parked an oil rig in a part of the South China Sea claimed by Hanoi. Many Taiwanese-owned firms bore the brunt because the crowds believed they were owned by mainland Chinese.

The Vietnamese government said two people were killed and 140 others were wounded in Ha Tinh Province. Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd said four were killed and 130 injured in the protests.

Reuters

Tiger Woods is a great dad, ex-wife says four years after divorce

LOS ANGELES, 22 May — The ex-wife of Tiger Woods said she has a good relationship with the golfer and called him a “great father” in her first media comments on their relationship since their marriage was dissolved four years ago after his serial cheating.

Elin Nordegren, 34, told *People* magazine in an interview published on Wednesday that she has put Woods’ publicized affairs in the past.

“I have moved on, and I am in a good place,” Swedish born Nordegren said. “My relationship with Tiger is centred around our children, and we are doing really good — we really are — and I am so happy that is the case. He is a great father.”

Woods, 38, and Nor-

degren divorced in 2010, less than a year after his string of at least a dozen affairs came to light in one of the biggest sex scandals in the world of sports.

The revelations tarnished the highly crafted image of Woods, one of the world’s richest and most popular athletes, costing him tens of millions of dollars in endorsements at the time and providing months of fodder for tabloids.

The couple has two children — daughter Sam, 6, and son Charlie, 5 — and live near each other in Florida. Nordegren, a former model and nanny, married Woods in 2003 and her divorce settlement with Woods was estimated to be worth \$100 million.

“In the beginning, you tamp down the animosity for the kids’ sake,”



Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren (L) watch Game 4 of the NBA Finals basketball game in Orlando, Florida in this 11 June, 2009, file photo.

REUTERS

said Nordegren, who went through intensive therapy at the time of the split and says she still sees a therapist weekly.

“I’m not going to deny that I went through the wringer. But I don’t think I doubted we’d end up here,” she said. “That was always

my dream, that the kids can have two loving parents that show respect for each other. And I feel that’s what they have.”

Woods, a 14-time major champion winner, is now in a relationship with Olympic alpine skier Lindsey Vonn.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(23-5-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am**
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
2. Songs & Dance of National Races
- 7:00 am**
3. News / Weather Report
- 7:40 am**
4. Teleplay
- 8:00 am**
5. News/ International News
- 8:30 am**
6. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
7. News/ International News
- 9:35 am**
8. Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:20 am**
9. Teleplay
- 11:40 am**
10. Myanmar Series
- 12:00 pm**
11. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:30 pm**
12. Myanmar Movies
- 2:30 pm**
13. Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm**
14. News
- 3:35 pm**
15. Documentary
- 4:00 pm**
16. News
- 4:30 pm**
17. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Psychology)
- 5:00 pm**
18. News
- 5:30 pm**
19. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm**
20. News / Weather Report
- 7:00 pm**
21. News
- 7:20 pm**
22. Documentary
- 8:00 pm**
23. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
24. Documentary
- 9:00 pm**
25. News
- 9:30 pm**
26. Hyper Sports
- 9:50 pm**
27. Experience China In Myanmar Cultural Show Oriental Beauty

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-5-14 07:00am~ 24-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Distinct People, Different Lifestyles (Pan-Pack Village)
- * World News
- * The Photographer
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)
- * World News
- * Entrepreneur “Kala-yar Pyi Wai Shan”
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Wedding Dresses
- * World News
- * Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Pyit)
- * Local News
- * Let’s visit Flower City by Coach
- * World News
- * ...Changes
- * Local News
- * 19 Hours
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * The Heart Love Influenced -U Hla Tun Cancer Foundation
- * World News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) “Osi”
- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods- (Straw painting)
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Nyi Voyy
- * Local News
- * Dawei -Tavoy , Travel To The Southern Part Of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages

Visitors take sombre tours as 11 September museum opens to public



Visitors look out onto a pool in the National September 11 Memorial during the first day of unfettered public access to the site in New York on 21 May, 2014.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 22 May — New Yorkers who toured the museum that commemorates the

violent attacks of 11 September, 2001, on Wednesday, the first day it was open to the public, said

they expected a somber visit but found themselves emotionally overwhelmed.

The National 11 September Memorial Museum in downtown Manhattan, featuring displays and artifacts related to the attacks and the nearly 3,000 victims, opened its doors to the general public after eight years of planning and building.

Alyson Slattery, an executive assistant at a nearby insurance company, went with a friend during her lunch hour to search victims’ biographies and photographs for someone they knew.

She emerged from the subterranean museum ash-en-faced. “It was too much for me,” said Slattery, 27.

“I wouldn’t want to go through that again.”

Her friend Susan Cottingham, 35, agreed it was a difficult visit but said she found the museum “beautifully done.” “It’s lucid. It’s bittersweet,” she said.

President Barack Obama last week joined victims’ families, first responders and dignitaries for a dedication ceremony at the \$700 million museum that documents the day hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and an open field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

On display are a wide range of artifacts, from half-crushed fire trucks and twisted masses of architectural steel to blood-

stained personal items such as shoes, wallets and lipstick tubes.

Michael Cotton, 43, an architect who works at Snøhetta, the firm that designed the museum’s glassy atrium, said he made the visit largely to appraise his colleagues’ work, but found himself overcome by the exhibits.

“I wasn’t really prepared,” Cotton said.

“You start off in a place that’s light and airy, and then you descend, and even the wood gets darker,” he said, describing going down to the exhibition halls at bedrock level around the foundations of the fallen World Trade Centre towers. “It’s really intense.”

The most poignant of all were the audio exhibits, Cotton and several other visitors said. A recording of a husband calling his wife from the Trade Centre’s north tower, telling her the south tower had just been hit, made a deep impression on Marianne Ludlam.

The audio was almost too much to hear, but its inclusion is justified, the 68-year-old retiree said. “You can’t not include anything because that’s what this is about. It’s about the reality of that day,” she said.

Admission was free for the first day, thanks to a corporate sponsor. Tickets typically will be \$24.

Reuters

Atletico bid to outwit wealthy neighbours Real



Atletico Madrid's coach Diego Simeone (C) and his players dance during a parade after winning the Spanish first division soccer league title in Madrid on 18 May, 2014.—REUTERS

LISBON, 22 May — Atletico Madrid have a chance in Saturday's Champions League final not only to claim their debut European crown but to deny their loathed and vastly wealthier neighbours Real Madrid a record-extending 10th.

Atletico have already outperformed this season in securing a remarkable La Liga triumph, shattering the domestic dominance of Real and Barcelona and becoming the first team other than the big two to win the Spanish title since Valencia

in 2004. They are also back competing with the continent's elite after a lengthy absence and the first showpiece between teams from the same city in the 59-year history of the European Cup is their second final after they lost out to Bayern Munich in 1974.

Real, the world's richest club by income who have splashed more than 600 million euros (486.76 million pounds) on players over the past five years, are appearing in their 13th final, but the first since their

last success in 2002.

Their vast outlay is proof of Real president Florentino Perez's obsession with winning what is known in Spain as "la decima" (the 10th).

After Real's La Liga campaign faltered in the final weeks of the campaign, failure in Lisbon would be a massive blow to the construction magnate's prestige. "From the first day a player arrives at the club, he is already saying that he has come to win the 'decima'," former Real forward

Predrag Mijatovic said in an interview with Marca sports daily published on Wednesday.

"There is too much pressure being put on the players," added the Montenegrin, who scored the winner in Real's 1-0 Champions League final triumph against Juventus in 1998. "The best way to take the sting out of this obsession is winning and then we won't be talking about the 10th anymore."

Atletico, known as "the mattress makers" after their red and white-striped shirts, and Real, who play in all-white and are nicknamed "the meringues", have met only once before in continental competition, in the European Cup semi-finals in 1958-59.

Real went through to what was their fourth consecutive final after winning a replay in Zaragoza when Ferenc Puskas scored the winner in a 2-1 success.

The city neighbours have met four times this season. In La Liga, Atletico won 1-0 at Real's Bernabeu stadium and they drew 2-2 at the Calderon in the return, while in the two-legged King's Cup semi-finals Atletico were on the end of a 5-0 aggregate drubbing.

Reuters

Rivals eye chinks in Nadal's claycourt armour

PARIS, 22 May — Say it quietly but some chinks are appearing in the suit of armour Rafael Nadal usually wears on a claycourt as the Spaniard sets his sights on a ninth French Open title.

By his high standards the 28-year-old Spaniard has suffered a mediocre season on Europe's red dust courts so far and one or two players, chiefly Novak Djokovic,

last weekend he was overwhelmed by Djokovic in the Italian Open final.

Even his 44th career title on clay, achieved in Madrid, earlier this month, was not totally convincing as he was outplayed for a set in the final by Kei Nishikori before the Japanese player retired with back problems.

That said, the alarm bells will not be ringing yet



Rafael Nadal of Spain

will arrive in Paris with genuine title hopes.

World number one Nadal has lost three matches on his beloved clay in the build-up to Roland Garros for the first time in a decade while others he normally sweeps aside on the surface have pushed him mighty close.

Fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, the man he beat to become the first man to win a single grand slam eight times last year, surprised him in Monte Carlo, then he lost to compatriot Nicolas Almagro in Barcelona and

in the Nadal camp ahead of the grand slam which begins on Sunday.

Roland Garros remains a fortress for Nadal where he has suffered only one defeat since winning the title on his debut in 2005. Swede Robin Soderling is the only man to beat Nadal there and his record is an astonishing 59-1.

Beating him over five-sets on clay has proved almost impossible and once he gets into his stride on Paris's relative fast and bouncy claycourts he appears unstoppable.—Reuters

Williams in the mood for French Open title defence

PARIS, 22 May — Six different champions in the last six years suggests that tipping a French Open women's champion is something of a lottery, but those backing world No.1 Serena Williams are surely investing wisely.

The American powerhouse claimed a second Roland Garros crown last year - 11 years after her first - and warmed up for the defence of her crown by winning the Rome title on Sunday, dropping just one set and 22 games all week.

It was a return to the form that helped Williams win 11 titles in 2013 and proof, if any were needed, that the fire within burns as ferociously as ever as she returns to the city she calls her second home chasing an 18th major singles that would tie her with Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. The former French Open champion Li Na is probably her main rival as the Chinese attempts to become the first player since Jennifer Capriati in 2001 to win the year's first two

slams.

Maria Sharapova, winner in 2012 and runner-up last year, will also be confident of a strong run after beating Li on the way to claiming the Madrid title earlier this month.

Poland's gritty world No.3 Agnieszka Radwanska, and Serbian duo Jelena Jankovic and Ana Ivanovic, the champion in 2008, will also be strong contenders while Simona Halep, the aggressive Romanian baseliner who has blasted into the top four, is more than capable of causing an upset. Whoever Williams faces, however, she will not be feeling any extra pressure just because she is defending champion.

"Usually I'm like, 'Oh my God, I have to defend'. This time I'm going to be cool with it," Williams, who has bought a second Paris apartment near the Eiffel Tower, said recently when looking ahead to the French Open.—Reuters



Serena Williams

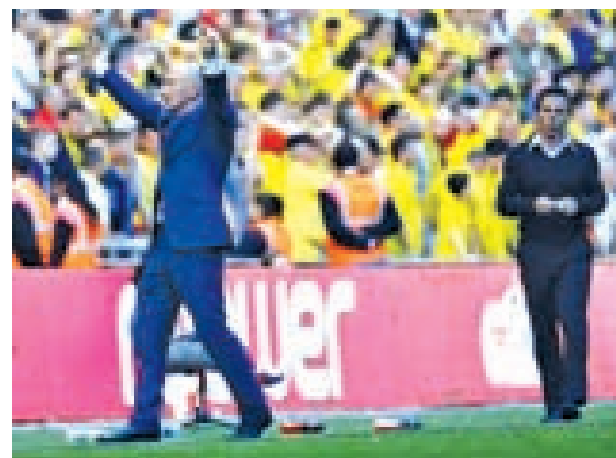
England, Italy cannot afford to lose Cup opener

VIRGINIA WATER, (ENGLAND), 22 May — Neither England nor Italy can afford to lose next month's World Cup opener in Brazil, former Italy and Chelsea striker Gianfranco Zola said on Wednesday.

England and Italy have been drawn in Group D alongside Costa Rica and Uruguay, and Zola believes the sweltering conditions of the Amazon jungle could take their toll when the sides meet in Manaus on 14 June.

"It (Manaus) is a tough place to go," Zola, who was playing in golf's BMW PGA Championship Pro-Am at Wentworth, told Reuters. "I think it is going to be tight because I think all the teams are more or less on the same level."

"A lot will be to do with the conditions when they get there. I don't think England is favourite or Italy is favourite. I also think, psychologically, it is important not to lose the first game."



Crystal Palace's manager Ian Holloway (L) celebrates next to Watford's manager Gianfranco Zola following their Championship play-off final soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 27 May, 2013.—REUTERS

With England's young guns still cutting their teeth and Italy going through a period of transition under manager Cesare Prandelli, Uruguay are tipped to top Group D, especially given their formidable striking duo of Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani.

But Zola, who made 35 appearances for Italy, does not believe it is as clear-cut

as many are predicting.

"I think the three teams stand the same chances really," added the former Chelsea favourite.

"Uruguay has got quality players but Italy has got plenty and England has got a lot of young players so they can do well. I think they are on the same level so we will see."

Reuters