

## President unveils stone plaque at Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge



MoU on construction of Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge was signed in 2012 and the bridge was completed on 25 April, 2015.

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—President U Thein Sein on Saturday attended the opening of a bridge linking Tachilek in eastern Shan State with Laos, unveiling a stone plaque on the Myanmar side.

The bridge connects the town of Kenglat in Tachilek with the Laotian province of Luang Namtha.

The president, together with his entourage and representatives of local national races, had a documentary

photo taken on the bridge as a token of the opening ceremony.

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### Contemporary art exhibition features diverse range of work

**By Khaing Thanda Lwin**

YANGON, 9 May—An exhibition showcasing contemporary artwork from Kooe Art Studio, with a focus on Myanmar’s cultural heritage, opened Saturday at Yangon Gallery here.

“Kooe Diary” runs from 9 to 13 May, with nearly 50 acrylic paintings and one installation by nine artists. All artworks on display at the gallery are on sale, with prices ranging from US \$500 to \$7,000. Visitors can enjoy the diverse range of artworks.

“Around US \$500 per painting is an affordable price for local collectors but Myanmar handiwork would be more expensive on the international market,” said artist Co Thiee, who creates colourful ab-

stract paintings and sells works to buyers from England.

“Some of the proceeds from the paintings sold will go to the poor, elderly and orphans, but we have not discussed the details,” said artist Su Eaindra, whose works focus on the culture of Yangon and the lives of its residents during the rainy season.

This is the first time Kooe Art Studio has conducted an exhibition with the aim of gaining greater exposure for its artists. Some of them have plans to hold several exhibitions this year.

The gallery is located near Planetarium Museum on Alhone Road in Yangon.—GNLM

### Gov’t, ethnic armed group and political party representatives attend peace and national reconciliation forum in Yangon

**By Ye Myint**

YANGON, 9 May — Representatives of the Myanmar government, ethnic armed groups and political parties gathered Saturday in Yangon for the first coordination meeting of signatories to the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation signed in February.

The forum, aimed at improving the draft of a National Ceasefire Agreement, also included some non-signatory ethnic armed organizations and political parties, as well as ethnic affairs ministers and civil society organizations.

In his welcome speech, Saw Mutu Sae Po, Chairman of the Karen National Union, a signatory to the Deed of Commitment and

one of the organizers of the forum, said stakeholders must keep their promises

and back up their words with action.

The signatories must

“build a culture to realize the pledges and open the

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KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po addresses Peace and National Reconciliation Forum in Yangon on Saturday. The forum is aimed at starting preparations for holding rounds of political dialogue before the 2015 national poll. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

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## Mandalay Region to hold 1<sup>st</sup> Yadanabon Cup invitational men's volleyball tournament



MANDALAY, 9 May — A meeting on holding the 1<sup>st</sup> Yadanabon Cup invitational men's volleyball tournament was held at Oriental House in Mandalay on 8 May.

Principal of Mandalay Institute of Sports and Phys-

ical Education U Myo Myint Aung spoke on the occasion.

Deputy Director of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin reported on a plan to hold the tournament from 24 to 30 June while secretary of the

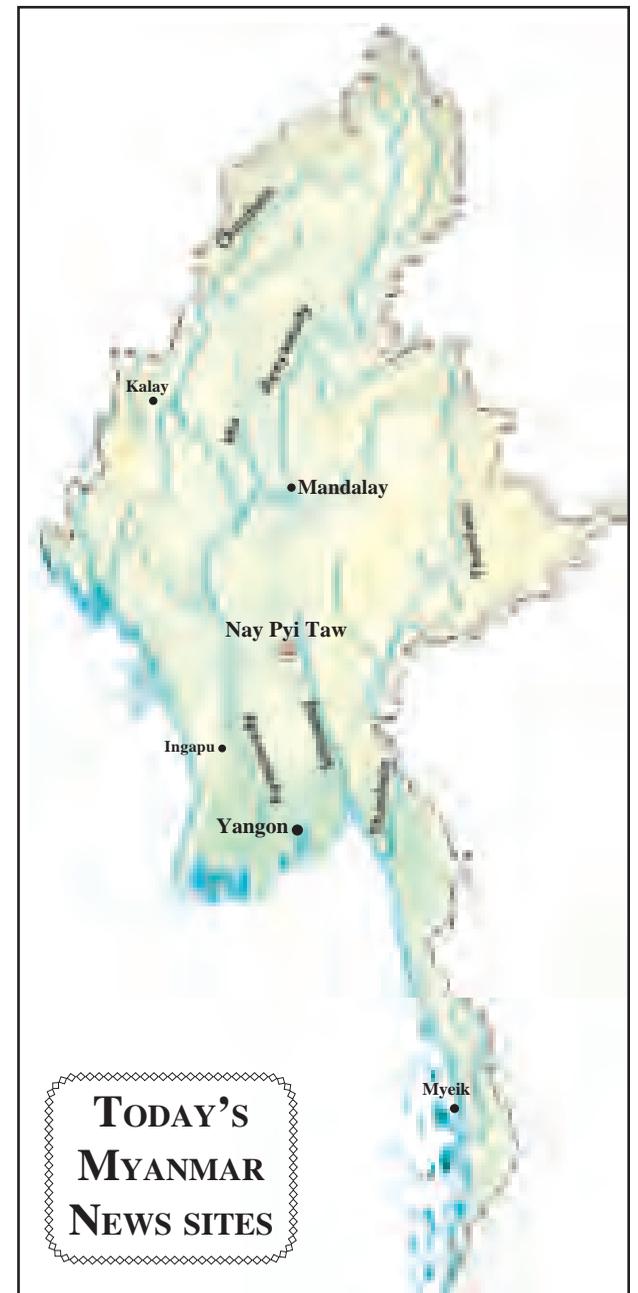
Mandalay Region volleyball subcommittee submitted a report on activities of the committee.

U Aung of Aung Thamadi Goldsmith and Gold Refinery, Managing Director U Yan Naing of Dragon One Company and

Thudhamma Dr Kyaw Win of Mann Myay Yazar Real Estate Service participated in the discussions on behalf of sponsors.

Well-wishers donated K21.3 million to the fund of the tournament.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



## Myanmar hockey supporters make donations for SEA Games trip

YANGON, 9 May — Myanmar Hockey Federation officials and supporters donated cash Thursday at the sporting body's headquarters to help send the national team to the 28th SEA Games later this year in Singapore.

President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win donated K5 million, vice presidents U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing US \$2,600 and U Zaw Win K3.5 million, U Saw Lu Lu Htaw K2.5 million, Chairman of Naing Group Co., Ltd. U Kyaw

Naing Oo K20 million, general secretary U Khin Maung Latt K5 million, executives U Tin Myint Ni K5 million, U Kyaw Win, U Aung Than-1, U Ko Ko Latt and U Kyaw Ye Han K1 million each and U Aung Than-2, U Win Htoo,

U Myo Ko Ko and U Kyaw Htay Thein K500,000 each.

*Than Swe (Pabedan)*

## Revenue officials explain taxation laws



MANDALAY, 9 May — A ceremony to clarify the taxation law and provisions with amendments was held at the General Administration Department in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay on 6 May.

Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Tun spoke on the occasion while Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Aung Myint explained provisions

with amendments of the taxation laws enacted in 2015. It was attended by Mandalay Region MPs, departmental officials and taxpayers.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## Australian tourists travel Myanmar by motorcycle



NAY PYI TAW, 9 May — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and arrangement of All Asia Exclusive Travels & Tours, three Australian tourists arrived in Myanmar by motorcycle through Myawady entrance on 29 April.

The tourists proceed-

ed to Bago and spent the night at Hotel Aeroma. On 30 April, they visited Pyay. On 1 and 2 May, they went sightseeing in Bagan and left for Monywa.

On 3 May, they departed for Kalay and arrived in Tamu on 4 May. They proceeded to India from Tamu.—MNA

## Journalists from Upper Myanmar visit Yazagyo multi-purpose dam project

KALAY, 9 May — A team of journalists led by Vice Chairman of Upper Myanmar Journalist Association U Tin Hlaing (Tin Hlaing-Meiktila) and U Khin Maung Nyein (Myan Gon Hsaung) visited the Yazagyo multi-purpose dam project in Kalay District,

Sagaing Region, on 4 May.

Officials of the Irrigation Department spoke about implementation of the project.

The team made field trips to lakes and small dams in the area of the project. While in Kalay, Kalay District, electrical

engineer U Yu Maw explained the process of supplying electricity to the region.

The journalists also visited Yayhsankyun Pagoda at the junction of Kalay, Kalewa and Tamu roads.

*Shwe Lin Pyae Sone*

NATIONAL

**President unveils stone plaque at . . .**

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He also paid homage to the Buddha Statue and presented offertories to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dhammasiri and Sayadaw Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sanvara in a ceremony held on the bridge.

President U Thein Sein cordially greeted Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone before the opening ceremony.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin described the 8.5-metre-wide, 700-metre-long steel bridge as a product of bilateral cooperation, with each country having built roughly half, adding that the opening ceremony coincided with the 60th anniversary of



**President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone at a ceremony to open Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge.**—MNA

diplomatic relationships between the two countries.

The union minister pledged closer cooperation with Laos as well as other regional countries and the international community in

an effort to bring about stability, peace and prosperity all over the world.

President U Thein Sein signed a memorandum of understanding on construction of the bridge

during his visit to Laos in 2012. The project was completed on 25 April, 2015.

According to U Wunna Maung Lwin, the Mekong sub-region countries will greatly benefit from the bridge, which is located on the North Economic Corridor linking the Port of Haiphong in Vietnam and the Kyaukphyu deep-sea port in Myanmar through Laos.

Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister as well as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Laos, addressed the opening ceremony.

While in Tachilek, the president visited Shwedagon, where he presented offertories to members of the Sangha led by Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dhammasiri and applied gilding to the stone plaque of religious verses inscribed in the Gon Shan dialect.

MNA

**Amyotha Hluttaw speaker hoists sacred umbrella to pagoda in Mandalay Region**



**Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint carrying the diamond bud for Shweze-gon pagoda in Nyaung-yan.** MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint on Saturday hoisted a sacred umbrella (Htitaw) to Shweze-gon pagoda in Nyaungyan village, Thazi Township in Mandalay region.

The speaker also took part consecration ceremony

of the pagoda where Buddhist devotees listed to Paritta preached by the monks.

The pagoda was also installed with a new diamond bud and supporting structures of the umbrella which were donated by the well-wishers.—MNA

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Pakistan Aeronautical Complex**



**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex.**—MYAWADY

ISLAMABAD, 9 May—Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Friday visited the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex,

situated in Kamra, Attock District.

In early morning, the senior general left Islamabad for the headquarters of Special Services Group in Tarbela, which is a special operations force of the Pa-

kistan Army.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing viewed the demonstration of rescuing victims by SSG before visiting the Heavy Industries Taxila in Taxila of Punjab province.



In the afternoon, Myanmar delegation looked around Taxila Museum and Sirkap, an ancient town of Taxila and important archaeological site in the province.

In the evening, the

commander-in-chief met the families of Myanmar ambassador to Pakistan and military attaché.

On Saturday morning, Myanmar military chief arrived at Margalla Hill View Point, a mountain resort in

Islamabad which is located at the foot of the hill and not too far from Murree and Karshima mountain ranges. Then, they proceeded to a popular mountain resort in Murree.

Myawady

**Gov't, ethnic armed group . . .**

(from page 1)

way for an inclusive and harmonious future for the good of the country," the KNU chairman said.

Only the political course can achieve a democratic federal system that guarantees self-determination for ethnic groups, as more than 60 years of armed struggle have created many losers and few winners, he said.

The Deed of Commitment calls for a preliminary rounds of political talks before the 2015 general elections, with all of the forum attendees agreeing on the need for such talks before and after the national poll and forming a Coordination Team for Peace and National Reconciliation in order to realize the pledges in the deed of commitment.

Union Minister U

Aung Min, the vice-chairman of Union Peace-Making Work Committee, which represents the government in peace talks with the ethnic armed groups' Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, stated Nay Pyi Taw's commitment to implementing the pledges.

"It is undeniable that everyone's wish is peace," the Union minister said.

The forum was organized by the KNU and the Restoration Council of the

Shan State, political wing of Shan State Army, bringing government representatives led by the Union Ministers, ethnic affairs ministers, leaders and representatives from seven armed groups and 64 political parties and 27 responsible persons from CSOs.

The country's peace process is progressing with the signing of the approved ceasefire deal draft between the government's UPWC and NCCT of ethnic armed

groups on 31 March.

Indicating its readiness to sign the accord as soon as possible, the government side says it is now waiting for the approval of ethnic leaders on the deal.

"NCCT's Ethnic Conference that will gather all ethnic group leaders including non-NCCT members to discuss and approve the draft deal will take place in the third week of this May at one of three tentative places, and Lohkella is expected

to host the conference", said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, one of the NCCT leaders.

Since August 2011, the government initiated peace talks with all non-state actors and had reached bilateral agreements with 14 while getting discussions under way with two. Following 16 months of peace negotiations, the UPWC and NCCT formed and signed the single text document for nationwide ceasefire.

GNLM

## Charities warn Modi that crackdown will hurt the poor

NEW DELHI, 9 May — Charities in India on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop a government crackdown on thousands of foreign-funded non-profit groups saying it would hurt the lives of poor and marginalised people.

Since Modi swept to power almost a year ago, his right-wing nationalist government has tightened surveillance on foreign-funded charities.

It says some had violated the law by not disclosing details of their donations, or used overseas money to engage in “anti-national” activities.

Charities reject the accusations, but admit there may be some groups which had unintended funding discrepancies. They say authorities are using an opaque, “draconian” law on foreign funding to muzzle criticism of initiatives such as industrial projects

affecting the poor and the environment.

“Funds are being frozen, intelligence reports are being selectively released to paint NGOs in poor light, disbursement of funds are being subjected to case-by-case clearance, and their activities are reportedly being placed on ‘watch lists,’” said an open letter to Modi signed by 171 charities and activists.

“At the moment it seems that ‘compliance’ is serving as a garb to actually target those organizations and individuals whose views the government disagrees with, and indeed to monitor and stifle disagreement itself.”

The letter — signed by groups such as Oxfam India, Human Rights Law Centre and the Conservation Action Trust — said the clampdown was “arbitrary, non-transparent, and without any course of administrative redress”.



*School children, brought together by Greenpeace for a climate change demonstration, carry placards near the venue where US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is scheduled to meet India's foreign minister in New Delhi on 20 July, 2009.—REUTERS*

Last month, the government cancelled the licenses of almost 9,000 charities and blocked the bank accounts of Greenpeace India, which has led campaigns against genetically modified crops, coal mining and nuclear power projects.

Greenpeace says it now faces closure within a month due to a shortage of funds and has accused the

government of “strangulation by stealth”.

Big donors like the US-based Ford Foundation are also being investigated. Ford Foundation faces a probe of its funding of a group run by Teesta Setalvad, a prominent rights activist and critic of Modi.

US Ambassador Richard Verma to India said this week he was worried about “the potential-

ly chilling effects” of the action against the NGOs, while Germany’s top diplomat Michael Steiner said charities should be supported for their “impressive work”.

There is no official number of charities operating in India, but the government estimates there are at least two million non-profits — working in areas from conservation, education and health to protecting the rights of minorities.

A 2013 report by the home ministry said that while more than 43,500 — around 2 percent — were registered as charities which receive foreign funds in 2011/12, only 22,700 had provided details of their donations.

Home ministry officials say they were now simply enforcing the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), a law which bars overseas dona-

tions going to NGOs of a “political nature”.

A leaked intelligence service report in June 2014 said local branches of organizations such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International and ActionAid were using foreign funds to damage the country’s economy with anti-industry campaigns.

The groups have been involved in many campaigns in which they have supported indigenous communities to successfully mobilise against big mining firms such as Vedanta and Essar.

Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party-led government is keen to increase investment in infrastructure and make it easier for businesses to buy land to boost growth.

This jars with NGOs who oppose what they say is economic development at the cost of the poor and the environment.

Reuters

## Vietnam strengthens transport connectivity with regional bloc

HANOI, 9 May — Vietnamese Prime Minister has approved a plan on strengthening transport connectivity within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) by 2020 and vision to 2030.

The plan puts forward measures to increase in-

vestment in transport infrastructure construction, border transport connectivity, development of human resource, as well as enhance capacity in ensuring road traffic, aviation and maritime safety, among others, according to the website of Vietnamese government on

Friday.

Specifically, in order to improve quality of road transportation service, the plan encourage enterprises to modernize road vehicles and increase technical standards over road transport in line with those of other ASEAN members.—Xinhua

## N Korea test-fires ballistic missile from submarine

BEIJING, 9 May — North Korea said on Saturday it has successfully test-fired a newly developed ballistic missile from an underwater submarine, the latest sign of its aggressive efforts to improve its military capabilities.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un himself oversaw the test and praised it as paving the way for the country to possess “a world-level strategic weapon,” the official *Korean Central News Agency* said.

This is the first time that North Korea has announced the test-firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

The *KCNA* report did

not disclose the date and the location of the missile test, described by Kim as an “eye-opening success” that will make it possible for North Korea to have a weapon capable of “striking and wiping out in any waters the hostile forces infringing upon the sovereignty and dignity” of the country.

Diplomatic sources have said North Korea conducted an underwater missile test on 22 April near its eastern coastal city of Sinpo.

It is unclear whether the test reported by the official media is the same. A separate *KCNA* report on Saturday said Kim has given field guidance to a fishery

complex in the coastal city, where it is known to have a submarine base and related facilities nearby.

North Korea’s efforts to develop a submarine-launched ballistic missile, which can carry a nuclear warhead, had previously been confirmed by US and South Korea’s intelligence officials.

The advancement of the development would increase security threats to Japan, South Korea and the United States. But a common view among US officials is that North Korea still has a long way to go to make the missile system fully operational.—*Kyodo News*

## Thousands evacuated in Philippines as powerful typhoon nears

MANILA, 9 May — The Philippines on Saturday evacuated thousands of people in the northeastern part of its main island of Luzon on Saturday, less than 24 hours before a powerful typhoon was expected to make landfall.

Typhoon Noul, a category 4 storm with winds of 160 kph (99 mph) and gusts of up to 195 kph, was about 210 kms (130 miles) north northeast of Catanduanes island in the central Philippines.

It was expected to hit the rice-producing provinces of Cagayan and Isabela at around 5 am [2100 GMT] on Sunday before weakening as it moved across the Sierra Madre mountains and into north-eastern Luzon.

The weather bureau raised storm alerts in 19 areas on Luzon, warning that strong winds and in-



*Stranded passengers guard their belongings while waiting at a bus terminal in Manila on 9 May, 2015.*

REUTERS

tense rain could produce a 2.5 metre high storm surge along the coast areas and landslides in mountainous areas.

Raben Dimaano, a disaster official in Sorsogon province, said more than 11,000 people were moved to temporary shelters in two towns around Mount Bulusan, a volcano which erupted twice this week,

because of the danger of mud flows.

Alexander Pama, head of national disaster risk reduction and management council, said Noul’s intense rainfall within a 300-km diameter area could topple power lines, uproot trees, blow roofs off thatched houses and damage crops like rice and corn in the region.—Reuters

## Three patients die after surgeries in Indonesia involving Japan hospital

KOBE, 9 May — All three patients who underwent liver transplant surgeries in Indonesia done in cooperation with a hospital in Kobe, Japan, died about one month later, sources close to the matter said on Friday. The surgeries in Indonesia were led by Koichi Tanaka, professor emeritus at Kyoto University and a veteran liver transplant surgeon. They were conducted in cooperation with two local hospitals that receive assistance from Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre in training

doctors and nurses.

Four of seven patients who received liver transplants from living donors in operations performed between December and March at Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre itself also died within one month of the surgery. The hospital opened just last November.

The liver transplant operations in Indonesia were part of a project backed by Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Neither the ministry nor Tanaka has disclosed many details

about the surgeries involving living donors or the patients.

But Tanaka did tell *Kyodo News*, “Multiple factors including infection led to the deaths. There were no problems with the surgeries.” Liver transplants from living donors involve removing part of a healthy person’s liver and transplanting it into a recipient, often the donor’s relative, who suffers from conditions such as liver cancer or biliary atresia — inflammation of the bile ducts causing liver damage.

*Kyodo News*

## WORLD

## Obama wants continued cooperation with Britain

WASHINGTON, 9 May — US President Barack Obama on Friday called freshly-mandated British Prime Minister David Cameron to express hope for continued cooperation with him on addressing the challenges facing the world.

The president, as he did in a statement released earlier in the day, once again offered his congratulations on the premier's victory in parliamentary elections a day earlier.

"President Obama reiterated his strong commitment to the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom and told the prime minister that he looks forward to building on their already close relationship to continue to address a range of shared interests and the challenges we face around the world," the White House said in the statement.

It said the two leaders "look forward to meeting with each other" in June when they have a summit in Germany with leaders of the other five industrialized nations — Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Cameron became prime minister in 2010 and will serve another term. Ahead of the polls in Britain, *The Washington Post* lamented a US ally that is "growing weaker, more inwardly focused and less willing or able to join in common endeavors."

Xinhua



Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (L, front) and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Olga Golodets (R, front) attend the concert held by a Chinese-Russian youth symphony orchestra in Moscow, Russia, on 8 May, 2015.—XINHUA

## France says nuclear powers preserving disarmament goals despite rows

NEW YORK, 9 May — France will continue working with the four other declared nuclear powers toward the goal of nuclear disarmament despite hot-button issues dividing them such as the Ukraine conflict, the French envoy to nuclear nonproliferation talks said in a recent interview with *Kyodo News*.

"Even in this difficult strategic context, we are doing our best to preserve the long-term trends towards disarmament, in particular, nuclear disarmament and to preserve the mechanism," Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel said on the sidelines of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, held once every five years.

The head of the French delegation emphasized how France, Britain, China, Russia and the United States, which are also permanent UN Security Council members, remain largely united on the nuclear non-proliferation front.

Even at the height of tensions last May as Russia's annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea

led to emergency sessions of the Security Council, the five powers were able to sign the protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, he noted.

"You can always find something at one single moment where you can put your efforts and concentrate your efforts," he said, adding that even when Washington and Moscow are at loggerheads, progress can be made multilaterally.

Just after the NPT review conference opened 27 April, the five powers — the only nuclear-weapon states that are party to the NPT — issued a joint statement saying a gradual approach to nuclear disarmament is the "only practical option."

"We continue to believe that an incremental, step-by-step approach is the only practical option for making progress towards nuclear disarmament, while upholding global strategic security and stability," the statement said. But 45 years after the landmark NPT came into force, frustration is evident among non-nuclear weapon states, which want the nuclear "haves" to make

greater strides in keeping up their end of the bargain — ultimately giving up the destructive weapons — in exchange for the promise that others not acquire them.

Along with the disappointment among non-nuclear countries over what they see as a lack of tangible progress in nuclear disarmament, a so-called humanitarian perspective has also been taking shape in recent years — becoming an increasingly common theme mentioned at the review conference.

This has drawn attention to the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons and linked the argument to calls for a convention to ban nuclear weapons.

The French envoy took issue with the initiative, saying the weapons' devastating effect is "the very essence of deterrence" and that they are for self-defence only "under extreme circumstances" and not for use as battleground weapons. He said that the humanitarian argument is made by those who want to outlaw nuclear weapons without proposing in concrete terms what should follow.—*Kyodo News*

## US, Gulf allies seek agreement on new security measures

PARIS, 9 May — The United States and its Gulf allies will try to agree on new security measures at a summit in Washington next week to guard against destabilising actions by Iran in the region, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday.

The West hopes to secure a nuclear deal with Teheran by an end-of-June deadline and this has stirred anxiety among Washington's Gulf allies who fear Shi'ite Muslim Iran's intentions in the region.

Iran and the Gulf monarchies are also at loggerheads in Yemen, where Saudi-led warplanes again bombed Iranian-allied Houthi rebels on Friday, though Riyadh also then announced a conditional five-day humanitarian ceasefire.

After marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War Two in Europe at the Arc De Triomphe in Paris, Kerry hosted counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, as well as the head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Paris meeting set the stage for a summit next week in Washington and Camp David between US President Barack Obama

and the six-nation GCC.

The Obama administration faces a formidable challenge to allay Gulf Arab fears over a nuclear deal with Teheran.

"President Obama completely understands the stakes," Kerry told a news conference, "We are fleshing out a series of new commitments that will create between the United States and the GCC a new security understanding, a new set of security initiatives. That will take us beyond anything that we have had before," he added.

US officials have told *Reuters* the Washington summit would create a region-wide defence system to guard against Iranian missiles and could be accompanied by enhanced security commitments, new arms sales and more joint military exercises. "It is not a one-way street, it is a two-way street, with mutual interests and mutual needs that need to be addressed," Kerry said.

"I am confident that with Camp David those views are going to take shape in a form that will greatly enhance our ability to meet the needs of our people, and the needs of all those people, who want a future that is free of terrorism....," he added.—*Reuters*



US Secretary of State John Kerry greets Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir (R) outside the Chief of Mission Residence in Paris, France, on 8 May, 2015.

REUTERS

## Australian police thwart imminent bomb attack, teen charged

PERTH, 9 May — Australian police said on Saturday they had thwarted an imminent terror attack after discovering explosives at a Melbourne home and arresting a 17-year-old boy, in the latest example of the threat posed by radicalized teenagers in the country.

Acting on a tip-off from the national security phone line, police and security agencies began investigating the youth and later raided his home in Greenvale, 20 kms (12

miles) north of Melbourne, on Friday when the threat was "imminent."

The bomb squad moved three improvised explosive devices to a nearby park where they were "rendered safe" and said there was no longer a threat to the community, police told a news conference.

The teen, who cannot be identified due to his age, was charged with terrorism-related offences and remanded in custody to appear before the Children's

Court in a closed sitting on Monday, police said.

The boy's family were described by police as "caring" and "very, very distraught" over the arrest.

"These are extremely serious offences and they did involve the use of improvised explosive devices," federal police deputy commissioner Mike Phelan told reporters.

"Had we not intervened, there was a real threat of action being taken." Police said an investi-

gation was under way and declined to say whether the incident had any links to Islamic extremism.

They did confirm, however, that there was no link to last month's terror raids in Melbourne and the subsequent arrest of five teenagers over the planning of an Islamic State-inspired terrorist attack against police officers on the national ANZAC day holiday.

Local media reported that the teen had become more active on Facebook in

recent weeks, commenting on the war in Syria and that the attack was to take place during the Mother's Day Classic fun run on Sunday, which attracts tens of thousands of participants in cities around Australia.

"It is deeply troubling to police that such young people in our community are becoming disaffected in the way in which they are and considering endangering the lives of many Australians," Phelan said.

Australia, a staunch

ally of the United States and its action against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, raised the national terror threat level to "high" for the first time last September.

"We know that we face a very serious terror threat," Prime Minister Tony Abbott told reporters in Darwin on Saturday.

"It's important that we don't underestimate the terror threat but it's also important that we keep it in perspective."—*Reuters*

## Russia stages WW2 victory parade, draws rebuke from Ukraine

Moscow, 9 May — Thousands of troops marched across Moscow's Red Square on Saturday and tanks rumbled through streets to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany, an event boycotted by Western leaders over Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis.

Russia's Vladimir Putin has used the anniversary to whip up patriotism and fuel anti-Western sentiment, and at a parade in Kiev President Petro Poroshenko said Moscow was trying to hog the credit for the World War Two victory at Ukraine's expense.

Though Western leaders stayed away, Putin was joined under the Kremlin's walls by about 30 foreign leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, sitting on his right-hand side.

In a sign of closer ties between the two, a column of Chinese troops took part. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was also among those watching.

Dignitaries from India, former Soviet republics and communist-era allies such as Cuba, also attended, un-

derlining Russia's role as an outcast in Europe.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel skipped the parade, as did US President Barack Obama and the French and British leaders, but will attend a wreath-laying ceremony in Moscow on Sunday.

On show was the Armata T-14, Russia's first new tank to be deployed for 40 years, and soldiers, some in World War Two uniforms, filed past under blue skies and bright sunshine.

War veterans watched from the grandstand, their chests bristling with medals, while crowds of people choked sidestreets around the Kremlin, cheering and shouting as fighter jets roared over Moscow's city centre. "Victory day is the most important holiday for Russia.

In practically every Russian family, someone has died fighting for this country," said 43-year-old former marine Alexander Smolkin.

"My own grandfather died defending Russia, this is our day to remember them," he said, adjusting his light-blue beret, medals and military fatigues.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (C), Mongolia's President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj (3<sup>rd</sup> R), United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (R), Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev (3<sup>rd</sup> L), Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (2<sup>nd</sup> L), China's President Xi Jinping (3<sup>rd</sup> R) and other officials take part in a wreath laying ceremony on the Victory Day by the Kremlin walls in central Moscow, Russia, on 9 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Putin has warned that fascism could be on the rise again and is suggesting other countries are rewriting history to play down Moscow's role in winning the war. "The basic principles of international cooperation have been ignored more often in the last decades. The principles which were hard won by humankind following the glob-

al hardships of the war," he told rows of soldiers standing to attention.

"We've seen attempts to create a unipolar world," he said, echoing a 2007 speech when he lambasted the West's world view.

Many Russians saw the West's boycotting of the parade as disrespect. An estimated 27 million Soviet

citizens were killed in the 1941-45 war. Ukraine says it lost between 8-10 million of its citizens, including 3.5 million in the Soviet forces.

Poroshenko rebuked Moscow for accusing Kiev of using "fascist" methods to oust Moscow-backed President Viktor Yanukovich in February last year which triggered the confrontation and

sparked Russia's annexation of Crimea and a pro-Russian separatist rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

A minority of Ukrainian fighters in World War Two joined a militia that was prepared to ally itself with the Nazi invaders to fight Soviet Communist rule, leaving Ukrainian nationalism vulnerable since to accusations of fascist sympathies.

"It is the utmost cynicism to depict our country as a supposedly fascist state. It is done with the aim of justifying to the Russian people its own criminal action - Russia's aggression against Ukraine," Poroshenko said.

In a further sign of distancing itself from its former Soviet master, Ukraine joined most of Europe in a separate ceremony on Friday, a day before Russia.

At a second ceremony on Saturday, Poroshenko said: "We will never again mark this day with the Russian scenario which cold-bloodedly uses our victory day as an apology for its expansionist policies and for keeping its neighbours in its orbit and recreating empire."

Reuters

## Pacific trade deal would help exporters: Obama

WASHINGTON, 9 May — President Barack Obama pressed his case for a US-led Pacific free trade pact on Friday, telling an event in Oregon that a deal would help American exporters to countries such as Japan by removing tariffs and simplifying customs.

Obama made his pitch for sealing the Trans-Pacific Partnership involving Japan and 10 other countries as uncertainty remains about the fate of a bill aimed at speeding up the TPP negotiations, with some influential Democrats in Congress opposed to the legislation.

Speaking at the headquarters of sporting goods giant Nike Inc, Obama said the TPP would strengthen the US hand overseas by giving it the tools to open other markets.

"Beef is really expensive in Japan. Let's make sure they try some Oregon steaks," Obama said.

Beef is one of the agricultur-

al products for which Japan says it will keep exceptional tariffs even under the free trade pact.

Japan categorizes rice, beef and pork, wheat, dairy products and sugar as "sensitive" items in bilateral talks with the United States on market access under the TPP.

"I want to make sure Japanese wine consumers have the opportunity to partake ... in our excellent Oregon wine" under the envisioned deal, Obama also said.

"There are high tariffs on American wine in (Japan). Under this trade partnership, those tariffs would be eliminated," he said.

Obama also said the TPP will help save many US traders the bother of doing onerous customs work in transactions with Japan, complaining the logistics of exporting to the country are "too complicated."

"Products end up being held

up for months at the border. This agreement would help solve some of those problems," Obama said.

US reports said Obama is struggling to persuade Democratic opponents to back granting the president fast-track authority to sign trade deals including TPP with the legislature only asked to vote yes or no without amendments.

The bill for so-called Trade Promotion Authority cleared relevant committees of both Senate and House of Representatives last month but full house deliberations have yet to start.

Mitch McConnell, the Republican majority leader in the Senate, said on Thursday they could begin full discussions about the TPA bill in the upper house next week, increasing pressure on senators who are opposed to it citing the impact on domestic jobs and a lack of information disclosure about the deal's text.

Kyodo News



French Mistral-class protection and command (BPC) ship Dixmude arrives at the Wusong naval port in Shanghai, east China, on 9 May, 2015. A French naval taskforce consisted of the BPC ship Dixmude and the frigate Aconit arrived in Shanghai on Saturday for a 7-day visit.—XINHUA

## UN coordinator for Nepal urges relief work in hard-to-reach areas ahead of rainy season

UNITED NATIONS, 9 May — Relief teams in quake-hit Nepal should focus on remote and hard-to-reach areas to support as many affected people as possible before the upcoming rainy season, said a UN coordinator on Friday.

Jamie McGoldrick, the UN resident and hu-

manitarian coordinator for Nepal, said that improved airlift capacity and the decentralization of logistical support helped to speed up the flow of relief goods, according to UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.

Nepal's monsoon session is expected to begin in June and last through Au-

gust. McGoldrick urged the relief teams to quicken the pace so as to beat the onset of the forthcoming monsoon season, which will add a logistical challenge to relief efforts.

Dujarric told a daily briefing that some relief teams were traveling on foot to impacted areas

while goods were being dropped off at agreed locations with communities so they can be picked up.

Two weeks into the devastating earthquake which hit Nepal on 25 April, the country's Ministry of Home Affairs reported on Friday that the death toll from the earthquake

climbed to 7,885. A total number of 288,798 private and 10,790 public houses were totally destroyed in the quake.

The World Food Program (WFP) is warning that food is an increasingly urgent need in some of the hardest-hit areas, and it has distributed food for

300,000 people since the quake hit.

It also reported that logistical challenges has hindered its operation on the ground and said it was bringing in more helicopters and engaging multiple fleets of small trucks to get supplies to hard-hit areas.

Xinhua

## Bodies of Pakistan crash victims brought to capital



Staff members help a person who was injured during a helicopter crash, at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Gilgit, Pakistan on 8 May, 2015. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, 9 May — Pakistan's military brought the bodies of two ambassadors and two ambassadors' wives to Islamabad on Saturday, a day after they were killed in a helicopter crash in northern mountains as they were inspecting a tourism project.

The ambassadors of Norway and the Philippines and the wives of the Malaysian and Indonesian envoys were killed when the helicopter they were on crashed in the Gilgit region. Three Pakistani crewmen were also killed and several diplomats were injured when the Mi-17 helicopter came down on a school in a valley lined by pine forests and overlooked by snow-peaked mountains. No children were in the school at the time.

The government says the aircraft suffered engine failure, dismissing as bogus a Pakistani Taliban claim that the militants shot it down. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was also go-

ing to the inauguration of a ski lift and was on a separate helicopter when the accident happened.

Pakistani servicemen formed a guard of honour to receive the coffins, draped in national flags and bedecked with wreaths, as soldiers carried them from the aircraft that brought them from the north. The ceremony was broadcast live on television.

Diplomats in black and the military's top brass, including army chief General Raheel Sharif, were on hand and the commanders saluted as the coffins were carried by. Sharif put his arm around a sobbing boy among the diplomats.

"It's a very sad moment and we are all very shaken," Spanish ambassador Javier Carbajosa Sanchez told reporters. He was on the trip but on another helicopter.

"Unfortunately, these things happen. Everything seems to indicate it was a terrible accident."

Pakistan declared a day

of mourning and Sharif has ordered cabinet ministers to accompany the bodies of the four foreign victims to their countries.

The government said 17 people were on board and among the injured were the ambassadors of Poland and the Netherlands. Gilgit, about 250 km (150 miles) north of Islamabad, is not a militant stronghold and the Taliban often claim responsibility for incidents that they had nothing to do with.

Witnesses on the ground, and in other helicopters on the trip, reported nothing to indicate any firing. The Mi-17 is considered a reliable, no-frills helicopter, first built by the Russians for use in hot and high conditions in Asia.

The Pakistani military is generally seen as maintaining its equipment well though media have reported four other Mi-17 crashes in Pakistan in the last 11 years.

A military team is investigating the crash.

Reuters

## 43 prisoners escape, 44 killed in jail break in Iraq's Diyala

BAQUBA, (Iraq), 9 May — Up to 43 inmates escaped a prison in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala amid a riot that killed 33 inmates and 11 policemen, and wounded 17 others, a provincial security source said on Saturday.

Nine of the escaped prisoners were held for terror charges and the rest were accused of criminal charges, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attempt started when a group of detainees

took the gun of a guard during his tour late Friday night in the jail of the police headquarters in the city of Khalis, just west of the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of the capital Baghdad, the source said.

The inmates later seized more departments of the jail, gained more weapons and clashed with the security forces for more than four hours after reinforcement troops arrived at the scene and retook control of the situation at dawn, the source

added.

Earlier, the source put the toll at more than 20 detainees and 10 police officers killed and 15 more policemen wounded by the riot in the prison which held more than 150 detainees.

Prison-breaks frequently occurred in Iraq, including the prison break of Abu Ghraib prison in 2013 when hundreds of inmates escaped, including the mass break out of some 500 al-Qaeda militants.

*Xinhua*

## Egypt court sentences Mubarak, sons to three years in jail

CAIRO, 9 May — An Egyptian court sentenced former president Hosni Mubarak and his two sons to three years in jail without parole on Saturday in the retrial of a corruption case.

Mubarak was sentenced to three years in prison last May for diverting public funds earmarked to renovate presidential palaces and using the money to upgrade family properties. His two sons were given four-year jail terms in the same case.

However, in January, Egypt's high court overturned the convictions.

Mubarak, who ruled Egypt with an iron fist for 30 years, and his sons Gamal and Alaa may not have to serve any jail time for those corruption charges because they already spent that amount of time in pris-



Ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak waves to his supporters outside the area where he is hospitalized during his birthday at Maadi military hospital on the outskirts of Cairo on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

on in other cases.

"The ruling of the court is three years in prison without parole for Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and Gamal Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and Alaa Mohamed Hosni Mubarak," announced judge Hassan Hassanein.

Mubarak was toppled during the Arab Spring uprisings which swept the

region in 2011 and raised hopes of democracy.

But a court decision to drop charges against Mubarak of conspiring to kill protesters in the uprising focused in Cairo's Tahrir Square and the release from jail of some of his associates has cast doubt over Egypt's political transformation.

Reuters

## More than 100 Saudi-led air strikes hit Yemen

CAIRO, 9 May — A Saudi-led coalition struck northern provinces of Yemen on Saturday in a third consecutive night of heavy air strikes, the Houthi rebels said, following their shelling this week of Saudi border areas.

More than 100 air strikes hit areas of Saada and Hajjah provinces, including the districts of Haradh, Maida and Bakil al-Mir, the Houthis said. It was not possible to independently verify the number or location of strikes.

Other strikes targeted Sanaa airport's runway, an official there said, and Houthi targets in the al-Sadda district of Ibb in central Yemen, residents there said.

The coalition has bombarded the Houthis and

army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh since 26 March, but had eased back on the strikes in late April and on Friday offered a five-day truce starting on 12 May if other parties agreed.

The Saudis and nine other Arab countries, backed by the United States, Britain and France, hoped to force the Houthis back to their northern heartland and restore the exiled government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who is in Riyadh.

The Houthis are mainly drawn from the Zaydi sect of Shi'ite Islam that predominates in Yemen's northern highlands and took advantage of political chaos to seize the capital Sanaa and then advance further south over the past year,

aided by Saleh.

Riyadh fears the Houthis will act as a proxy for their main regional rival, Shi'ite Iran, to undermine Saudi security, and that their advance into Sunni regions will add a sectarian edge to the civil war, strengthening an al-Qaeda group in Yemen.

Iran and the Houthis deny there are funding, arming or training efforts by Teheran, and regional analysts say the rebel group is unlikely ever to become an all-out proxy for the Islamic Republic in the mould of Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday said the campaign was the work of an "inexperienced" government that did not understand the region's politics. "It is not a war but an unfair

bombing attack on a neighbour," state news agency

IRNA quoted him as saying in an address to members

of the Red Crescent relief agency.—Reuters



A man rides a motorcycle past a headquarters of the Houthi group, which was destroyed after an air strike by a Saudi-led coalition, in Yemen's northwestern city of Saada on 26 April, 2015.—REUTERS



Sunday, 10 May, 2015

## Those at grassroots level vulnerable to hike in commodity prices

By Aung Khin

Commodity prices have risen markedly in recent weeks, causing housewives to grumble about household costs. Nobody wants to take responsibility for the price hike and it appears to be a chicken-and-egg problem.

Global oil prices have climbed above US \$68 per barrel for the first time since December. Is it a reason for increasing commodity prices? When the crude oil market dwindled and global consumer prices were

declining in 2014, Myanmar merchants and business-people gave a variety of reasons for sustaining price increases. Ordinary people could not enjoy the fall of crude oil prices, while businesses were enjoying lower production and transportation costs.

A salary increase for government employees was announced in March, with the new pay taking effect on April 1, the beginning of fiscal 2015-2016. The pay rise was aimed at slightly raising the standard of living of approximately 1.5 million government staff.

However, the salary hike has coincided with an increase in consumer prices. The Asian Development Bank has estimated that Myanmar's current inflation of 6 percent is likely to increase to 8.4 percent in the upcoming fiscal year due to GDP growth and expected higher wages.

Myanmar is still experiencing electricity shortages in hot season every year when water levels decline in dams and reservoirs. The government of a neighbouring country recently announced a small cut in power bills for the hot season to reflect the lower cost of fuel

used for power generation.

Only when commodity prices can be managed can the inflation rate be brought under the control. Otherwise, ordinary people will suffer imbalances between income and expenditure.

All of these factors— increasing global oil prices, electricity shortages in hot season and salary increases— might contribute to the hike in commodity prices. Authorities must find appropriate solutions to solve these problems urgently so as not to have a serious impact at the grassroots level.

### Write for us

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

## Flibbertigibbets, sybarites, loafers, pessimists, rumor-mongers, nincompoops and drug addicts never contribute to the good of society

By: Tommy Pauk

Making the best use of human resources is important for any society. If a society faces a shortage of human resources, the all-round development of such society will be severely hampered. Fundamentally, man is born to be busy to serve his society in a vigorous and relentless way. He ought to serve not only his society but also the entire mankind. Individuals earn their livelihoods as specific professions according to their capabilities, aptitude and skills in the human society. The individual earnings may be different. Nevertheless, man is obliged to serve his society with his capacity.

If a person who does not contribute to the good of human society, he or she would become a useless person. Human life is precious on earth. However, if a person does not behave or practice humanely, he or she is considered a subhuman person. These days, some of the people spend time doing nothing and having no purpose or basis for their nations. Due to their malpractice, negative attitude and stupid mindsets, such nations lose the quantity of manpower. On the other hand, these types of people reduce the number of people in manpower for the nations. Unless the volume of manpower is great, the nation cannot build its socio-economic development by itself.

Flibbertigibbets are sort of persons who are not serious enough or talk a lot about silly things which

reflect their silly mindsets indeed. They usually talk in haphazard and undisciplined manner. Their habit and behavior are almost unbeneficial to their society. Their words are of nothing valuable for his associates and their society. They do not support their society or associations. The sensible and considerate people do not trust whatever flibbertigibbets have talked to them. Since flibbertigibbets are in the habit of bluffing, nobody will want to work together or do business.

Sybarite is a person devoted to pleasure and luxury. His or her devotion to the pleasure and luxury are so extreme that he or she fails to contribute to the good of mankind. This type of person never ever makes effort to contribute assistance to others who are in trouble. Instead, he or she indulges in pleasure and luxury only, nothing more. Sybarites do not do anything beneficial and prosperous for their society. They do not cooperate or associate with others for the interests and benefits of their society. May be they possess aptitude for the work. Sybarites usually give priority to pleasure and luxury rather than social welfare tasks as well as charity. Thus, such persons cannot be enlisted into manpower of a society.

Loafers have no aims, no objectives and no expectations for their life and their society as well. They aimlessly loaf around outside. In fact, they spend their time doing nothing, especially when they should be work-

ing. In other words, loafers waste their time rather than working. They do not learn any subjects for vocation or profession or suitable callings. They do not even think about their future prospects. It obviously reveals that they reduce the manpower of a certain society and their behavior impact on the society concerned. The more loafers in the society, the worse situations prevail in the society. If the volume of manpower is low, the human capital becomes less in the society. Thus, the negative impact follows in politics, economy and social activities for the society indeed.

Pessimists are the ones who always expect bad things to happen. Their negative views, speculations and perspective do not support or share the interest to the fellow citizens. Actually, they are inclusive and responsible for doing things for the benefits or interests of the society concerned. However, they never give constructive advice and better idea even if they find the flaw or fault in doing some tasks done by others. So this practice shows that they are totally selfish and they cannot serve their society. Probably, they must be educated persons, but they are not wise enough to deal with others consistently and harmoniously. Due to their lopsided views, their ability cannot be utilized for the good of the society. Although they do not make contribution to others, they disturb the nation building tasks deliberately. Therefore, the persons striving for all-round development of

the society ostracize the pessimists in nation building tasks. Otherwise, they will work against with those who are optimists and the nation building tasks cannot be successful. It is very obvious that the pessimists do not do any good things for their society. They do not become as a part of the human resources of the society. Their way of thinking is quite useless for politics, economy and social activities for the society concerned.

Rumor-mongers tend to spread rumors to the public in order to disrupt the peaceful situation into mayhem or panic. For example: 'a rumor about the likelihood of the storm'. Normally, the general public are not aware of the unreliable news and they believe it as true news or story. The rumor-mongers maliciously spread rumors about the ones who they hate. For example; 'character assassination on a public figure'. Undoubtedly, most of the rumors spread by rumor-mongers have evil-intention. Their evil-intention, malice and conspiratorial scheme can be vividly seen on the rumors they spread. The rumor-mongers sometimes spread rumor to defame or discredit the reputation of the individuals or dignitaries or dignified persons. Their acts are almost unacceptable, unbeneficial and inexcusable because they cause harmful effect on the ordinary people or innocent people in the society concerned. Besides, the rumor-mongers attack some organizations, governments, companies and institutions by creating rumors. They

aim to damage or tarnish the images of these governments, companies and institutions. The rumor-mongers are fabricating or creating rumors to achieve their personal gains indeed. Absolutely, they are not serving for the sake of general public or fellow-citizens. They spread rumor to trick or deceive people who are pretty gullible to fall for that trick. To analyze the acts of rumor-mongers, we find them with evil-scheme, sheer-malevolence and wickedness. We, therefore should be alert to scrutinize the stories or news whether they are true or not in our society.

Nincompoops cannot be recruited into manpower as they are not capable of doing things properly. Since they are silly or foolish, they cannot work together with normal people. They are also useless and cannot be assigned duties to carry out nation building tasks or endeavor. They are classified as idle persons.

Drug addicts give a lot of trouble to their families, relatives and ordinary people. They are influenced by narcotic drugs which affect their minds in harmful way. They become abnormal persons and do not have sound minds. The drug addicts lose normal conscience due to excessive use of narcotic drugs. They get addicted to

the drug and its sensation extremely. They dare to commit any crimes in order to get drugs whenever the drugs are in shortage. The drug addicts as well as drug users are unable to stop taking harmful drugs. As a result, the drug addicts are out of list of the manpower for the society. They are wasting their lives and doing nothing for the good of the society. They cannot resist the overwhelming drug addiction and eventually they fall into an abyss of troublesome life. The governments concerned should set up more and more Drug Rehabilitation Centers in order to help the drug addicts to have normal or useful life again. Also, public need to be educated on the dangers of drug-taking or drug abuse.

Availability of human resources, manpower and human capital make the strong workforce for a society. Either a shortage or decrease in the workforce can affect the prosperity of society. If the inefficient persons outnumber the efficient persons, the development of society will lag far behind other societies. We, humans need more and more capable persons in order to fulfill the benefits and interest of our society. We should emphasize how much we have contributed to the welfare of the society and mankind!!!!.

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

## ARTICLE

## Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

By Sayar Mya

There are six universities in Singapore.

When I checked the recent articles that I have already written in the Global New Light of Myanmar, it was found that I have inadvertently failed to write two universities.

**Universities in Singapore**

- National University of Singapore
- Nanyang Technological University
- Singapore Management University
- Singapore Institute of Technology
- Singapore University of Technology and Design
- SIM University

I have already contributed the first four universities, and now the author has taken up the fifth university.

**The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)**

The university is the fourth autonomous university of the Republic of Singapore. SUTD's mission is to advance knowledge and nurture technically grounded leaders and innovators to serve societal needs. At SUTD, design as a discipline cuts across the curriculum and provides a novel framework for the research and educational programmes.

SUTD undergraduate students are granted either a Bachelor of Engineering or Bachelor of Science degrees with a major in (1) **Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD)**, (2) **Engineering Product Development (EPD)**, (3) **Engineering Systems Design (ESD)** and (4) **Information Systems and Technology Design (ISTD)**. It also offers an MIT-SUTD (the Singapore University of Technology and Design and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Dual Master's degree Programme; a full-time programme leading to a degree from both MIT and SUTD. SUTD also offers PhD in each of its four areas of focus (pillars). SUTD is the only institution in Singapore apart from Yale-NUS College to follow a holistic admissions process.

**History**

The university opened its doors at its Dover Road interim campus in April 2012. Its permanent campus at Changi (Airport Area)

opened in January 2015. It is the only university to be located in the eastern part of Singapore. The new campus is located next to Upper Changi MRT Station on the Downtown Line Stage 3 which will be operational in 2017. The founding president is Thomas L. Magnanti, who is a Professor with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

**Academics****Undergraduate**

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been developing an undergraduate curriculum suited to the local context since the two universities signed the collaboration agreement in January 2010. The curriculum offers a modern engineering and architecture education that crosses traditional departments enabling students to finish 8 terms in 3.5 years thus graduating 9 months earlier than National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University. SUTD provides a common curriculum for all students in the first 3 terms also referred to as "freshmore" terms. (It means a student in his/her second year of high school who has failed too many classes to be considered a sophomore).

**Graduate Programmes**

A two-year full-time MIT-SUTD Dual Masters' Degree Programme will be offered in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to talented graduates with a keen interest in research in one of the following areas: **Civil and Environmental Engineering; Supply Chain Management Programme; Master of Engineering in Manufacturing**. Graduate opportunities also include the SUTD PhD Programme. Candidates will spend up to one year in USA, and the other year in Singapore, receiving master's degrees from both MIT and SUTD.

**ACADEMIC PILLARS ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN (ASD):**

ASD prepares students for the immediate present and future needs of architecture and sustainable design through an innovative approach that concentrates on technology and design, design creativity and cultural sensitivity. Students will be

trained to deal with the important issues of future cities, such as the rapid urbanization in Asia, the digitalization of practice, and the transformation of fabrication by algorithms (a set of rules that must be followed when solving a particular problem) and robots. ASD prepares students for positions in architectural design, construction, and real estate management and development, as well as for various graduate programmes.

**Engineering Product Development (EPD):**

EPD covers the conception, design, analysis, implementation and operation of technology-intensive systems and products in the fields of electronics, chemical systems, defence, energy, machinery, robotics, aerospace, transportation, and bio-engineering. It prepares students for leadership, entrepreneurship, and industrial positions in engineering and product development, as well as for various graduate programmes.

**Engineering Systems Design (ESD):**

ESD focuses on the modeling, design, optimization and management of large scale complex systems whose performance and function depend both on their technology and on the socio-economic context within which they operate. Examples include supply chains and logistics, financial services, health care delivery systems, transportation systems, security and defence systems as well as energy production and distribution systems. It prepares students for positions as system analysts or project leaders in a wide range of private and public sectors, for careers in consulting, and for various graduate programmes.

Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD):

ISTD focuses on "Information Systems" that includes all areas of computer science and computer engineering, particularly the design and interaction of information systems for the physical world that includes humans and machines. It prepares students for positions as software engineers adept at designing, building, and testing complex software and software/hardware

systems in all areas of human endeavors including social media, banking and finance, transportation, health care, and games. ISTD prepares students for challenging jobs that advance technology for human benefit, graduate programmes and subsequent careers in education and research.

**Research Initiatives****SUTD-MIT International Design Centre (IDC):**

The IDC is engaged to become the world's premier scholarly hub for technologically-intensive design. It is a multi-million dollar centre based both in Singapore at SUTD, and at MIT, with academic and industrial partners from around the world. IDC faculty, researchers and students work together to design devices, products, systems, services and the built environment that address strategic needs of Singapore, the greater Asian region, the US, and the global community. At the same time, the IDC studies and advances the design process and design science, seeking to develop new tools and methods for design practice and education. The IDC has more than 100 projects that involve approximately 270 faculty, researchers, and students.

IDC is part of a collaboration agreement between SUTD and MIT.

**Lee Kwan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities (CIC)**

LKY CIC is one of the first university centers to focus on the integrated use of technology and design to derive solutions for urban planning, design, development and management. The Centre will study the confluence of governance, social management frameworks and technology and design innovations. It is one of five research centers in the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). The pioneering model of SUTD, a university without boundaries extends to how it is organized to cross disciplines, and the research strength of LKY CIC is drawn from the multi-disciplinary faculty working closely with a core team of research fellows at the Centre.

**SUTD-JTC Industrial Infrastructure Innovation Centre (I 3 Center)**

The SUTD-JTC I 3 Centre is set up to spearhead

research efforts in design, architecture, engineering, and social science that will create value for industry, investors and Singapore. This new partnership platform aims to forge closer collaboration to scale up the industry's innovation, facilitate the development of the next big idea, and build new local capabilities in the field of industrial infrastructure development.

**"iTrust" Research Centre**

"iTrust" is a multidisciplinary research centre located at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), established collaboratively by SUTD and the Ministry of Defence, Singapore (MINDEF).

The focus of iTrust is on cyber security. Systems of interest include large infrastructure of national importance (such as power grid, water treatment, oil refineries) as well as cyber-devices used in health care, examples the pacemakers, defibrillators, insulin pumps, and VNS (Vagus Nerve Stimulation) implants.

**O-Lab**

Through academic research O-Lab is developing and validating effective approaches to collaborative design across Asia. O-lab comprises academics and practitioners interested in understanding and enhancing design practices. They work with diverse local and international partners including NGOs, Government Agencies, Academic Institutes and Community Bodies to develop and run participatory design projects. These participatory projects are conducted as action research where O-Lab members, project partners and other stakeholders come together to study their problems scientifically in order to guide, correct, and evaluate their decisions and actions.

**Temasek Labs (TL) at SUTD**

TL at SUTD undertakes cutting-edge research and development while building up both technical and human talent capabilities in vital fields. The current focus is on areas of defence system design and development, such as Unmanned Systems, Information Systems, Soldier Systems and Engineering Systems.

TL at SUTD harnesses the potential of science, technology and design for Singapore's defence, and complements the work that is currently undertaken at the

National Laboratories, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and other research establishments.

**Campuses**

The interim campus for Singapore University of Technology and Design from April 2012 was at Dover, Singapore. SUTD's permanent campus recently opened in January 2015 at Changi, near Changi Business Park. SUTD has appointed DP Architects Pte Company to design the academic building cluster of its permanent campus in Upper Changi, and in collaboration with UN Studio from Amsterdam, through an open selection process.

**Conclusion**

In the space of just a few generations, Singapore has transformed itself from an impoverished colonial outpost into a country with a higher per capita gross domestic product than the US.

Something similar appears to be happening to its academic sphere. Singapore's two strongest research universities have leapt from the "Fourth Division to the Champions League" over the past decade.

One analyst was of the view that Singapore's university system is explicitly planned by the government to serve the needs of the economy in a way that would be unthinkable in the UK.

Another educational observer opined that one current concern for policymakers is that the city state's graduates too often get stuck in the middle ranks of multinational corporations because they are seen – or are stereotyped. They are hard-working graduates yet lacking in creativity.

Education has evolved into more than the lessons and assignments given in the classroom, instead it can be seen as a way of experiencing the world and communicating with it in order to broaden the horizons.

There may be motley assortment of assessments and evaluations from different angle and perspective.

However, the aim and purpose of the author is to present about the recently opened SUTD in April 2012 in plain and simple form to the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar and to the interested professionals in the field of education.

## Healthy lifestyle may help improve bowel cancer survival



LONDON, 9 May — Patients with bowel cancer may have a better chance of survival if they follow lifestyle guidelines about diet, physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight, according to a study recently published by UK journal *BioMed Central*.

It has been suggested that lifestyle factors before and after diagnosis of bowel cancer can influence survival rates. To investigate this further, a group of researchers led by a team from Imperial College London analyzed the data of 520,000 participants from 10 countries in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) cohort study. During the study period of an average of 6.4 years, 3,292 participants were diagnosed with bowel cancer.

The researchers developed a scoring system based on guidelines for both cancer prevention and cancer survival. A six-point score was con-

structed for men based on recommendations in the guidelines about body weight, physical activity, food and drinks, etc., while women had a seven-point score, which included the added factor of breastfeeding, according to the study. Researchers found that for both groups, the higher the score, the lower the risk of mortality after bowel cancer.

When the individual recommendations were studied, findings were that having a healthy weight and high fruit and vegetable consumption had the strongest survival rates, according to the researchers.

There was also a link between women who breastfed and their survival of bowel cancer, researchers said.

Lead researcher, Dora Romaguera said the results show that a healthy lifestyle not only prevents developing bowel cancer but also, in those who eventually developed it, it improves survival.

*Xinhua*

## EU watchdog, bankers spar over new bonus rules

LONDON, 9 May — The European Union's banking watchdog called on lenders on Friday to back up their complaints that a blanket application of the bloc's bonus rules will harm the single market.

The European Banking Authority (EBA) is updating guidance on banker pay, such as when part of a bonus should be deferred or what constitutes fixed and variable pay. It also reflects the bloc's new cap on bonuses of top earners.

The rules are aimed at stopping bankers taking excessive risks to earn big bonuses.

Lenders want the revised rules, set to be in place from the end of 2015, to be applied "proportionately" with exemptions for less risky banks or staff getting modest pay outs.

EBA Chairman An-

drea Enria said at a hearing on Friday that lawyers have advised there cannot be waivers from minimum requirements such as bonus deferrals.

The watchdog has asked the EU to amend the law to make it easier to apply proportionality but this could take years.

In the meantime EBA wants lenders to provide proof that the bloc's single market would suffer under blanket rules.

The German savings banks association told the hearing that more than half of staff in the sector have bonuses of less than 1,000 euros (£726), creating an administrative headache for deferring relatively small sums. "It is nonsense to implement these rules... The principle of proportionality must lead to exemptions in some cases at the extreme

lower end," a representative told the hearing.

While the bonus cap is binding, some elements are applied by national supervisors on a "comply or explain" basis, meaning the supervisor has some flexibility.

Isabelle Vaillant, an EBA director, said some countries may end up using this as a way of introducing proportionality.



*The Canary Wharf financial district is seen in east London on 12 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS*

## Toyota, Mazda in talks on expanding partnership — sources



*The Toyota Mirai, Toyota Motor Corporation's first commercially available, mid-sized hydrogen fuel cell sedan, is seen at a press preview in Newport Beach, California on 17 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS*

TOKYO, 9 May — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) and Mazda Motor Corp (7261.T) are in talks to expand their technology part-

nership to fuel-cell vehicles (FCVs), sources said on Saturday, as global automakers face rising costs to comply with stricter emission regu-

lations.

The two Japanese automakers already have a technology and production tie-up, and Toyota was now considering providing fuel-cell and plug-in-hybrid technology to Mazda, said the two sources, who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Mazda, in return, was considering offering its partner fuel-efficient gasoline and diesel engine technology under its proprietary SkyActiv series, the sources said.

Mazda has been trying to develop FCVs on its own, but it has decided to team up with Toyota, which produces the Mirai, the world's

only mass-market fuel-cell car, the sources said.

Toyota has said hydrogen FCVs offer the most promising zero-emission alternative to conventional cars since they have a similar driving range and refuelling time.

Toyota has already decided to share some of its patents concerning fuel cell technology for free, hoping this will speed up the development of the infrastructure.

The *Nikkei* business daily reported the two companies intended to reach an agreement on the partnership soon.

Toyota and Mazda officials said nothing has been decided.—*Reuters*

## Liberia declared Ebola-free, but outbreak continues over border

MONROVIA, 9 May — Liberia was declared free from Ebola on Saturday after 42 days without a new case, the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said, but it urged vigilance until the worst-ever recorded outbreak of the virus was extinguished in neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone.

A total of 11,005 people have died from Ebola in Liberia, neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone since the outbreak began in December 2013, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Nearly half of those deaths have been in Liberia, where the outbreak peaked

between August and October, with hundreds of cases a week, sparking international alarm. The United States sent in hundreds of troops to help build treatment clinics in a country founded by freed US slaves.

Helped by the visible US military presence, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government launched a national awareness campaign to stem the infectious disease, which is spread by physical contact with sick people. MSF said that Liberia's completion of the WHO's benchmark for the end of an Ebola epidemic — 42 days without a new case,

marking twice the maximum incubation period of the virus — should not lead to complacency. "We can't take our foot off the gas until all three countries record 42 days with no cases," said Mariateresa Cacciapuoti, MSF's head of mission in Liberia. She urged Liberia to step up cross-border surveillance to prevent Ebola slipping back into the country.

The UN Special Envoy on Ebola, David Nabarro, said this week that Liberian authorities had pledged to maintain heightened surveillance for at least a year after being declared Ebola-free on Saturday.



*Liberia's last known Ebola patient Beatrice Yardolo sits in the exit portion of a Chinese Ebola treatment unit, where she was treated, in Monrovia, Liberia on 5 March, 2015.—REUTERS*

Nabarro suggested that, even though fewer than 20 new cases were reported in

Guinea and Sierra Leone last week, it could take months to get to zero.

International aid organizations were forced to step in as the Ebola outbreak ravaged the region's poorly equipped and understaffed healthcare systems.

MSF — which was highly critical of the slow response by the United Nations and western governments — opened the world's largest Ebola management centre in Monrovia, with a capacity of 400 beds.

According to the WHO, a total of 868 health workers have caught the virus in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since the start of the outbreak, of whom 507 died.

*Reuters*

## Google launches first campus for startups in Asia

SEOUL, 9 May — US Internet giant Google Inc opened its Seoul Campus in South Korea on Friday, its first Asian campus for nurturing local startups.

Located in the country's trendy Gangnam district, the new Seoul Campus plays a role as a community hub, where entrepreneurs come to learn, share ideas and launch startups. With the size of 2,000 square metres, the campus offers entrepreneurs co-working space, meeting rooms, library, cafe and other facilities needed for business.

Karim Tamsamani, President of Google Asia Pacific said that he has witnessed a fast growth of Korean smaller companies in recent years. However, many startups are focusing locally, due to a lack of resources, know-how and connections.

"We kept looking for an investment that could help all startups in South Korea grow their global ambition, their global connections, their global talent," said Tamsamani.

Around 1,000 entrepreneurs from 28 countries have visited the Seoul Campus during the first three weeks of test run, with females accounting for 22 percent, according to statistics provided by Google.

"I am so glad that Google Seoul Campus offering us a platform to meet with other startups who may run into the same difficulties as we had. We can share difficulties with each other and find a solution," said April Kim, the 33-year-old co-founder and CEO of the startups ChattingCat, a streamlined English writing assistant service.

Kim, who moved her

team to Google Seoul Campus, added that she looked forward to meeting more women colleagues and mentors through the global networks and diverse women entrepreneurship programs that Campus Seoul provided.

Mary Grove, Director of Google for Entrepreneurs, explained that the flourishing Korean startups and incredible growth of innovation is one of the most important reasons Google locate its first Asian campus in Seoul.

As a matter of fact, South Korea has already established centres for creative economy & innovations with the same function of Google campus to foster startups in 17 cities and provinces across the countries. Most of them are in collaborating with local large enterprises such as SK, Samsung or Hyundai.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye has put forward the "creative economy" as a key policy for her administration. In 2013, Korean government unveiled a 3.3-trillion won (3-billion US dollars) fund to support start-ups over the next three years.—Xinhua



## Mercury's magnetic field nearly 4 billion years old

WASHINGTON, 9 May — New data from the *US MESSENGER* spacecraft, which crash-landed into Mercury just a week ago, showed that the planet's magnetic field is almost 4 billion years old, researchers said on Thursday.

The discovery, published in the US journal *Science*, provided "critical information on Mercury's interior thermal and dynamic evolution," wrote the researchers led by Catherine Johnson of the University of British Columbia.

Scientists have known for some time that Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun, has a magnetic field similar to the Earth's, but much weaker. The motion of liquid iron deep inside the planet's core generates the field. The *MESSENGER* probe left the Earth in 2004, reached Mercury in 2008 and had orbited the planet since 2011, sending valuable data back to the Earth. In recent months, it flew incredibly close to the planet's surface — at

altitudes as low as 15 kilometres, before crashing into its surface on 30 April.

When *MESSENGER* flew close to the planet, its magnetometer collected data on the magnetism of rocks in Mercury's surface, the researchers said.

Those tiny signals revealed that Mercury's magnetic field is very ancient, between 3.7 and 3.9 billion years old. The planet itself formed around the same time as the Earth, just over 4.5 billion years ago.

"If we didn't have these recent observations, we would never have known how Mercury's magnetic field evolved over time," said Johnson, also a scientist at the US-based Planetary Science Institute. "It's just been waiting to tell us its story."

Mercury is the only other planet besides the Earth in the inner solar system with such a magnetic field. There is evidence that Mars once had a magnetic field but it disappeared at some point over 3 billion years ago.—Xinhua

## Ericsson extends patent suits against Apple to Europe

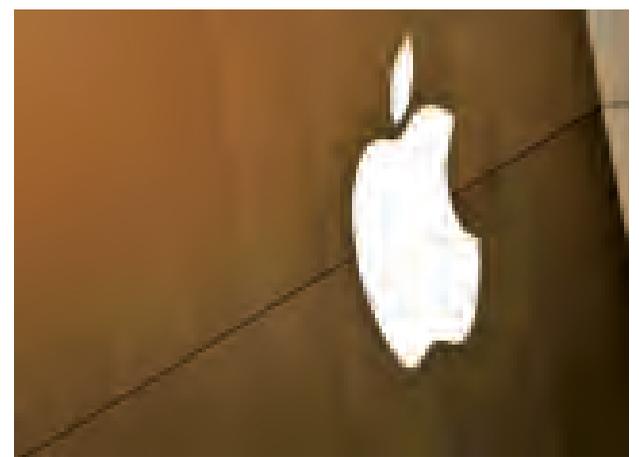
STOCKHOLM, 9 May — Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson (ERICB.ST) has filed lawsuits in Germany, Britain and the Netherlands against Apple (AAPL.O) over technology licence payments, Ericsson said on Friday, extending a US battle between the firms to Europe.

Ericsson said it had offered to enter into arbitration with Apple to reach a global licensing agreement for its patents, but that offer had now expired.

"Apple continues to profit from Ericsson's technology without having a valid licence in place," said Kasim Alfalahi, Chief Intellectual Property Officer at Ericsson.

"Our technology is used in many features and functionality of today's communication devices. We are confident the courts in Germany, the UK and the Netherlands will be able to help us resolve this matter in a fair manner," he added.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment on the legal action in the three European countries, which



The Apple logo is seen at the flagship Apple retail store in San Francisco, California on 27 April, 2015.

REUTERS

relates to 2G and 4G/LTE mobile communications standards and non-standardized technology, but referred to its statement in January.

"Unfortunately, we have not been able to agree with Ericsson on a fair rate for their patents so, as a last resort, we are asking the courts for help," part of that statement said.

Ericsson had already filed a complaint in mid-January in the United States against Apple, responding to a lawsuit from the iPhone maker.

Last year, smartphone maker Samsung Electronics Co 0059330.KS agreed to pay Ericsson \$650 million (£421.7 million) along with years of royalties to end a licence dispute.

If the dispute with Apple also went Ericsson's way, the US firm would have to pay it between 2-6 billion Swedish crowns (£156.6 million — £470 million) annually, analysts said, based on estimates of levels of handset sales and royalty payments per phone.

Reuters

## Seeing and believing: Virtual reality set to conquer living rooms

NEW YORK, 9 May — It sounded so promising.

Anyone, anywhere would be able to strap on a headset in their living room and be able to experience events anywhere in the world — or outside of it — as if they were really there.

Virtual reality (VR) technology was long seen as the next big thing. But real reality always seemed to get in the way.

For years, it was the costly and bulky equipment; More recently, the sparse investment in software because of a lack of consumer-ready headgear.

Now, that could change.

Oculus, the VR business bought for \$2 billion by Facebook Inc (FB.O) last year, said this week it would start shipping a consumer version of its Rift headset in early 2016, raising hopes that investment in VR software will finally take off.

"I have been waiting for virtual reality since I



An attendee tries an Oculus-powered Samsung Gear VR headset during the French telecom Orange annual company's innovations show in Paris on 2 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

was a little boy 30 years ago," said Ben Schachter, an analyst at Macquarie Securities in New York.

"Our view is that things are radically different this time."

About 2.7 million VR headsets, including versions aimed at app and content developers, could be sold in 2015, according to technology consultancy KZero.

With the launch of more consumer-friendly

versions, total VR sales are expected to jump to 39 million in 2018, helping software companies alone rake in \$4.6 billion — up from a projected \$129 million this year.

"We believe that many very deep-pocketed companies will be in this space soon," Schachter said.

Sony Corp (6758.T) and Taiwan's HTC Corp (2498.TW) are among the big hardware makers planning to launch consumer

headsets — HTC by the end of 2015 and Sony next year.

Oculus partnered with Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) to build the developer version of the South Korean company's mobile VR headset, Gear VR Innovator Edition, which was released in the United States in December. Samsung is expected to release a consumer-version Gear VR by the end of the year.

"This is the right time for early stage investors," said Mike Rothenberg, founder and CEO of Rothenberg Ventures, a San Francisco venture capital firm that has invested in VR startups.

Santa Barbara, California-based WorldViz plans to release a number of VR software apps, which can be used in industries such as oil and gas, aerospace, education, and entertainment this year, and expects revenue to double, founder and President Peter Schlueter said.—Reuters

## Nepal pledges to rebuild schools and roads within two years of quake



Local residents walk past collapsed houses after the 25 April earthquake in Bhaktapur, Nepal, on 8 May, 2015.—REUTERS

KATHMANDU, 9 May — Nepal's prime minister pledged on Friday to repair public buildings, schools and infrastructure within two years of the 7.8 earthquake that struck the country last month.

"The government will reconstruct damaged public buildings, roads, schools, hospitals, telecom facilities, power houses, and colleges in two years," Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said in an address to parliament.

He also said the government would provide loans of up to \$25,000 (16,166 pounds) at an interest rate of 2 percent for the reconstruction of private

homes.

The announcement comes after the country's worst earthquake in more than 80 years, shortly before noon on 25 April.

At least 7,903 people were killed, nearly 18,000 injured, and more than 541,000 buildings damaged.

The government said the cost of the first phase of reconstruction would be \$2 billion and it had set aside \$200 million towards that.

For the balance, the government has appealed for donations from foreign countries, aid agencies and Nepali people themselves.

Koirala said authorities would prepare esti-

mates of the full cost of reconstruction once the extent of the damage has been ascertained. Nepal is planning to convene a donors' meeting shortly to request aid for reconstruction.

On Friday, aid groups were still trying to reach many remote communities with relief supplies by air and by road to ensure food and shelter as the yearly monsoon approached. Authorities will provide temporary shelter in public buildings to people who do not want to return to their homes, the prime minister said. Religious and historic sites and monuments will be rebuilt in the next five years.—Reuters

## Okinawa governor calls defence minister "high-handed"

NAHA, (Japan), 9 May — The central and Okinawa governments failed to narrow their differences over a controversial relocation plan for a US military base on Saturday, as the Okinawa governor criticized the defence minister for having been "high-handed." "There have been high-handed remarks, which fell far short of the (central) government's policy of working together with Okinawa," Gov Takeshi Onaga told Defence Minister Gen Nakatani during their first meeting in touching on the minister's past words and deeds over the relocation issue. Nakatani had once refused to hold talks with the governor.

Onaga said it is "impossible" to build a replacement facility in a coastal area of Nago for the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Ginowan, adding, "I will continue to definitely oppose" the relocation plan.

Nakatani told Onaga the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been "convinced it is the only solution," seeking understating from people of Okinawa Prefecture, which has already hosted the bulk of US forces in Japan.

Abe's government has maintained that the planned relocation from densely populated Ginowan to Nago is needed to alleviate the risk of accidents posed by the existing base and at the same time maintain the deterrence effect

of US forces stationed in Okinawa. At the meeting, Nakatani underscored the geographical importance of Okinawa, the island prefecture in the southwest, in terms of the nation's security policy while referring to China's increasing maritime activities.

He also explained to Onaga that Tokyo and Washington reaffirmed the need to ease Okinawa's base-hosting burdens at their "two-plus-two" security talks in New York last month between foreign and defence ministers.

But Onaga, who became governor in December with a pledge to block the relocation plan, again urged the central government to abort it.

After the meeting at the prefectural government office, Nakatani told reporters that the central government wants to proceed with the existing plan and start this summer to reclaim the coastal area to build the replacement facility.

Abe and US President Barack Obama confirmed the need for relocating the Futenma base at their summit late last month in Washington, which led Onaga to voice his "strong resentment."

Before Abe's US visit, Onaga met with the prime minister in Tokyo, following his talks with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga in Okinawa in early April, but the two sides have remained apart on the relocation issue.

Kyodo News

## German government to speed up asylum process but puts off aid decision

BERLIN, 9 May — Chancellor Angela Merkel's government and leaders of Germany's powerful regions agreed on Friday to speed up processing of asylum applications but put off a decision on increasing support for towns and cities struggling with a surge in refugees.

The government expects the number of people seeking asylum to double this year to 400,000 — a

record high for Germany — and has promised states and communities 1 billion euros in support in 2015 and 2016. State leaders want Merkel to double the aid.

A decision on that was postponed until 18 June.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere told reporters officials would create 2,000 jobs to speed up the processing of asy-

lum applications and said those from regions generally deemed ineligible such as the Balkans should be sent home faster.

"We want to speed up the process so that decisions can be made and executed within weeks," he said. Those from more troubled regions such as Syria who are likely to be granted asylum should get integration assistance faster.

Merkel said it was not clear how measures would be financed.

The influx of refugees, many of whom are fleeing conflicts in Syria and Iraq, has led to tensions in some regions of Germany that have occasionally erupted into violence against immigrants by suspected neo-Nazis.

Earlier this year thousands of Germans took to the streets in marches organised by anti-Islam and anti-immigration group PEGIDA in Dresden but its support has since waned.

Germany's states, which are obliged to take in a certain percentage of refugees based on their population, had criticised the federal government's earlier estimate for the number of asylum seekers as too low.

Separately, a German naval ship "Hessen" rescued about 200 refugees in a wooden boat on Friday in the Mediterranean about 250 km south of Lampedusa, a Defence Ministry spokesman in Berlin said. They were taken to a port in Italy.—Reuters



Asylum seekers stand outside the central receiving facility for refugees in Berlin on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

## Contaminated milk pulled from shelves in Finland

HELSINKI, 9 May — A Finnish dairy company has recalled all milk produced on Thursday, due to bacterial contamination, Finnish media reported on Friday.

Some of the milk produced on 7 May by Satamaito, a dairy company in Pori, western Finland, was

found containing enterobacter, a kind of bacteria found in human and animal faeces. The bacteria can cause digestive problem and infections.

Some 50,000 to 100,000 liters of milk were pulled from shelves in grocery stores in Finland on

Friday.

Satamaito's CEO Jarmo Oksman was quoted as saying that the bacteria was found in the company's production line.

According to Oksman, all production of the company was suspended on Friday for investigation.

Founded in 1982, Satamaito is a Pori-based co-operative company owned by 210 dairy farmers. Its annual production capacity is 45 million liters of liquid dairy products and turnover is over 40 million euros (44.9 million US dollars).

Xinhua

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**Ministry of Energy  
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**

Extension of the request for the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)  
Joint Venture Project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested local and international investors for the request of the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) regarding the joint venture project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa) from 17.3.2015 to 23.3.2015 in the national newspaper and to be submitted not later than (12:00) noon at the date of 4.5.2015.

MPE hereby announces that the submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 4.6.2015 from 4.5.2015.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1525)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1525) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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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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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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.

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**HAPPY 39<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY FOR  
SAYARMA MAYFLORA**

**(10<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2015)**

**U.S.A (KO KO)**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV ASIATIC DAWN VOY NO (1505)**

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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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
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Phone No: 2301185

**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the North and East Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**US Attorney General launches probe of Baltimore police**

WASHINGTON, 9 May — US Attorney General Loretta Lynch said on Friday that the Justice Department is launching a probe into the Baltimore police to determine whether they have violated constitutional and civil rights in the case of an African American's death.

"Soured relations between the police and the communities they serve is one of the most challenging issues of our time," Lynch said in a press conference, adding that there has been "a serious erosion of public trust."

Lynch, who took office last week, has visited Baltimore and met with city and

community leaders in the aftermath of riots and unrest. The announcement came nearly a month after the death of Freddie Gray, an African American man injured in police custody. The 25-year-old's death sparked protests and riots in the State of Maryland's largest city.

Lynch said that her department's wider investigation is not specifically tied to Gray's case.

"This investigation will begin immediately and will focus on allegations that Baltimore Police Department officers use excessive force, including deadly force, conduct unlawful searches, seizures and arrests, and engage

in discriminatory policing," Lynch said.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on Wednesday requested the Justice Department to investigate the city's police department for civil rights violations after Gray's death to see whether street stops of suspects and arrests violated the US Constitution.

On 19 April, Gray, died of a spinal injury believed to have been sustained during or after his arrest the previous week by police. Baltimore's chief prosecutor has brought criminal charges, including one murder charge, against six officers involved in the arrest. Lynch



*Two men shout slogans at a rally in front of the City Hall in Baltimore, Maryland, the United States, on 2 May, 2015.*  
XINHUA

has vowed to help the city in police reform. On 21 April, one day after the most violent night of protests, which witnessed burned business buildings, police cars and lootings, Lynch announced that the Justice Department would launch a federal probe into Gray's death. —Xinhua

**Cambodia reports 502 dengue fever cases in 4 months, up 67 pct**

PHNOM PENH, 9 May — Cambodia registered 502 dengue fever cases in the first four months of 2015, a 67 percent rise from 300 cases over the same period last year, a health official said in a statement on Saturday.

"The incident rate is 3.1 cases out of 100,000 people," Huy Rekol, director of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, said in the statement. Despite the increase in cases, the mosquito-borne disease killed only one kid during the January-April period this year — the same number as last year. The official attributed the decline in fatal rate to the improvement of treatment quality at pub-

lic hospitals. "This result shows that Cambodian people are well-aware of how to prevent themselves from dengue fever and timely send their sick children to hospitals for medical treatments," he said.

Dengue fever is a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness of sudden onset that usually follows symptoms such as headache, fever, exhaustion, muscle pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash. In Cambodia, the outbreak of dengue fever usually begins at the onset of the rainy season in May and lasts until October.

Xinhua

**Int'l zoo, aquarium body suspends Japan membership over dolphins**

TOKYO, 9 May — The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has suspended its Japanese member due to Japanese aquariums' taking of dolphins caught in drive hunt fisheries at Taiji in western Japan, which have drawn international criticism.

The decision dated on 22 April was taken with a unanimous vote at a council meeting, according to a statement on the WAZA website.

"The basis for the suspension is a determination that JAZA has violated the WAZA Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare. Moreover, WAZA Council re-affirmed its position that members of WAZA must confirm that they will not acquire dolphins from the Taiji fishery," the statement said. Taiji, a small fishery town in Wakayama Prefecture, is known for its centuries-old whaling culture and its dolphin hunting practices, which critics allege are cruel.

Last year, US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy expressed concern on Twitter about the dolphin hunting in Taiji. The town came into the spotlight through the Oscar-winning 2009 US documentary "The Cove," which depicted the slaughter of dolphins during a traditional hunt off the coast.

WAZA held talks with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums last year in Tokyo, but JAZA rejected a proposed two-year moratorium on taking animals from the drive hunt fisheries, the statement said. The issue was discussed again in November at WAZA's international conference, where the Japanese side failed to agree to restrict taking animals from such hunting practices, the statement said.

"WAZA's mission is to serve as the voice of a worldwide community of zoos and aquariums and a catalyst for their joint conservation action," it said.  
Kyodo News



## Taylor Swift to premiere 'Bad Blood' video at Billboard Music awards

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Pop star Taylor Swift has announced that she will debut an official music video for her latest single "Bad Blood" at Billboard Music awards.

"Bad Blood" is taken off Swift's newest studio album "1989", reported Ace Showbiz.

The accompanying music

*Pop star Taylor Swift has announced that she will debut an official music video for her latest single "Bad Blood" at Billboard Music awards.—PTI*

video is directed by Joseph Khan and produced by the singer herself. As a teaser, she posted a picture of her as Catastrophe wearing a leather jacket.

This year, Swift, 25, leads BMA nominations with 14 nods including Top Artist which pits her against Ariana Grande, One Direction, Sam Smith, and Katy Perry. She will perform her single at the live telecast on 17 May at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Paradise, Nevada.

Chrissy Teigen and Ludacris serve as hosts.—PTI

## Kristen Stewart compares plastic surgery to vandalism



LOS ANGELES, 9 May — "Twilight" star Kristen Stewart has no desire to go under the knife and says plastic surgery is like vandalism.

The 25-year-old "Clouds of Sils Maria" star says she does not want to change anything about herself, reported E! online.

"No, never. Never. I am so freaked out by the idea of doing anything. And maybe that's completely arrogant but I don't want to change anything about myself. I think the women who do are losing their minds. It's vandalism," Stewart said.

The actress said she loves mineral-based make-up products.

"I'm not great at applying make-up myself. My mom never taught me anything, she doesn't wear make-up... I like mineral make-up. You can't screw it up and it's not bad for your skin," she added.—PTI

## Diane Keaton has crush on Channing Tatum

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Oscar-winning actress Diane Keaton has admitted to having a crush on almost half her age actor Channing Tatum.

Keaton, 69, said in an interview with Ellen DeGeneres on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" her dream husband is the 'Magic Mike

XXL' star, 35, who is mar-

ried to Jenna Dewan, reported Aceshowbiz.

Before mentioning Tatum, Keaton said, "I've never been married." She continued, "So, the fact that somebody could live for 40 years with someone and be devoted to that person is something that moves me and I'm profoundly affected by it." DeGeneres cut her to tell her that it is never too

late for love and marriage. "It's not too late! It's not too late!" she said. The actress and author was bewildered, "Oh, me? Who's gonna... Wait."

Then she jokingly spit out a name, "Oh, Channing Tatum?" which was responded with laugh by the audience. She insisted that it would be okay though Ellen reminded her that he is married.

She said "Channing Tatum is actually married to someone else — not me." When the host asked, "Do you wanna get married?", she insisted saying "to Channing Tatum," though she knew that the hunk is taken.

Keaton was on the talk show to promote her new film "5 Flights Up", which is set for a release on 8 May in the States.—PTI

## Maroon 5 to release new single later this month

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Rock band Maroon 5 to launch its latest single 'This Summer's Gonna Hurt' on 26 May.

The new song will reportedly lead a re-issue of Adam Levine and Co's fifth studio album, last year's 'V', reported Aceshowbiz.

Maroon 5 is currently tak-

ing a break from their world tour launched in support of their 2014 album which peaked at number 1 on Billboard 200.

They will continue the tour with a string of shows in Europe later this month before visiting Asia and Australia in September until early October.—PTI



Rock band Maroon 5

## Jennifer Lawrence loved my mother: Melissa Rivers



LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Comedienne Joan Rivers' daughter Melissa has revealed Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence adored her late mother.

Melissa said though Lawrence was not fond of Joan's style TV show "Fashion Police", she was an admirer of her sense of humour. Joan died last August. She was 81, reported Aceshowbiz.

"I just had an amazing experience with Jennifer Lawrence who at the end was quite publicly against 'Fashion Police' and something that had been said," the 47-year-old said.

"She comes up to me and she says 'I know your mom and I had some differences at the end' — and it wasn't even over something that she said — 'but I got to tell you I loved her and she was funny,'" Melissa said.—PTI

## Actress Charlize Theron urges women to stand up for equal pay

NEW YORK, 9 May — After negotiating a salary equal to her male co-star for her upcoming movie, Hollywood actress Charlize Theron has called on other women to take a stand when it comes to equal pay.

Theron said she was outraged when leaked Sony emails showed a gap in what male and female actors were paid for the film "American Hustle" and she insisted on being paid on par with co-star Chris Hemsworth for the

Snow White sequel "The Huntsman". "I have to give them credit, because once I asked, they said yes," Theron said in an interview with British magazine *Elle UK*.

"They did not fight it. And maybe that's the message: that we just need to put our foot down."

Her call for equal pay echoes Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, who has also lamented the pay gap between men and women. A report by

the United Nations' International Labour Organization (ILO) this year warned that the income of women workers globally will lag behind men for another 70 years if the gender pay gap continues to narrow at the present rate.

Women globally earn 77 percent of the amount paid to men, a figure that has improved by only three percentage points in the past 20 years, the ILO said.

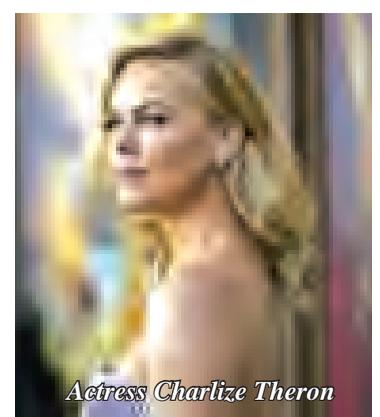
South African-born Theron, 39, who won an Oscar for her

portrayal of a serial killer in the 2003 film "Monster", said women needed to stand up for equality and be proud to be feminists.

"This is a good time for us to bring this to a place of fairness, and girls need to know that being a feminist is a good thing," said Theron, who will be on the big screen in this month's action movie "Mad Max: Fury Road".

"It doesn't mean that you hate men. It means equal rights."

Reuters



Actress Charlize Theron

GENERAL

# Food wastage an 'enormous' global concern, G20 says

ISTANBUL, 9 May — Food wasted by consumers is an enormous economic problem and nations should ensure excess food is given to the hungry instead of being thrown away, agriculture ministers from the Group of 20 leading countries said on Friday.

The two-day meeting in Istanbul has focused on problems of food security and nutrition, including the impact of climate change. A reduction in the amount of food wasted would improve food security, the ministers said in their final communique.

"We note with great concern the significant extent of food loss and waste ... and their negative consequences for food security, nutrition, use of natural resources and the environment," the ministers said.



A woman picks up vegetables discarded by food vendors at a garbage dump site of a wholesale market in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province on 27 July, 2014.—REUTERS

"We highlight this as a global problem of enormous economic, environmental and societal significance."

An estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food, or roughly 30 percent of global production, is lost or wasted annually, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said last year.

UN agencies said this would easily feed the world's 800 million hungry.

In developing countries, food is lost because of improper storage or transportation, while it often just wasted in rich nations.

"In the developed world, it's really about reducing the size of portions.

It's about making sure people understand precisely when food is no longer good for human consumption," US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told Reuters in an interview late on Thursday ahead of the meeting.

"I think there's a tendency to throw things away more quickly than need be."

Food is the single largest component of solid waste in US landfills and is a large producer of methane gas, Vilsack said.

In the United States, methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas emitted from human activity.

To fight the problem of food waste, countries need better estimates of the amount of food they waste, as well as the economic impact of food loss, the G20 ministers said.—Reuters

## First deaf restaurant of Canada opens in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, 9 May — A restaurant called DeaFined has opened in downtown Vancouver, becoming the city's first restaurant staffed by deaf people.

The restaurant opened on Thursday in a posh corner of Vancouver. The Eastern Mediterranean restaurant is staffed almost entirely by deaf and hard of hearing wait staff. It's one

of only two restaurants in North America that focus on hiring staff with hearing disabilities.

Moe Alameddine, the owner of the restaurant, told Xinhua that the business not only aimed at providing jobs to those who are hearing impaired, but also at closing the gap between those who can hear and those who can't.

Xinhua



Purchasers visit the exhibition area of "Giant" during the 25th China International Bicycle & Motor Fair in east China's Shanghai, on 6 May, 2015. The four-day fair kicked off here on Wednesday.—XINHUA

# Kenya launches forensic lab to boost war on wildlife crimes

NAIROBI, 9 May — The Kenyan government on Friday commissioned an ultra-modern wildlife forensic laboratory as part of a long-term strategy to combat poaching of iconic mammals.

Wildlife officials said Kenya became the second country in Africa after South Africa to launch such a lab that will enhance investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes.

"Over the years, wildlife crime has become sophisticated and highly organized in nature hence the need to adopt technology to boost forensic investigations," Environment Cabinet Secretary Judi Wakhungu said during the launch.

The Kenyan government and donors spent 1 million US dollars to establish the forensic lab that will assist in DNA analysis on wildlife products like trophies, meat, hides and skin.

Wakhungu said the government has focused on a holistic approach to combat wildlife crimes effectively.

"It is imperative that we enact stringent laws and adopt modern technology to enable the judiciary convict and mete appropriate sentences on individuals involved in wildlife crime," Wakhungu said.

Kenya is among African countries that have grappled with illegal trade in wildlife products. Wakhungu noted that besides poaching, hab-

itat loss and rapid urbanization pose new threats to the country's wildlife heritage.

The application of DNA analysis will enhance fast and efficient prosecution of transnational criminals behind the slaughter of big mammals like elephants and rhinos.

The CS noted the launch of the lab marked a significant milestone in the implementation of wildlife conservation and management act, especially in tracing the origin of confiscated wildlife products and pursue offenders. "In addition to the laboratory, we have implemented a raft of initiatives to ensure wildlife security. We have also partnered with bilateral allies and conservation

groups to develop feasible wildlife law enforcement strategies," she said.

The CS also revealed Kenya is collaborating with South Africa to develop the rhinoceros DNA indexing system that will enhance monitoring of the mammals through establishment of a data bank.

Acting Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director General, William Kiprono said the lab will also boost animal health through improved diagnoses on disease causing pathogens.

"The wildlife forensic and genetics laboratory will inject new impetus in our efforts to reverse loss of species through illegal trade," he said.—Xinhua

## mitv Myanmar International

(10-5-2015 07:00 am~ 11-5-2015 07:00 am)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| * News  | "Caricature"                                      |
| * The Man and The Elephant                            | * News  |
| * Human Rights & Human Dignity                        | * Great Shwedagon: Historic and Mysterious Places |
| * International Film Festival: "Pencil"               | * Will you feed the pigeons                       |
| * News  | * News  |
| * Moyingyi Wildlife Sanctuary                         | * Unique & Motivating Chap Char Kut Festival      |
| * Myanmar Betels                                      | * Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant                     |
| * News  | * News  |
| * Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State | * The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)    |
| * Green Grocer  | * Life of Sea Urchin Diver                        |
| * News  | * Porcelain and Glass                             |
| * Home Grown Treasure                                 | * News  |
| * News  | * Ruili City With Mon Yee                         |
| * Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-1)                           | * Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin                    |
| * Today Myanmar (Traffic & Accidents)                 | * Philatelic Pleasure                             |
| * News  |   |
| * Creator of Imagination                              |   |
| * Myanmar Masterclass                                 |   |

## MRTV Entertainment Channel

(10-5-2015, Sunday)

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>6:00 am</b>  | <b>8:50 am</b>    |
| • Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe   | • Fashion Show    |
| <b>6:20 am</b>  | <b>9:05 am</b>    |
| • Myanmar Video   | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti   |
| <b>7:45 am</b>  | <b>9:55 am</b>    |
| • (21 <sup>st</sup> ) Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition | • Myanmar Movie   |
|   | <b>12:00 noon</b> |
|   | • Close Down      |

## MRTV News Channel in Brief

(10-5-2015, Sunday)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>6:00 am</b>                                    | <b>3:00 pm</b>   |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw             | • News/ International News   |
| <b>7:00 am</b>                                    | <b>3:35 pm</b>   |
| • News / Weather Report                           | • Business News  |
| <b>7:35 am</b>                                    | <b>4:35 pm</b>   |
| • Business News                                   | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Second Year (Oriental) |
| <b>8:00 am</b>                                    | <b>5:00 pm</b>   |
| • News / International News                       | • News / Weather Report  |
| <b>8:30 am</b>                                    | <b>6:30 pm</b>   |
| • Head Line News                                  | • ASEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (WOMEN) (LIVE) (Myanmar Vs Thailand)                |
| <b>9:00 am</b>                                    | <b>8:00 pm</b>   |
| • News / International News                       | • News / International News / Weather Report                             |
| <b>9:35 am</b>                                    | <b>8:35 pm</b>   |
| • Documentary                                     | • Documentary  |
| <b>11:00 am</b>                                   | <b>9:00 pm</b>   |
| • News  | • News / International News / Weather Report                             |
| <b>12:00 noon</b>                                 | • Tasty Trip   |
| • News / International News / Weather Report      | • Sing & Enjoy   |
| <b>12:35 pm</b>                                   |  |
| • Round up of the Week's Local International News |  |
| <b>12:45 pm</b>                                   |  |
| • Myanmar Movies                                  |  |
| <b>2:30 pm</b>                                    |  |
| • Head Line News                                  |  |

# Nadal looks strong as he progresses to Madrid Open semis

MADRID, 9 May — Home favourite Rafael Nadal eased into the semi-finals of the Mutua Madrid Masters on Friday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Bulgarian number 10 seed, Grigor Dimitrov.

Cheered on by a partisan crowd in the Caja Magica, Nadal looked to

be returning to his best form and Dimitrov was unable to trouble him and the Bulgarian's frustration grew as the match continued to such an extent that he smashed one of his racquets in frustration during the second set.

Nadal will face number 6 seed Tomas Berdych

who had to fight back from a set down against John Isner before finally winning through 3-6, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (1).

Andy Murray also confirmed his progress into the last 4. The number two seed who has had to endure some strange timetabling this week defeated num-



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball during the men's singles quarterfinal against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, on 8 May, 2015. Rafael Nadal won 2-0. —XINHUA



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts during the women's singles semi-final match against her compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova at the 2015 WTA Madrid Open in Madrid, Spain, on 8 May, 2015. Maria Sharapova lost 0-2. —XINHUA



Serena Williams of the United States reacts during the women's singles semi-final match against Petra Kvitkova of the Czech Republic at the 2015 WTA Madrid Open in Madrid, Spain, on 8 May, 2015. Serena Williams lost 0-2. —XINHUA

ber 5 seed Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-5. In the women's tournament Petra Kvitkova will face Svetlana Kuznetsova in the final of the women's singles in the Mutua Madrid Open.

Unseeded Kuznetsova defeated number 3 seed and reigning Champion, Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-4.

Sharapova never found her rhythm against

her powerful rival, her first serve was again disappointing and her game littered with too many unforced errors. Number 4 seed Kvitkova then produced to inflict the first defeat of the year on an out of sorts, Serena Williams, 6-2, 6-3.

Williams appeared to suffering from a slight leg injury, while Kvitkova,

who defeated Williams in Madrid last year, was aggressive and confident.

Williams showed her grit in the second set, breaking Kvitkova's serve as the Czech served for the match, but her lack of form was evident as Kvitkova them broke back directly to take the match and book her place in the final.

Xinhua

## PSG close in on Ligue 1 title with Cavani treble

PARIS, 9 May — Paris St Germain took a big step towards the Ligue 1 title when Edinson Cavani's hat-trick inspired them to a 6-0 home win against mid-table En Avant Guingamp on Friday.

Fellow PSG striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic grabbed a double, including a last-gasp penalty, and set up two others as PSG steamrolled past Guingamp.

With two games left, PSG have 77 points and lead second-placed Olympique Lyonnais, who have a game in hand, by six points with a better goal difference (+45 to +41).

Lyon will reduce the gap back to three points on Saturday if they win at Caen (1500 GMT).

Uruguay striker Cavani put the hosts ahead after three minutes when he latched on to Serge Aurier's cross from the right after the full back was played in by Argentine playmaker Javier Pastore.

Sweden forward Ibrahimovic made it 2-0 in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute with a low shot after a fine one-two between Marco Verratti and Cavani had unsettled the

Guingamp defence.

In the 27<sup>th</sup> minute, Pastore unleashed a fierce shot that was deflected on to the post by keeper Jonas Loessl.

Cavani made it 3-0 seven minutes into the second half from close range after being set up by Ibrahimovic's deflection.

Ibrahimovic then set up Maxwell for the fourth with a cross for the Brazilian to score with a header

in the 57<sup>th</sup>.

Cavani then scored his 16<sup>th</sup> league goal of the season, and his eighth in the last six games, when he volleyed home from Verratti's free kick 20 minutes from time.

Ibrahimovic wrapped up the victory with a penalty in the 90<sup>th</sup> after being fouled by Jeremy Sorbon for his 19<sup>th</sup> league goal this term.

Sunday could prove

decisive in the race for third place when Olympique de Marseille, in fourth spot, host Monaco who are three points ahead of their opponents in third (1900 GMT).

Fifth-placed St Etienne, who are level on points with Marseille, are also in the mix for the last Champions League spot. They host Nice on Sunday (1500 GMT).

Reuters



Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) challenges En Avant Guingamp's Lionel Mathis during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France on 8 May, 2015.—REUTERS

## Na, Kelly share top spot, Woods makes cut

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, (Florida), 9 May — Americans Kevin Na and Jerry Kelly pushed their way to the lead and Tiger Woods sank a clutch birdie putt on his last hole to make the cut during the second round of the Players Championship on Friday.

Na backed up his opening round 67 with a three-under par 69 to move to eight under 136 at TPC Sawgrass.

Veteran Kelly, 48, surprised with an impressive 65 to join Na at the top while Americans Rickie Fowler (69) and Chris Kirk (68) plus South African Brenden Grace (67) and Canadian David Hearn (71) shared third, two shots back at six under. Na held the 54-hole lead at the 2012 Players before fading into a tie for seventh. The 31-year-old said he was much better equipped this time. "I had the yips. It's pretty hard to play golf when you can't take the club back," Na said.

"But I'm definitely a better golfer (now) ... " "I like this golf course. I always feel like when I come here that it's like, maybe this is my year again." Kelly said he had some breaks on the back side, some of which he created. "I chipped in out of a tough little lie on the edge for par, hit a ball in the trees and had a nice little two-foot gap to hit through and hit a beautiful shot," said the three time Tour winner.

Woods slammed home a nine-foot birdie on the ninth green, his final hole, to card a round of 71 and get him in at even par, right on the cut line. The 14-time major champion was loose at times as he battled his new swing, notching five bogeys but countering with six birdies.

"It felt good. Knowing that I had to make (a) four to move on, at least assure myself to move on, it felt good," Woods said of the clutch putt. "I feel like I'm playing well enough to get myself up there. I just need one good round and narrow up that gap between myself and the lead, and I feel like I can do that."

World number one Rory McIlroy failed to bring his A game but scratched out a 71 to be four-under, just four off the pace.—Reuters