

President U Thein Sein sends messages to Georgia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of the Republic of Georgia and His Excellency Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Georgia, which falls on 26 May 2015.—MNA

Government attends to needs of rural people in regions and states

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — The government is meeting the needs of the country by providing roads, bridges, transportation, drinking water, electricity, education and health services in regions and states, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham told local residents Monday at the hall of Technological University (Lashio) in Shan State.

The vice president said township and village development supporting committees have been constituted to attend to the needs of townships and villages.

The vice president recounted his tour of Lashio Township to provide assistance for education, health, water and power supply and transport sectors, as well as fire trucks for fire stations.

The Shan State Hlutaw MP, administrators of Mongyaw, Mankaung (Mongyang), Panhtolin, Weinhtan (Mongtin), Man-



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets local residents and departmental personnel at the hall of Technological University(Lashio).—MNA

pyein, Tarpon, Sonkwe, Hopeik, Matchinu, Kaungkye (Peik), Namtun, Mankat (Hanthtaik), Konhsa and Honamh villages outlined areas of need to the vice president.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, deputy ministers Maj-Gen Tin Aung Chit, U Tin Ngwe, Dr Win Myint, U Aung Than Oo and U Thauang Tin, and direc-

tor-general U Tin Myo Kyi explained fulfillment of the ministries for the region and future plans.

The vice president and party met with faculty members and students of

Technological University (Lashio) and University of Computer Studies (Lashio), urging the students to complete their education in order to attain technical qualifications.—MNA

Singapore top foreign investor in first month of 2015-2016 FY



Energy sector is the top of the chart of foreign direct investment in Myanmar.

YANGON, 25 May — Singapore invested more than US \$1.4 billion in Myanmar in the first month of fiscal 2015-2016, topping the list of foreign investors according to the Directorate of Investment

and Companies Administration.

At the end of April, 11 countries had invested more than \$2.2 billion in Myanmar, with Singapore topping the list, followed by the Netherlands with

\$430.45 million. Myanmar's fiscal year begins 1 April and ends 31 March.

Myanmar saw record foreign direct investment of more than \$8 billion in fiscal 2014-2015 fiscal, including more than \$4 billion from Singapore.

According to the last DICA statistics, as of the end of the Myanmar financial year

31st March 2015, Singapore is the leading investor in Myanmar in terms of number of companies, accounting for one in four of the 4,324 foreign-owned companies in the country.

Singapore is most notably represented in the hotel industry, comprising 40 percent of foreign ownership, and services, including law and business advisory firms, at 26 percent.

From fiscal 1988-89 to

2014-2015, the approved amount of foreign investment in Myanmar reached a total \$54.23 billion, coming from 895 permitted companies from 38 countries.

As of the previous fiscal year that ended on 31 March 2015, 633 existing foreign enterprises from 33 countries had so far invested \$44.16 billion in 11 sectors, including oil and gas, power, manufacturing, transport and communication, mining, hotel and tourism, real and industrial estate, agriculture and livestock, and fisheries.

China remains the top foreign investor in Myanmar in terms of total investment, with 74 Chinese firms having invested \$14.7 billion since 1988-89. Singapore was the second-largest source of FDI in Myanmar with \$8.5 billion.

GNLM

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Bangladesh, Myanmar agree on repatriation of boat people

MAUNGTAW, 25 May — Bangladeshi boat people rescued by the Myanmar navy will be repatriated following an agreement Monday between officials of the two countries.

Officials from the Union government, the Rakhine State government, UN agencies and INGOs scrutinized some 208 boat people sheltered at relief camps in Ale Thankyaw village of Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

Most were found to be Bangladeshis from Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and northern Dhaka who had sought to migrate to Thailand and Malaysia for work.

At the request of the

Bangladeshi government, diplomats from the Bangladeshi mission visited the camps and will continue investigating along with Myanmar immigration officials.

The Myanmar ambassador to Bangladesh, U Myo Myint Than, held talks with officials from the foreign affairs ministry of Bangladesh on May 25 to arrange the repatriation of 200 boat people. The other eight were found to be Bengalis from Rakhine State.

Bangladesh's foreign affairs ministry also agreed to bring back its citizens after forming a combined team of six officials from the

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Wetland conservation needs more coordinated efforts



Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May— The coordinated efforts are need for wetland



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw.
MNA

conservation programme in Myanmar, according to Deputy Minister for En-



Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung.
MNA

vironmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung at Pyithu Hluttaw

session on Monday.

The 30-year management plan for wetland conservation was carried out in Yamethin district, Mandalay region, for more than hundreds of acres.

The deputy minister called for the cooperation of departments and locals concerned with hydropower generation and water resource in conservation programmes.

MP U Thuang Han of Yinmabin Township constituency in Sagaing region suggested to give out compensation for paddy fields which were dug for Letwel irrigation canal and con-

Pyithu Hluttaw

struction of water channels for the paddy fields in Yinmabin and Pale townships.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that the ministry has not planned yet to give out compensation for the lands which were used for irrigation in previous government as the possible amount of compensation would be very high.

He also said the budget proposal of the ministry for construction of irrigation channels for the paddy fields in Yamabin and Pale townships in 2015-2016 fiscal year was rejected in Hluttaw.

MP U Soe Myint from Pyawbwe Township con-

stituency requested the operation of banks and official money changers for foreigners during long holidays.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung said some foreign local banks of KBZ Bank, AYA Bank and CB Bank have planned to set up money changers at airports, Shwedagon pagoda and major shopping centres and preparations will be made to operate money exchange counters by next Water Festival.

Some private banks will also set up foreign exchange ATMs in Yangon and Mandalay during this fiscal year.

MNA

Pure Gold Star bean on test cultivation for poppy-cultivated areas



Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—U Saw Tun Mya



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than.
MNA

Aung of Kayin State Constituency No 5 asked about



Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin.—MNA

a plan to grow Pure Gold Star Bean (Star Sacha Inchi) as alternative devel-

opment in the poppy-cultivated areas on hilly regions at the 51st session of Amyotha Hluttaw Monday.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that El Shaddai Co., Ltd. imported seeds of bean for 1,500 acres of farmlands and cultivated it in Lashio, Muse and Myitkyina townships. The bean is being nurtured in Ayethukha village in Bago Region and Myaungchawgon village in Hmawby Township, Yangon

Amyotha Hluttaw

Region. If test cultivation achieves success, the ministry will provide technical assistance to local farmers for cultivation of Pure Gold Star Bean in the poppy-cultivated areas.

U Ohn Htin, MP of Rakhine State constituency asked whether there is a plan to upgrade an earthen road to a laterite road linking three villages in Kyaukpyu Township. Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye said that as the upgrading plan for the inter-village road in Kyaukpyu Township has

not been submitted to the government in 2015-16 fiscal year, there is no plan to upgrade the road.

U Khin Maung (a) U Aung Kyaw Oo of Rakhine State constituency No 3 asked about a plan to open a Basic Education Primary School in Hsanthitpyin Village, Kyauktaw Township. Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin replied that the self-reliant BEPS in the village is about three miles from Ngatapaung BEPS. The ministry will upgrade the self-reliant school to a BEPS branch in 2015-16 academic year.—MNA

Medical charity provides prosthetic hands to amputees

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 25 May—A local medical charity will provide prosthetic hands to amputees, particularly those injured in farming accidents, during a campaign in October in Mandalay, the organization said Friday.

The Dr Saw Mra Aung Foundation, which aims to improve the lives of those who have lost hands, will fit amputees with prosthetics donated by a U.S.-based charity, foundation chairwoman Daw Tin May Aung said.

“The U.S.-based Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation promised to donate 200 prosthetic hands to us but we have not received them yet,” she said. “We will match all of the prosthetic hands” to people who need them.

The foundation has begun an enrolment process for amputees wishing to receive prostheses.

The foundation chose Mandalay because there are many amputees in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions who have lost hands while cutting feed for cows, Daw Tin May Aung said.

Priority will be given to those who lost their right hands, she said.

The artificial hands will help amputees seize and hold light objects.

From 2013 to date, the charity has fitted 100 amputees with prosthetic hands in Rakhine State and Yangon Region.

Recent applications indicate at least 500 amputees are seeking artificial hands through the programme.

GNLM

Conveying great bell from Mandalay to Dawei starts 26 May



Preparations being made for conveying large bell to Dawei from Mandalay.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

MANDALAY, 25 May — A great bell cast at Taunghsinte monastery in Tampawady Ward, Mandalay, will be conveyed to Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 26 May to hand it at the lower terrace of southeast corner of Shwetaungsar Pagoda.

The bell weighing 11,669 viss of bronze is the same size and type of King Thayawady's bell on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda. Two statues of Lawkanat will be installed at the bell.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated 5 tons of bronze for casting the bell. Likewise, U Hla Than of Pyae Phyto Tun Company

in Myeik donated 8 tons of bronze, U Kyaw Lwin of Kawthoung 1.8 tons and locals in Dawei

various parts of bronze wares. Officials cost K120 million for casting the bell.

A 12-wheeled vehicle will convey the bell to Dawei safely.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

NATIONAL

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Georgia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Tamar Beruchashvili, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Georgia, which falls on 26 May 2015.

MNA

Rural electrification workshop sparks info-sharing deal with Japan's top university

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — The second rural electrification workshop, jointly organized by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and the University of Tokyo, continued Monday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The second day of the workshop at the Department of Rural Development was

attended by Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Aye, professors from the University of Tokyo, experts and officials.

At the workshop, the union minister explained the efforts of the government to supply electricity throughout the country. Professor Ichiro Sakata then discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received Ambassador of Qatar Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi at the ministry, here, on Monday, to hold talks on bilateral relations and defence sector.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt, Permanent Secretary Brig-Gen San Win and officials.—MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Wai Lwin meets Ambassador of Qatar Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi.—MNA

Union Defence Minister meets Ambassador of Qatar



Myanmar sends trainees to Advanced Training Course in Tourism Development

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — University Residential in Centre of Bertinoro in Bertinoro and University of Bologna in Bologna in Italy offered the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to conduct courses on Development of Rural Tourism Federation 11 to the Advanced Training Course in

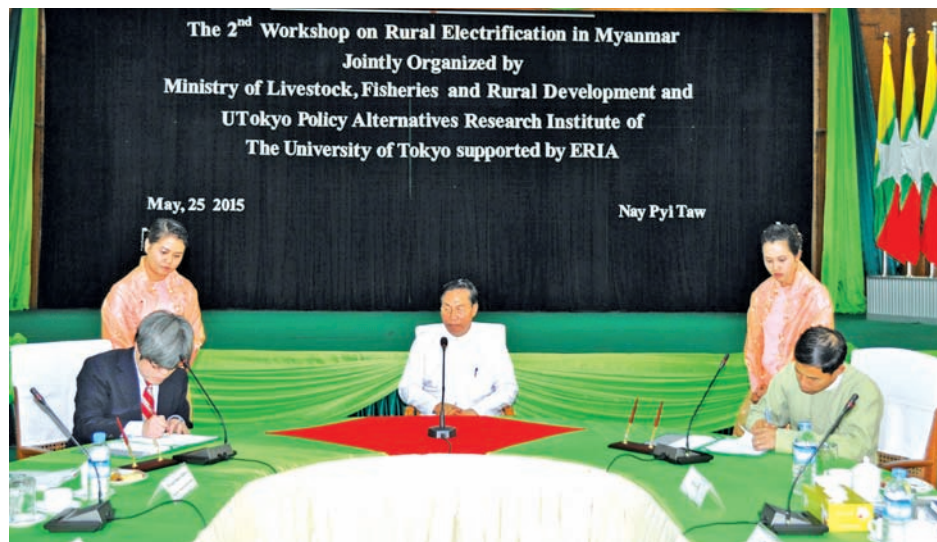
Services so as to contribute to the tourism industry in Myanmar.

According to the coordination, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism sent 10 trainees, Ministry of Education two and Myanmar Tourism Federation 11 to the Advanced Training Course in

Tourism Development at University Centre in Bertinoro of Italy from 3 May to 21 June.

The university will open the Training for Tourist Service Quality in October 2015 in Bertinoro of Italy.

MNA



Union Minister U Ohn Myint attends signing letter of interest on exchange of information about rural electricity supply and human resources development.—MNA

UPS expands delivery services for Myanmar

By Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 25 May — UPS recently announced an expansion of its services in Myanmar, including the introduction of express delivery and contract logistics, in a move the U.S.-based package delivery giant says will “support local businesses as they begin to

engage in global trade.”

“UPS is excited to be part of the economic transformation in Myanmar as the market opens up to foreign investment and businesses connect to the global marketplace,” said Mr Jim O’Gara, President of South Asia District, UPS

Asia Pacific Region. Businesses in Myanmar can now use UPS’s Worldwide Express services into and out of the country, with transit times ranging between one to three business days across Asia, Europe and the United States, the company said.

“The expanded service portfolio in Myanmar strengthens UPS’s service offering in the emerging markets of Asia,” Mr O’Gara said.

Bangladesh, Myanmar agree...

(from page 1)

Bangladeshi embassy in Yangon and its consulate office in Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State. Both sides also agreed to cooperate in protecting their shared border.

The Myanmar navy rescued the 208 boat people aboard two vessels at sea off the country’s western coast on 22 May.

Bangladeshi boat people rescued at sea by the Myanmar navy spoke on Monday about their ordeals at the hands of human traffickers.

The navy rescued a total of 208 boat people, most of them from Bang-

ladesh, at sea on May 21 and brought them to camps in Ale Thankyaw village.

Investigations by the Myanmar government found that some of the boat people had fallen victim to human trafficking rings and crime syndicates after receiving offers of work in Thailand and Malaysia from illegal job brokers.

Mr Mizad Rohman, one of the would-be migrants at the rescue camp, said he was an electrical worker at Akhaura coastal town in Bangladesh. His friend persuaded him to work on a boat to earn more than 2,000 taka (U.S. \$26) per day.

Mr Rohman said he and

other people on board were told they would be forced to work in Malaysia, and suffered food shortages after more Bangladeshis were brought aboard.

The victims faced a crisis before they were rescued by the Myanmar navy.

Mr Rohman said, “I want to go back my parent’s home as they are worrying about me.”

Mohamad Imira Hasin said he was abducted on his way home from a coastal area of Cox’s Bazar.

“I was then taken to a boat and experienced many troubles on board,” Mr Imira said. “I just want to go back to my family.”

Mr Mohamad Mobinawhaut from Ogiya



Mizad Rohman.



Niroh Asa.



Mohamad Mobinawhaut



Mohamad Imira Hassin

Bazar beach. Two guys forcibly took me to a boat. The guys on the boat told me they have bought me. They headed to Thailand. Later we were asked for a ransom



Mohamad Mufa Zalhusin

of 50,000 taka to return to Bangladesh, as security was tight on the Thai coasts.”—MNA/Min Min Zaw (MNA)

Training course provides high-level tailoring skills



HPA-AN, 25 May — Kayin State Department of Rural Development conducted an advanced tailoring course at Government Technical High School in Hpa-an, Kayin State, with the aim of creating job opportunities for local youths

and increasing family income.

On 22 May, the training course concluded at the same venue with graduation of 30 trainees.

Chief Minister of the state U Zaw Min, Kayin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Saw Christopher, and assistant director of the department U Thant Zin spoke on the occasion.

The chief minister and the state minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees and completion certificates to all trainees.

Altogether 30 trainees from Hpa-an and Hlaingwe townships attended the six-week course.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

Muse District launches School Enrolment Day

MUSE, 25 May — The Ministry of Education held a ceremony to mark School Enrolment Day for the 2015-16 academic year at No 3 Basic Education High School in Muse District on 25 May.

Deputy commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun spoke on the occasion.

Guests and members of District Women's Affairs Organization donated K100,000 to be spent on greening the school environment while mem-

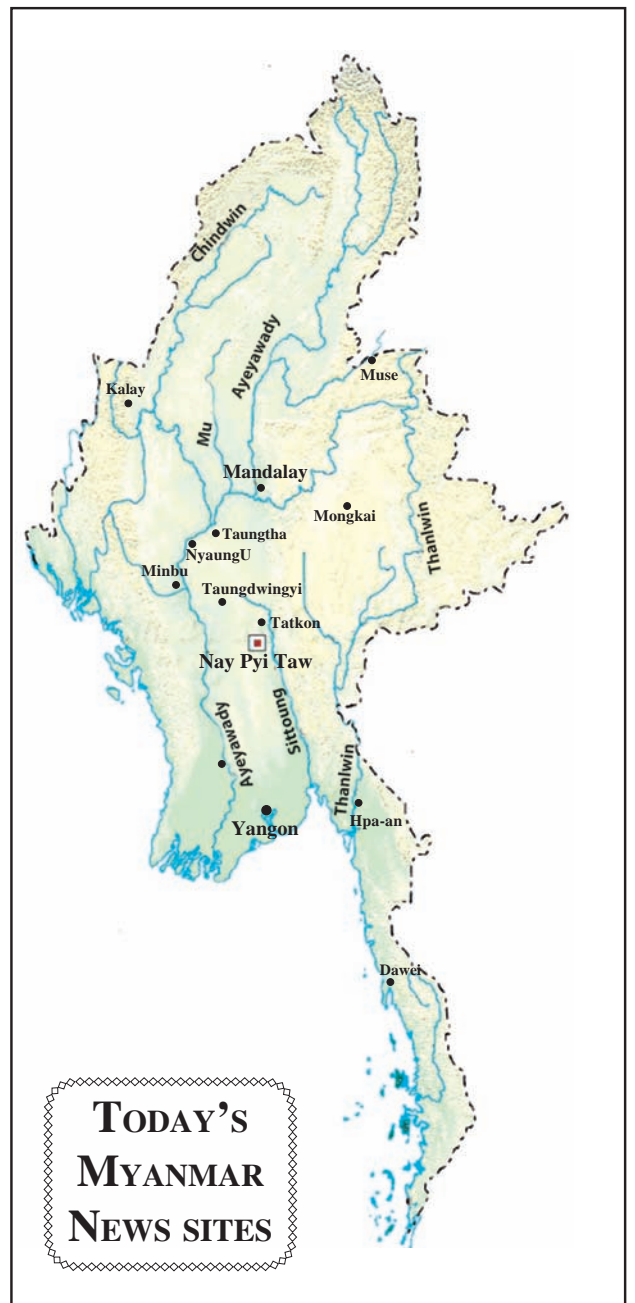


bers of the school board of trustees presented K1.5 million for BEHS Nos. 1, 2 and 3 to Deputy Direc-

tor U Tun Kyi of Muse District Education Office to purchase chairs for the students.

The government provides school textbooks, uniforms and notebooks to students from basic primary schools.

Ko Mong (IPRD)



Nursing and midwifery training school set for Nov. completion



KALAY, 25 May — A Nursing and Midwifery Training School is under construction west of the bus terminal on Pinlon Lanmadaw Road in Kalay, Sagaing Region, at a cost of K2.984 billion from the government budget.

Officials expect to complete construction of the building in November.

“Construction started in fiscal 2014-15,” Principal Daw Wai Wa Lwin

said. “The school will admit 50 students each for the midwifery course and for nursing. The candidates have to pass the matriculation examination. The midwifery course takes two years and the nursing course three. After graduating the courses, the students must discharge a three-year period of duties for the government.”

Local youths from Kalewa, Mingin, Tamu,

Mawlaik, Phaungpyin and Kalay townships who have passed the matriculation examination will have the chance to learn midwifery and nursing sciences at the training school in Kalay.

The government has opened Kalay University, Kalay University of Computer Studies and Kalay Technological University to create learning opportunities for local youths.

Linlet Kyel Sin

Farmers begin farming works by agricultural machinery

MONGKAI, 25 May — As monsoon comes into Mongkai Township, Shan State, as of the third week of May, local farmers started their farming works.

Township Cooper-

ative Department and Township Cooperative Syndicate Ltd jointly sell power-tillers to local farmers through installment.

The Ayeya-2 power-tillers manufactured by

No 39 Heavy Industry (In-gon) under No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise are sold at K1.6 million per each to local farmers as of 21 May.

Nang Hlaing Hlaing Oo (Mongkai)



REGIONAL

Japan, Malaysia leaders focus on high-speed rail

Tokyo, 25 May — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak began a meeting in Tokyo on Monday where Abe would pitch Japan's shinkansen bullet train technology for a high-speed rail project linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

The Japanese leader would also offer increased assistance to Malaysia's coast guard to counter China's muscle-flexing in the South China Sea.

Given Malaysia's role as ASEAN chair this year, Abe and Najib are expected to boost economic cooperation between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as the 10-member bloc is lowering barriers to the flow of people, goods and money to launch a more integrated

economic community by the end of the year, according to Japanese officials.

In expressing Japan's interest in the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high-speed rail link, Abe is expected to stress the safety and advanced technology of shinkansen as Japan promotes exports of high-quality infrastructure, particularly to the fast-growing parts of Asia with enormous infrastructural needs, the officials said.

Najib is scheduled to take a ride on a shinkansen line from Tokyo to Sendai, northeastern Japan, for a 90-minute journey on Tuesday. China, France, Germany and South Korea are also reportedly keen to participate in the Malaysia-Singapore project.

Earlier this month, Najib and Singapore Prime

Minister Lee Hsien Loong reaffirmed their countries' commitment to making the project successful, but said their countries decided to push back an initial deadline of 2020 for completion of the 350-kilometre rail link due to its complexity.

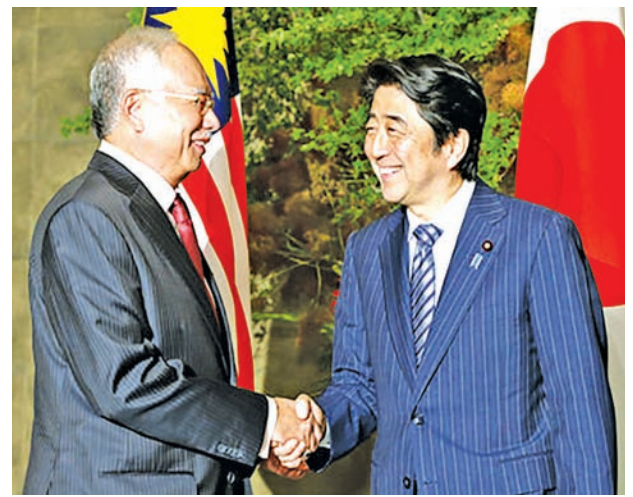
The project, if completed, would reduce travel time between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to 90 minutes from about four hours by car.

After the Abe-Najib meeting, Japan and Malaysia are planning to issue a document that would urge countries to respect the rule of law and not to use force or coercion in asserting their territorial claims in the wake of China's building of artificial islands through massive land reclamation in contested waters in the South China Sea.

The call would take aim at the Chinese action, which other claimant states and other countries, such as Japan and the United States fear may undermine freedom of navigation and flights over the high seas.

China claims nearly the whole of the South China Sea, an international shipping route and an area believed to have rich energy reserves and fishing grounds. Parts of the contested waters are also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Among other issues, Abe and Najib are likely to confirm Japanese-Malaysian cooperation in the fight against terrorism, reform of the UN Security Council and negotiations for a 12-nation Pacific free trade initiative known as



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on May 25, 2015.

KYODO NEWS

the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

ASEAN consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and

Vietnam. Of those, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam are in the TPP talks along with Japan, the United States and several others.

Kyodo News

Bangladesh arrests two suspected Islamic State activists

DHAKA, 25 May — Bangladeshi police have arrested two suspected members of the Islamic State group who had planned to fight alongside militants in Syria, a police official said on Monday, adding to concerns about the rise of extremist groups in South Asia.

The pair were detained during a raid in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, on Sunday night, said Sheikh Nazmul Alam, a senior official of the police detective branch.

One man, Aminul Islam, was the information technology head of a multinational company, and worked as a regional coordinator for Islamic State, while the other, Sakib Bin Kamal, was a teacher at a school in Dhaka, he added.

"They had been collecting members for the group from Bangladesh," he told Reuters, adding that the men had confessed to having convinced at least 25 students to join IS.

At least 12 people have been arrested in Bangladesh in recent months for suspected involvement with Islamic State, which has seized control of swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria in recent months.—Reuters

Indonesia's military creeps back into civilian affairs

JAKARTA, 25 May — Nearly two decades after Indonesia's military was squeezed out of civilian affairs with the downfall of strongman leader Suharto, President Joko Widodo is drawing the army more closely into his wars on drugs, terrorism, and corruption.

Palace and military officials say Widodo's move is partly designed to counterbalance senior police officers who have crossed swords with him and who, critics say, are trying to undermine the agency leading the campaign against graft.

The police acknowledges "problems" in its relationship with the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), but says it is working with the agency to tackle graft.

The prospect of a greater role for the military in civilian matters does not presage a return to the authoritarianism of army General Suharto, when it oversaw government policy as well as providing national security, the officials said.

Indeed, military chief Moeldoko has sought to quell such concerns.

"As long as the military is needed by the country to safeguard the national development carried out by ministries, then go ahead," Moeldoko, who retires in July, told reporters this month. "But nobody should try to drag the military into politics."



Indonesia's military chief Commander General Moeldoko (centre, on L) and National Police Chief General Badrodin Haiti (R) pose with members of the military and police after a briefing in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara on 7 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Nevertheless, critics of Widodo's move fear it sets a dangerous precedent in a country where the military has a long tradition of involvement in politics and which directly elected a president for the first time only 11 years ago.

"While symbolic engagement with the military is important to get things done and to send a signal of stability, we're treading a dangerous line here," said Tobias Basuki, political analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a local think-tank.

"In the long term it will create a new Goliath within Indonesian politics if the military doesn't steer clear of civilian life."

A senior government official with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters that Widodo, the first president from outside

the country's political elite or armed forces, has struggled to assert himself over the police force and its political patrons, who include senior figures in his own party.

He trusts the military more than the police, the official said, and sees it as a potentially counterbalancing force.

The army's expansion into civilian affairs began last month, with the first major counter-terrorism operation since the response to a spate of hotel bombings in Jakarta in 2009. Anti-terrorism efforts are traditionally the domain of the police.

Approved by Widodo, who came to power in October, the military launched the six-month exercise to crack down on militants with suspected links to Islamic State.

Then, this month, the armed forces signed a memorandum of understanding to help the country's main anti-narcotics agency with its war on drugs, a top priority for Widodo.

Government officials said they are now considering legislative changes that would allow serving military officers to work in state ministries and agencies.

The ministries of transportation and fisheries, which handle projects and industries steeped in corruption, have asked that military personnel join their staff.

"If these requests are to be fulfilled, they should not violate any law," Cabinet Secretary Andi Widjajanto told reporters recently.

The KPK has taken the unprecedented step of seeking the military's assistance after being severely weakened by a tit-for-tat dispute with the police.

General Moeldoko said he already had two officers in mind to join the KPK after they retired from service in a few months.

The agency, popular with ordinary citizens for going after Indonesia's moneyed elites, hopes the military's inclusion will protect it from police intervention. KPK officials were not immediately available for comment.

Since the KPK declared a prominent police general a corruption suspect in January, the police

has launched a series of investigations against the agency that have led to the suspension of two of its commissioners.

The KPK has since dropped its case against police general Budi Gunawan, who was subsequently named deputy police chief.

The police do not see the expansion of the military's powers as a threat.

"We don't at all think the military is a threat to us or our role in society. We don't think there is any sort of balancing going on," said Agus Rianto, national police spokesman.

He also said the police would investigate complaints of corruption made against it, and added: "To say there is a public perception that the police is corrupt is not accurate."

Activists say allowing the military to help fight corruption may be an effective stop-gap measure to shore up the KPK, but it threatens to leave the military immune to graft investigations itself.

The military has a history of acquiring strategic assets, especially in the resources sector. Suharto was reported to have a sprawling business empire worth \$15 billion when he resigned in 1998.

"The consequence is that the military will be untouchable in corruption investigations," said Adnan Topan Husodo of Indonesia Corruption Watch.

Reuters

Indonesian minister fears govt sabotage in contaminated rice scare

JAKARTA, 25 May — Indonesia's home minister called for a police investigation into the suspected contamination of rice with plastic, saying it may be an attempt at sabotaging the government, media reported on Monday.

President Joko Widodo has called for calm after reports that tainted rice may have caused the hospitalization of a girl in Medan on Sunday and made some customers at a food market in Bekasi sick last week.

Rice is a common food staple in Indonesia, the world's third biggest importer, and reports of contamination can quickly cause food scares in the vast archipelago.

"The synthetic rice distributor ... may be making

an attempt at treason or trying to sabotage the government," Home Minister Tjahjoko Kumolo was quoted as saying by the English-daily *Jakarta Post*.

The scare began last week when customers complained of nausea and dizziness after eating suspect rice from a vendor in Bekasi, a town neighbouring the capital of Jakarta.

Initial tests indicated the rice was contaminated with plastic and plastic softeners.

Widodo, however, urged consumers to wait for official government test results before jumping to conclusions.

"Don't everyone just talk and make the problem bigger," Widodo told reporters on Sunday as quoted by online news site Detik.com.



Customers check the quality of rice before buying at a wholesale rice market in East Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 May, 2015.—REUTERS

"What is most important is to look at the root problem and check if it really was in Bekasi or just one vendor."

Police were waiting for the results of official tests before continuing their investigation, Assistant Police Commissioner Siswo told

Reuters.

The Bekasi vendor, Dewi Septiani, told reporters that the rice she had sold in porridge was "clearly very different and smelled different too. It's not like natural rice".

Reuters

John Nash, mathematician who inspired 'A Beautiful Mind', killed in car crash

NEW JERSEY, 25 May — Mathematician John Nash, a Nobel Prize winner whose longtime struggle with mental illness inspired the movie "A Beautiful Mind", was killed in a car crash along with his wife in New Jersey, state police said on Sunday.



Nobel Prize winner John Forbes Nash

The couple were in a taxi when the driver lost control, crashed into a guard rail and hit another car on Saturday afternoon on the New Jersey Turnpike, said police. Nash, 86, and his wife, Alicia, 82, were thrown from the taxi and pronounced dead at the scene, New Jersey State Police spokesman Sgt Gregory Williams added, declining to comment on media reports that they were not wearing seat belts.

Russell Crowe, who portrayed Nash in the Oscar-winning movie, said on Twitter that he was stunned by the deaths. "An amazing partnership. Beautiful minds, beautiful hearts," the Hollywood star wrote.

The taxi driver was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries and the driver of the other vehicle was also treated in hospital, police said. No charges had been filed, Williams added.—Reuters

China lodges complaint with US over spy plane flight

BEIJING, 25 May — China said it had lodged a complaint with the United States over a US spy plane that flew over parts of the disputed South China Sea in a diplomatic row that has fuelled tension between the world's two largest economies.

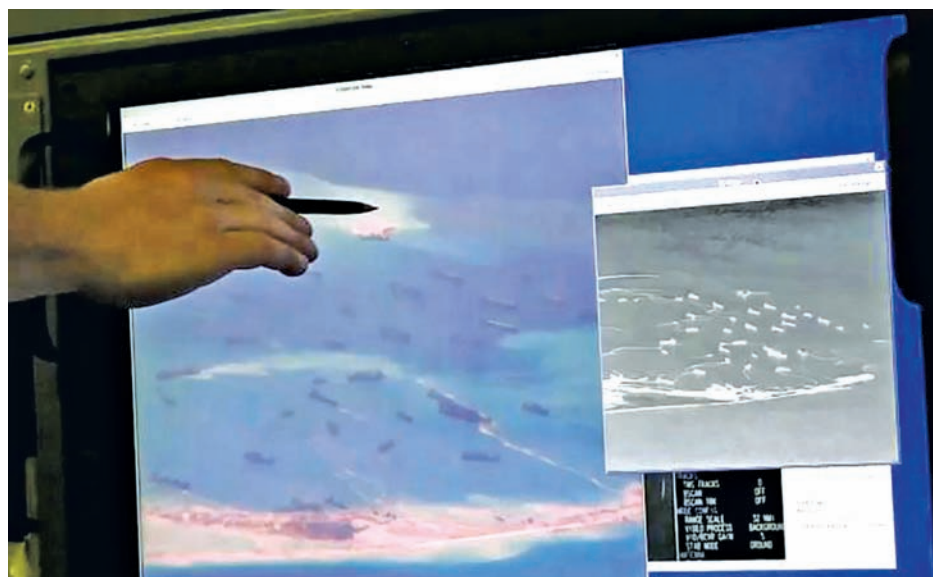
Friction in the region has grown over China's land reclamation in the Spratly islands. China last week said it was "strongly dissatisfied" after a US spy plane flew over areas near the reefs, with both sides accusing each other of stoking instability.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Monday China had lodged a complaint and that it opposed "provocative behaviour" by the United States.

"We urge the US to correct its error, remain rational and stop all irresponsible words and deeds," she said. "Freedom of navigation and overflight by no means mean that foreign countries' warships and military aircraft can ignore the legitimate rights of other countries as well as the safety of aviation and navigation."

China had noted "ear-piercing voices" from many in the US about China's construction on the islands and reefs.

The nationalist *Global Times*, a tabloid owned by the ruling Communist Par-



A US Navy crewman aboard a P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft points to a computer screen purportedly showing Chinese construction on the reclaimed land of Fiery Cross Reef in the disputed Spratly Islands in this still image from video provided by the United States Navy on 21 May, 2015.—REUTERS

ty's official newspaper, the *People's Daily*, said war was "inevitable" between China and the United States unless Washington stopped demanding Beijing halt the building of artificial islands in the disputed waterway.

It said China was determined to finish its construction work, calling it the country's "most important bottom line".

Such commentaries are not official policy statements, but are sometimes read as a reflection of government thinking.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia,

Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

The United States has routinely called on all claimants to halt reclamation in the Spratlys, but accuses China of carrying out work on a scale that far outstrips any other country.

Washington has also vowed to keep up air and sea patrols in the South China Sea amid concerns among security experts that China might impose air and sea restrictions in the Spratlys once it completes work on its seven artificial islands.

China has said it has every right to set up an Air Defence Identification Zone in the South China Sea but that current condi-

tions did not warrant one.

The Global Times said "risks are still under control" if Washington takes into account China's peaceful rise.

"We do not want a military conflict with the United States, but if it were to come, we have to accept it," the newspaper said.

China's state media has stepped up its rhetoric against the United States, warning that the row over the South China Sea could hurt broader relations. But there appears to be little popular anger among the Chinese population so far, judging from sentiment expressed on Weibo, China's version of Twitter.

Reuters

Sydney siege gunman too 'weird' for Australian motorcycle gang, inquest hears

SYDNEY, 25 May — A self-styled sheikh who staged a siege at an Australian cafe last year suffered "grandiose delusions" and was once kicked out of a motorcycle gang because he was deemed so weird, an inquest into the deaths of three people heard on Monday.

Police stormed the Lindt Chocolate Cafe in central Sydney in the early hours of 16 December after Iranian-born gunman Man Haron Monis shot and killed 34-year-old cafe manager Tori Johnson with a sawn-off shotgun following a 17-hour standoff.

The inquest has already heard that one of the hostages taken by Monis, 38-year-old lawyer Katrina Dawson, was killed by a ricochet from at least one police bullet.

Monis, who was killed by police, harboured deep grievances against the Australian government and claimed to be carrying out an attack as a member of the Islamic State radical group.

However, far from belonging to a global movement, the inquest was told of his multiple failed attempts to cultivate a following not just within Sydney's mainstream Muslim community but anywhere that would accept him.

"His constant goal in life appears to have been achieving significance," said Sophie Callan, a lawyer assisting the inquiry. The inquest will continue to examine Monis' biography, as well as looking into how he was on bail at the time of the siege despite facing charges relating to the murder of his ex-wife, who was found burned to death in a Sydney apartment block. Between 2002-2007 Monis reinvented himself as a new-age guru or clairvoyant, marketing his "spiritual healing" techniques to female clients through advertisements in ethnic newspapers. He was eventually charged with more than 50 counts of sexual and indecent assault as a result of his activities during that period, the inquest heard. In 2012 or 2013, Monis unsuccessfully attempted to join the notorious Rebels Motorcycle Club, Callan said. He was rejected because the biker gang thought that he was too "weird".

"Ultimately, he was rejected by the Rebels and they took his motorbike," she said. Monis, who received Australian citizenship after claiming persecution, falsely claimed that his late father had been an ayatollah in Iran, lawyer Jeremy Gormly told the inquest. Monis was found guilty in 2012 of sending threatening letters to the families of eight Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan as a protest against Australia's involvement there, and was known to harass government employees.—Reuters

WORLD

Ex-Israeli PM Olmert sentenced to more jail time for corruption



Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

JERUSALEM, 25 May — Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert was sentenced on Monday to eight months in jail for accepting illegal payments from a US businessman, having previously been given a six-year term in a separate corruption case.

Olmert's lawyers said they would appeal to the Supreme Court against the new conviction and prison term.

Monday's sentence stemmed from a verdict in March that found that Olmert, while serving as industry and trade minister from 2003 to 2005, accepted cash-filled envelopes from an American businessman who hoped to further his interests in Israel.

The court convicted him of fraud and breach of trust on the basis of new testimony from a former aide who had accepted a plea bargain.

Last May, Olmert was sentenced to six years in jail for accepting \$160,000 in bribes linked to a real estate deal in Jerusalem while serving as the city's mayor.

Olmert, 69, is currently appealing that conviction in the Supreme Court, having denied wrongdoing in both cases.

He remains at liberty while the appeals process runs its course. A Supreme Court decision on the first appeal is expected in the next couple of months, his lawyers said.

Olmert became prime minister in 2006 but announced his resignation in 2008 after the corruption allegations surfaced, cutting short his pursuit of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

He stayed on until a new government took office following national elections in 2009.—Reuters

Spain's ruling PP gets worst local election result in 20 years

MADRID / VALENCIA, (Spain), 25 May — Spain's ruling People's Party (PP) took a battering in regional and local elections on Sunday after voters punished Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy for four years of severe spending cuts and a string of corruption scandals.

In a test of the national mood ahead of general elections expected in November, the PP suffered its worst result in more than 20 years to herald an uncertain era of coalition as new parties rose to fragment the vote.

Spaniards rejected the stability offered by the PP and rival Socialists which have alternated in power since the end of dictatorship 40 years ago and opted for change in the shape of new parties — market-friendly Ciudadanos ('Citizens') and anti-austerity Podemos ('We Can').

Rajoy's future looked bleak as his strategy to bet on an accelerating economic rebound to win a second term later this year was seriously undermined by his party's poor showing.

"It's a drubbing for the PP. The fear factor did not

come into play and people voted for Podemos and Ciudadanos," said Jose Pablo Ferrandiz of leading pollster Metroscopia.

Although the PP got more votes than any other party, it and the rival Socialists fell short of overall majorities in most areas. The two parties will have to negotiate coalitions with minority parties in the 13 of Spain's 17 regions that voted on Sunday alongside more than 8,000 towns and cities.

Spain has virtually no tradition of compromise politics and the fragmented vote is likely to result in weeks of pact-building in the regions which hold substantial devolved power and determine spending in key areas like education and health.

"Market sentiment towards Spain may be favourable but the political scene is becoming a lot more fragmented, boding ill for the formation of a stable and strong government after the parliamentary vote later this year," said Nicholas Spiro, analyst at Spiro Sovereign Strategy.

Reuters

UK says no referendum vote for most other EU nationals in Britain

LONDON, 25 May — Most citizens of other European Union countries living in Britain will not get to vote in a planned referendum on Britain's membership of the bloc, the government said on Monday.

Prime Minister David Cameron, who has promised to renegotiate Britain's EU ties ahead of a vote by the end of 2017, will embark on a tour of five European capitals later this week to hold talks with key EU leaders over his reform plans.

Cameron's office said only those eligible to vote in British national elections, plus members of the upper house of parliament and Commonwealth citizens in Gibraltar, will get a say in the EU referendum.

That means British, Irish, Maltese, Cypriot and other Commonwealth citizens aged over 18 and resident in the UK, as well as UK nationals who have lived overseas for less than

15 years will be able to vote, but no other EU nationals.

"This is a big decision for our country, one that is about the future of the United Kingdom. That's why we think it's important that it is British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens that are the ones who get to decide," a source in Cameron's office said.

Citizens of other EU nations living in Britain are allowed to vote in local council and European elections.

The government will introduce its EU referendum legislation to parliament on Thursday as Cameron, whose Conservatives were elected with a surprise majority earlier this month, embarks on a diplomatic charm offensive across Europe.

Cameron launched his reform drive at a summit of EU and ex-Soviet states in Latvia last week, saying he was confident of winning concessions although



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron addresses a news conference during a European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 20 March, 2015.—REUTERS

it would not be easy.

The British leader will travel to Denmark for a working breakfast with Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt on Thursday before heading to the Netherlands for talks with Prime Minister Mark Rutte. He will have dinner with French President Francois Hollande at the Elysee palace in Paris.

On Friday Cameron will meet Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz in

Warsaw and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin.

Cameron, who is hosting European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker for talks at his official country residence on Monday, hopes to speak with all 27 EU leaders individually before a European Council meeting at the end of June where he is expected to set out his reform plans in more detail.

Reuters

Polish president concedes election defeat to conservative challenger

WARSAW, 25 May — Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski conceded defeat to conservative challenger Andrzej Duda in Sunday's presidential election, a result that will set alarm bells ringing for the government, which faces its own election race later this year.

Komorowski had originally been seen as a shoo-in for another term in office, and his defeat reflected a desire among voters for new faces, and a sense that Poland's new-found prosperity was not being shared out equally.

The outgoing president, an ally of Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz, announced he was conceding defeat after an exit poll showed he had won 47 percent to 53 percent for Duda. Official results have not yet been released.

"I respect your choice," Komorowski told a gathering of supporters. "I wish my challenger a successful presidency."

The victory for 43-year-old Duda marks the first major electoral win in almost a decade for his party, the opposition Law and Justice party. It is close to the Catholic church, so-



Andrzej Duda, presidential candidate of the Law and Justice Party (PiS) flashes a victory sign as he addresses his supporters after the results of the exit polls on the second round of presidential elections in Warsaw, Poland on 24 May, 2015.—REUTERS

cially conservative, and markets see it as less business-friendly than the governing Civic Platform.

Poland's zloty currency was down 1 percent against the euro after the exit poll was released, a sign some investors are already expecting a change in government.

In Poland, the prime minister leads the government but the president is head of the armed forces, has a say in foreign policy and in the passage of legislation, and also controls who heads the central bank.

Duda served as legal adviser to former conservative President Lech

Poles. He will not sign bills that are directed against them."

Duda's win throws down a gauntlet to the centre-right Civic Platform party, which has for years dominated the political landscape and controls the longest-serving government in Poland's post-Communist history.

Eight years in power, the party has presided over rapid economic growth and rising salaries in eastern Europe's biggest economy.

But many Poles feel their country's vaunted "economic miracle" has passed them by.

"Economic growth? For the average citizen it is hardly perceptible," said Zbigniew Pela, 53, a railway worker who was voting for Duda on Sunday. "They create good living conditions for some social groups, who have their businesses, and not for ordinary citizens."

Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna said Sunday's result was a serious warning for Civic Platform. "We have to ask ourselves difficult questions ahead of the next elections," he told public broadcaster TVP Info.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 26 May, 2015

Two different types of people

By Myint Win Thein

Taking advantages of a situation or others' weakness for oneself and making sacrifices for others are two completely opposite options people choose to do in their lives. As they are extreme opposites, they have utterly contrary effects, one being respects and admiration while the other being disgust and abhorrence.

Based on these two extremes of human nature, people can be classified into two categories, takers and givers.

Some people take every advantage along their lives and think that they are powerful enough to take the advantages whether they are rightful ones or not for them and whether their greed causes undesirable consequences for others. In addition, they think other people are not as clever as them and proud of the advantageous they have secured. They think their lives are difficult because other people are trying to take advantages of a situation like them.

People who make sacrifices just do their work without thinking whether they are being exploited under a circumstance or by someone. They think their lives are convenient because they are contented and they have no regret for failure to

perform a duty. They just do what they need to do before leading to happy retired lives.

Although these two types of people have completely different characters, they have a common nature. Both types of people never take into account what other people think of them. The first type of people forgets to be ashamed of themselves while the second type to be proud of.

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.

Why should we go on learning?

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

As we all know, learning is being taught or a process of studying to acquire knowledge and skills. Then, why should we go on learning? Just because, learning is a life-long process or a never-ending process. Furthermore, it is widely accepted that all normal human beings are born with a powerful urge to learn. And we also have an old saying. It reads, "from the cradle to the grave, referring to a person's life from birth until death." So, there is one particular thing we must do from the cradle to the grave, that is learning.

Please allow me to present to you as I understand about learning. When a normal baby is born, what does he do? The baby cries. As far as, I understand, the baby's crying is something like making a declaration that "I am alive, active, healthy and normal, not a still born". The baby makes that crying, as his or her own way of talking. Well, you know, talking is a skill, necessary to acquire by all human beings, through learning. And whenever the baby likes to draw his/ or her mother's attention, the baby cries. When the baby gets seven or eight months old, the baby begins learning to talk by saying, Pa Pa, Ma Ma. And when the baby gets to school-going

age, he/ or she is sent to school to learn to acquire knowledge, education and basic skills. Then, the baby goes on learning till he/ she reaches adulthood. In fact, knowledge and education is not static, it is accumulating and expanding all the time. In this connection, an American scholar has asserted "no educative process is ever the end; it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living." And from my own point of view, may I also say that in this knowledge age, a constant learning is a must, an imperative, if we wish to acquire and accumulate knowledge and education.

In connection with the process of learning. We have a concept; learning has the beginning but has so end, whereas ignorance has no beginning, but has an end. Now, a new era or a new age is all upon us. It is, we all know, knowledge age, or intellectually challenging age. So, in this day and age, what would happen to a country, if it were completely lacking in or devoid of educated and learned citizens. I dare not imagine. Could you please imagine yourself?

Now, let me say in plain and simple language that we should go on learning. And the urge to learn, the urge for knowledge should be the

hallmark of our lives. Knowledge should always be at the top of our mind; Concerning the powerful urge to learn with which we were born, I would like to reproduce some points what a famous writer, Mr. Roland Gelatt had said. They are as follows:

"All normal human beings are born with a powerful urge to learn. But almost all of them lose this urge, even before they have reached maturity. It is only the few who are so constituted that lack of learning becomes a nuisance. This is perhaps the most insidious of human tragedies. "The adults who lose this urge, who no longer feel that "lack of learning becomes a nuisance," stop learning. Once, they stop learning, they stop growing intellectually, they stop changing. When and such a time comes, then this is perhaps the most insidious of human tragedies. But fortunately this process is far from irreversible". The writer said, "If you have lost the powerful urge to learn, you can recapture it, no matter what your age."

Well, dear reader, excuse me please, to present to you a little about myself. I am just a nonentity, just a nobody, but a retiree. I am in my late seventies only two years shy of my eightieth birthday. Once I had read a short article about our brain. It said, "Brain is just like a muscle, you

use it or you lose it. Those, over 65 years of age, should go brain-jogging, if you don't want to suffer senile dementia! The article explained "go brain-jogging", means you go on reading and reading or learning. If you go on learning, your brain will remain sharp, active and alert. You may not suffer from memory-loss, senile-dementia." So, believe me, I am still learning.

There are so many proverbs, and old sayings concerning learning and knowledge. On knowledge and education, may I present to you a short poem that I have learnt. Well, if loosely translated into English, I think, it will read as follows. "Of the lights, fire light, moon light and sun light. Moon light is brighter than fire light. Sun light is brighter than moon light!"

Ah, the light of knowledge is the brightest of all. No light is there brighter than the light of knowledge. As such, Lord Buddha has preached. Therefore, all and sundry, each and everybody should strive to acquire knowledge. A good knowledge is just like a Badeithabin tree – a tree of plenty, an inexhaustible store.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that we should pursue a constant learning process. And in this process, we should not falter, we should not waver, we should not tire, and most important

Letter to the Editor

Billion Thanks, Mr. President

Sir,

Some years back, we poor pensioners were half starved to death and our morale was low. Fortune favoured us. The newly formed Democratic Government led by our hardworking upright President U Thein Sein, came to our rescue timely.

The noble aim of the Government is to relieve us of our heavy burden for our crying stomachs and to encourage us to do meritorious deeds, one of the branches of which is to have practice in insight meditation – Vipassana, fit for all, especially for elders. As I have to be obliged to respect the cetana (benevolence) of the Government, I entered the centre of meditation with the aim of becoming a truly converted Buddhist. Now I have come to realize that I am a Buddhist of imitation. It is necessary to be a truly converted Buddhist. I have to follow the instructions of Mogok Sayadaw, an authority on Vipassana. He said that to become a truly converted Buddhist required not just the knowledge of scriptural text but it is much more important to have practice in insight meditation – Vipassana.

Accordingly, my mind was made up to bury myself in meditation. As far as I am concerned, it is the only way to escape from Samsara. We have to prepare ourselves for the next existence. We should try to become a good virtuous worlding during transition from the present life to a higher one after death.

Why we could participate in religious activities is not because of our own accord but because of the sympathetic assistance the Government has rendered to the feeble old pensioners.

Yours truly,
Aye Pe (Padaung)

of all, our effects and endeavours should not end in failure. Last, but not least, may I propose to you, sir, as age is no barrier to learning, it is never too old to learn. So, let's learn and grow as the days go by. Let's create a desire and dedication to update and upgrade ourselves, through constant learning.

8. Thank you, dear reader. Your comments, criticisms, corrections, if

any, are warmly welcome.

Reference:

- (1) Word power made easy by Norman Lewis.
- (2) Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary
- (3) မီးရောင်၊ လရောင်၊ နေအရောင်၊ ဉာဏ်ရောင်လွမ်း၍မိုး၊ သိပ္ပံသမား၊ အဘဘနတ္တိ၊ မြတ်မုနိ ဟောရိုကျမ်းကိုကိုး။ ထို့ကြောင့်များစွာ လူတကာ၊ ပညာရအောင်ကြိုး၊ ပညာကောင်းမှာ၊ ပဒေသာ၊ သုံးရာမကျန်နိမ့်။

LOCAL NEWS

Locals donate rice, provisions to novices, nuns in Tatkon



TATKON, 25 May — kadhaja Bhaddanta Pan-Maha Saddhamma Jotidicca and local residents offered rice and provisions to 300 novices from mon-

asteries and 50 nuns from Tatkon at the Dhammayon of Myole Monastery on Sunday.

To mark the 80th birthday, the venerable abbot donated boxes, travel bags, slippers, ground sheets, buckets, steel plates, thermos flasks, stationery, nun robes, towels, cakes of soap, purified drinking water and snacks, in addition to rice, to the novices and nuns.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Mandalay Region government to upgrade fire stations with modern equipment

MANDALAY, 25 May — Local authorities have arranged to purchase eight fire trucks, 10 sets of modern fire extinguishers, 56 hoses and eights sets of firefighting suits for fire stations in Mandalay Region.

The region fire department operated 280 fire trucks in 2014, with the re-

gion government since providing 78 more to stations. At present, the department runs 350 fire trucks.

According to an official, construction of 12 two-storey fire stations and 10 staff quarters will kick off in June in Mandalay Region.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Teachers conclude Pa-O ethnic literature course

HPA-AN, 25 May — The instructor course for Pa-O literature and culture, conducted by Pa-O Literature and Culture Association of Kayin State, concluded at its office in

Hpa-an, the capital of Kay-in State, on 22 May.

After delivering a speech, the chief minister of Kayin State presented first, second and third prizes to the outstanding win-

ners in the Pa-O literature course. The Pa-O Ethnic Affairs Minister of the state gave prizes to the outstanding students in the Pa-O Language KG course.

Chairman of the association U Khun Mya Aung accepted cash donations from well-wishers.

Pa-O ethnic teachers attended the course from 17 April to 22 May.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

Youths of Mandalay to compete in Mr and Ms Shwe Mann Contests

MANDALAY, 25 May — The Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Committee plans to organize the Mr and Ms Shwe Mann Contest to mark World Olympic Day.

A coordination meeting to hold the contest was held at the Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay on Saturday.

The committee decided to categorize contestants into two divisions, above and below 5 feet, 3 inches. It will not allow entry to champions in the

inter-state or region junior and open bodybuilding contests and the event in the National Sports Festival, as well as Myanmar national team members.

The athletes are to submit the application attached to three licence sized photos and household registration to the chairman of Bahtoo Physical Training Centre, tel: 09-91029393, the secretary, tel: 09-2060096 and 09-91044236, not later than 30 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Campaign aims to keep Bagan free of plastic bags

NYAUNGU, 25 May — With a view to cleaning the Bagan archaeological region and greening its environs, volunteers including students and local residents participated in collection of garbage along Myinsu Road, north of Basic Education High School in Kyansittha Ward, New Bagan, on 23 May.

NyaungU District's deputy commissioner U Tin Htoo Maung spoke about benefits of carrying out sanitation in Bagan and keeping the town clean and pleasant.

Departmental personnel, members of social

organizations, firefighters and students participated in the collection of

plastic bags and carried out sanitation.—*Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)*



Local residents receive free healthcare service

MINBU, 25 May — Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe on 21 May viewed free health care services provided to local residents by Magway Region Development Foundation, Region Health Department and well-wishers in Magyi Thonbin village in Minbu

(Sagu) Township, Magway Region.

The chief minister met with the leader of the medical team Dr Than Oo, health personnel, and local residents.

He presented uniforms to teachers of village Basic Education Middle School Branch and stationery to

students. Under the arrangements of Magway Region Government, the medical team comprising social organization members and medical personnel will provide free health care services to the residents in respective villages from 21 to 30 May.—*Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)*

Seminar targets prevention of human trafficking, violence against girls

TAUNGDWINGYI, 25 May — A seminar on prevention of people smuggling, human trafficking and violence against girls was recently held in Paratkyel village in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway

Region.

Chairwoman of the Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Moh Mohn Tun and Head of Township Traditional Medicine Department U Min Zaw Oo gave

talks. The chairwoman and party provided clothes, medicine and nutritious foods to the older persons and pregnant women, as well as stationery and bags to students.

Naing Win



Local authorities, members of social organizations and residents present gifts to 26 older persons of above 85 at the respect paying ceremony at the Dhammayon in Yanmyolon Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 24 May.—**TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)**

Syrian air force targets captured Palmyra city

BEIRUT, 25 May — Syria's air force carried out at least 15 strikes in and around the central city of Palmyra early on Monday, targeting buildings captured by Islamic State, a group monitoring the war said.

Fighters from the militant group overran the ancient city, the site of some of the world's best preserved Roman ruins, last week. They have killed at least 217 people execution-style in the area since 16 May including children, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

This was in addition to at least 300 soldiers killed by Islamic State in fighting leading up to the city's capture, according to the Observatory's toll.

It said the hardline

group had detained around 600 soldiers, pro-government fighters and those accused of being loyalists in and around the city, also a key military gain as it stands on a crossroads to the cities of Damascus and Homs.

The air force carried out raids on targets including the military intelligence building and the city hospital, said Observatory founder Rami Abdulrahman, who gathers information from a network of sources on the ground.

Islamic State supporters have posted videos online which they say show fighters going from room to room in government buildings in Palmyra, also known as Tadmur, searching for troops and pulling down pictures of President Bashar al-Assad and



A rebel fighter gestures as he shoots his weapon during clashes with forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad on the frontline of Aleppo's Sheikh Saeed neighbourhood on 23 May, 2015.—REUTERS

his father.

They have also posted pictures claiming to show

the Islamic State flag raised over the ancient citadel in Palmyra, which UN cul-

tural agency UNESCO describes as the site of a historical crossroads between

the Roman Empire, India, China and ancient Persia.

The Sunni Muslim militants seized the city of 50,000 people on Wednesday, days after also capturing the city of Ramadi in neighbouring Iraq.

The two advances were Islamic State's biggest successes since last summer, when a US-led coalition started carrying out air strikes against its fighters in both countries, forcing the alliance to examine whether that strategy is working.

The White House has said the seizure of Palmyra was a setback in the fight against Islamic State, but spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama disagreed with Republicans demanding he send ground troops to fight the group.—Reuters

Heavy fighting in Yemen's south, aide says talks postponed

ADEN/CAIRO, 25 May — Heavy artillery clashes between Yemen's dominant Houthi rebel group and local fighters shook the southern cities of Taiz and Dalea on Monday, residents said, and a Yemeni official said UN peace talks set for Geneva later this week had been delayed.

Militiamen seized the main security directorate and strategic mountaintop buildings from the Houthis in Dalea, a bastion of a secessionist movement in Yemen's formerly independent south, much of which has been destroyed in more than two months of fighting.

Ten soldiers loyal to the Houthis and three southern militiamen were killed, fighters and residents said.

In the southern city of Taiz, Houthi fighters pushed back tribal and Islamist militiamen amid heavy street combat, and Arab air raids hit a military base loyal to Houthis in the capital Sanaa on Monday.

A Saudi-led coalition has been bombing the Iran-allied Houthis for months and supporting Yemeni fighters opposing the groups in battle lines drawn across the country. Saudi Arabia and Gulf powers are concerned that the Houthi Shi'ite Muslim

movement's allegiance to Iran will give the Islamic Republic a foothold in the Arabian Peninsula.

Yemen's exiled government in Saudi Arabia led by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has demanded the Houthis recognise its authority and withdraw from Yemen's main cities — two points demanded by a UN Security Council resolution last month.

Those demands may have pushed back a UN-sponsored negotiations set for Geneva on 28 May.

"The Geneva meeting has been indefinitely postponed because the Houthis did not indicate their com-

mitment to implement the UN Security Council resolution," Sultan al-Atwani, an aide to President Hadi, told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh.

"Also, what is happening on ground — the attacks on Aden, Taiz, Dalea and Shabwa makes it difficult to go to Geneva," he added, naming southern provinces that have become war zones.

Ahmad Fawzi, spokesman for the UN in Geneva, said he could not confirm the reports of a delay to talks, saying that plans were still underway for negotiations to start on Thursday.—Reuters

Taleban truck bomb hits government offices in southern Afghanistan, wounds dozens

KANDAHAR, 25 May — A Taleban suicide bomber in a truck loaded with explosives struck a provincial government neighbourhood in Zabul in southern Afghanistan on Monday, wounding nearly 70 people, officials said.

The Afghan Taleban, ousted from power by a US-led coalition in 2001, claimed responsibility for the attack in Qalat city, the latest in a series following the withdrawal of most foreign troops from the country. Zabul police said the attack — which they believed used more than 1,000 kilograms of explosives — was carried out near several government offices, including courts, the attorney general's office, Zabul municipality and the women's affairs department.

Lal Mohammad Tokhi,

head of the public health department in Zabul, said 68 people had been taken to hospital. The wounded included 17 women and two children, Tokhi said.

Taleban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said on his official Twitter account that the truck bomb was aimed at the provincial council and attorney general's offices in Zabul.

Earlier on Monday, four police turned their weapons on their colleagues in Maiwand district of Kandahar province. Zia Durani, a spokesman for Kandahar police, said three police were killed.

The Taleban said two of their members had infiltrated the police force and carried out the attack. The Taleban claimed the assailants killed eight police and took 10 weapons.—Reuters

Gunfire heard near mosque, military base in Tunisian capital

TUNIS, 25 May — Gunfire erupted near a mosque and military base in the Tunisian capital Tunis on Monday, and a nearby school was evacuated, state news agency TAP and a security official said.

Details of the incident were still unclear, but Tunisian security forces have been on alert since an attack in March on the Bardo national museum where Islamist gunmen killed a group of foreign tourists.

Reuters



People stand by part of a Saudi fighter jet found in Bani Harith district north of Yemen's capital Sanaa on 24 May, 2015.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Coca-Cola extends partnership with Speedway through 2020

NEW YORK, 25 May — Coca-Cola Co (KO.N) has extended its partnership with Speedway Motorsports Inc (TRK.N) through 2020, renewing Coca-Cola's status as the official beverage provider for seven Speedway Motorsports facilities.

The agreement also renewed the beverage mak-

er's title sponsorship of the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR racing event, which is scheduled to begin later on Sunday at Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina.

Representatives for Coca-Cola and Speedway Motorsports did not immediately respond to requests for comment.—Reuters



A truck transports bottles from the Coca-Cola company on the outskirts of Moscow, on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

China invites private investors to help build \$318 billion of projects

SHANGHAI, 25 May — China's state planning agency on Monday released a list of more than 1,000 proposed projects totalling 1.97 trillion yuan (\$317.75 billion) that it is inviting private investors to help fund, build and operate.

The National Development and Reform Commission said the 1,043 projects, in sectors such as transport, water conservancy and public services, will be done as public-private partnerships (PPP). An NDRC statement on its website did not say whether private investors will include foreign firms.

As its economic growth slows, China is increasingly turning to PPP, a model not commonly used, to fill a widening funding gap as Beijing clamps down on traditional off-balance sheet borrowing methods used by local authorities.

The list includes projects planned for 29 areas including capital Beijing and



Newly-built residential buildings are seen next to the partially-frozen Songhua River and a bridge in Jilin, Jilin Province on 3 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

southeastern Jiangxi province. "The publication of this library of PPP projects is to help speed up the adoption of the PPP model, and to encourage and guide social capital into the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities," the NDRC said.

Among items on the

lists, which include contact details, are a 51.9 billion yuan project to build two subway lines in the eastern city of Hangzhou, and a 6.4 billion yuan hospital in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang.

Beijing is striving to rein in local government debt, estimated at around \$3 trillion,

but there are signs that the clampdown is having an adverse impact on existing projects. Chinese policymakers on 15 May ordered banks to keep lending and not reduce the size of their loans to local government projects under construction, especially urban subways and affordable housing.—Reuters

Japan export growth dips, outlook uncertain as China, US economies slow

TOKYO, 25 May — Japan's exports rose in April from a year earlier led by US-bound shipments of cars, but the monthly pace of growth slowed from March — a worrying portent for external demand as a slowdown in the economies of China and the US clouds the outlook.

Ministry of Finance data out on Monday showed exports grew 8.0 percent year-on-year in April, versus a 6.4 percent gain seen by economists in a Reuters poll, slowing from a 8.5 percent gain in March. Compared with March, shipments fell 1.5 percent in April.

Slowdown in export growth could hold back the economy's recovery from last year's recession, after last week's data that showed the economy posted two



A worker walks near a container area at a port in Tokyo, in this file photo taken on 19 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

straight quarters of moderate expansion.

Policymakers count on exports as a key driver of corporate activity, which

could help boost wages and spur private spending to generate a virtuous growth cycle needed to shake off years of deflation. "The figures were

not so bad as we thought but shipments to China and Asia turned out weak, which is worrying for the outlook for Japan's external demand,"

said Hidenobu Tokuda, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute.

Shipments to China, Japan's largest trading partner, rose 2.4 percent, slowing from a 3.9 percent gain in March, the data showed. China-bound car exports halved in the year to April.

Exports to Asia, which account for more than half of Japan's shipments, grew 6.0 percent, slowing from a 6.7 percent gain in March. Tokuda said the slowdown probably reflected weakness in Thailand and other ASEAN economies.

Exports to the United States rose 21.4 percent in the year to April, keeping the pace of gains in the previous month with brisk shipments of cars and vehicle engines.

Imports fell 4.2 percent in the year to April, a fourth

straight month of annual declines, mainly due to a sharp fall in crude oil prices. The fall was deeper than the median estimate for a 1.5 percent drop.

The trade balance swung back into a deficit of 53.4 billion yen (283.7 million pounds), much smaller than the median estimate for a 318.9 billion yen deficit, after posting the first trade surplus in nearly three years in March.

First quarter gross domestic product data showed export growth slowed to 2.4 percent from 3.2 percent in October-December, reflecting the slowdown in the US and Chinese economies. Imports outpaced exports, causing external demand to shave off 0.2 percent off the economic growth in January-March.—Reuters

Cholera epidemic hits 3,000 Burundi refugees in Tanzania

GENEVA/BUJUMBURA, 25 May — About 3,000 refugees fleeing political turmoil in Burundi have been infected in a cholera epidemic in neighbouring Tanzania, the United Nations said on Friday, stoking fears of a growing humanitarian crisis in Africa's Great Lakes.

Up to 400 new cases of the deadly disease were emerging every day, the UN's refugee agency UNHCR said, mainly in Tan-

zania's Kagunga peninsula where tens of thousands of Burundians have taken refuge, often in squalid conditions. Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision last month to stand for a third term has triggered protests, a failed coup and sent refugees, many from Burundi's Tutsi minority, into Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Opponents have accused Nkurunziza of break-

ing a two-term limit in the constitution and a deal that ended an ethnically-fueled civil war in 2005. Regional leaders and Western donors, fearing the unrest could reopen ethnic divisions, have scrambled to try and end the standoff. A Tanzanian health official told Reuters on Wednesday that at least 33 people had died from cholera in Tanzania near Lake Tanganyika. "The epidemic is still worsening. To

date some 3,000 cases have been reported, and numbers are increasing at 300-400 new cases per day, particularly in Kagunga and nearby areas," UN refugee agency spokesman Adrian Edwards told journalists on Thursday.

Some cases had also been reported in Burundi, he said, without elaborating.

The UNHCR appealed to donors on Friday for \$207 million to help it deal with the refugee crisis.—Reuters



A Burundian refugee woman carries her child as she drinks from a cup at a makeshift clinic at the Lake Tanganyika stadium in Kigoma western Tanzania, on 19 May, 2015.—REUTERS

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Daw Nang Lang Kham,
Chairperson of Kempinski Hotel - Nay Pyi Taw
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We wish you all the best in your business and philanthropic endeavors.



General Manager and Staff Members
Kempinski Hotel - Nay Pyi Taw

Gov't draws up cybersecurity strategy in defence against attacks

TOKYO, 25 May — The government on Monday unveiled a draft strategy to bolster Japan's defence against potential cyberattacks, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said ensuring cybersecurity is "indispensable" for the country's growth.

Speaking at a meeting of the headquarters for cybersecurity at the prime minister's office, Abe also expressed hope that Japanese companies will take further steps against cyberattacks, as doing so would be an investment rather than a cost.

"We need to enhance our capabilities more than ever to cope

with cyberattacks that have no borders and with any other situations," Abe told the meeting.

Under five basic principles of the strategy, the government aims to ensure that cyberspace will be a rule-based platform that enables free exchanges of information, and is open to various participants.

It also aims to deter malicious acts in cyberspace by encouraging users to take proactive steps, and to enhance coordination among entities in the public and private sectors. The Cabinet hopes to formally approve the strategy in June, an update of the existing one crafted in 2013, after seeking

public comments, government officials said. The strategy encourages companies to be more security-minded, and to take necessary steps when they design and develop products, as goods and services are increasingly connected to the Internet. Cybersecurity has taken on greater importance for Japan as it plans to host the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Abe told the meeting the government will do all it can to prevent cyber terrorism. The number of cyberattacks on government and other organizations detected in Japan doubled in 2014 from the previous year to a record 25.66 billion,



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (far R) addresses a meeting of the government headquarters for cybersecurity strategy at his office in Tokyo on 25 May, 2015.— KYODO NEWS

according to data by the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology.

Kyodo News

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1033W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1033W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TEAM WORTH NO.2 VOY NO (29)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TEAM WORTH NO.2 VOY NO (29) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO. LTD**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSRI MUANG VOY NO (131)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRI MUANG VOY NO (131) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO. LTD**
Phone No: 2301186

**Ministry of Energy
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (4/2015)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United State Dollars (CIF Yangon) and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/1 (2015-2016)	120 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	3 Sets	USD
(2)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/2 (2015-2016)	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven)	4 Sets	USD
(3)	MPPE/MCY/T/1 (2015-2016)	Oil Suction & Discharge Rubber Flexible Hose	8 Items	USD
(4)	MPPE/MCY/T/2 (2015-2016)	Gate Valve	4 Items	USD
(5)	MPPE/AV(LUB)/T/1 (2015-2016)	Aviation Lubricating oil and Grease	9 Items	USD
(6)	MPPE/AV/T/1 (2015-2016)	Aviation Gasoline 100LL	96,000 Ltrs	USD
(7)	MPPE/LP/MCY/T/1 (2015-2016)	Stainless Steel Dipping Tape	2 Items	Kyats
(8)	MPPE/LP/TTS/T/1 (2015-2016)	Tyre with Tube & Flap	2 Items	Kyats
(9)	MPPE/LP/MCY/T/2 (2015-2016)	Battery	2 Items	Kyats
(10)	MPPE/LP/CHEM/T/1 (2015-2016)	Shell Water Detector Capsules	400 Boxes	Kyats

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 18 - 6 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19 - 5 - 2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone : 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OCEANIC PROGRESS VOY NO (09)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEANIC PROGRESS VOY NO (09) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIPPING AG**
Phone No: 2301186

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Ayeyarwaddy Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) Project
(Credit No.55590 MM)**

Ministry of Transport invites expressions of interest from qualified candidates for the following positions. 1) International Senior Advisor to Project Director 2) International Water Resources Management Advisor 3) International Hydro-Met Advisor 4) International Navigation Advisor 5) International Safeguard Advisor 6) International Financial Management Advisor 7) International Procurement Advisor 8) National Safeguard Officer 9) National Procurement Officer 10) National Financial Management Officer.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) can be found in www.dwir.gov.mm (Search for International Cooperation World Bank) and UNDB online website.

The deadline for submission of REOI is (22nd June, 2015). If you need any further information, please email to dwir.airbm@gmail.com.

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**WEATHER
REPORT**

BAY INFERENCE:
Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and East Central Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th May, 2015: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Chin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Libyan government warplanes
attack oil tanker docked at Sirte**

SIRTE, (Libya), 25 May — Warplanes from Libya's official government attacked an oil tanker docked outside the city of Sirte on Sunday, wounding three people and setting the ship on fire, officials said.

It was the third confirmed strike by the internationally recognized government on oil tankers, part of a conflict between competing administrations and parliaments allied to armed factions fighting for control of the country four years af-

ter the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi.

The recognized premier Abdullah al-Thinni has been working out of the east since losing the capital Tripoli in August last year to a rival faction. Both sides have been attacking each other with warplanes and thanks to loose alliances with former anti-Gaddafi rebels have also been fighting on several fronts on the land.

"Our jets warned an unflagged ship off Sirte city,

but it ignored the warning," the eastern air force commander Saqer al-Joroushi told *Reuters*.

"We gave it a chance to evaluate the situation, then our fighting jets attacked the ship because it was unloading fighters and weapons," he added.

"The ship now is on fire. We are in war and we do not accept any security breaches, whether by land, air or sea," Joroushi added.

Mohamed El Harari, a spokesman for Tripo-

li-based state oil firm NOC, said the Libyan tanker Anwar Afriqya owned by NOC had been carrying gasoil for Sirte's power plant. Another oil industry official said the size of the cargo was 25,000 tonnes.

A *Reuters* reporter could see the tanker docked near Sirte's power plant. Two parts of the tanker were still burning but Mohamed Abdulkafi, a military spokesman in Tripoli, said late in the evening the fire had been extinguished.

A port worker said there had been two attacks

on the tanker docked outside the port. First a plane had fired rockets at the tanker's cockpit and crew's cabins, he said. "Then the plane attacked again with guns."

"They attacked after we had discharged the first tank and were readying the second," he said, adding that there was the risk of a gasoil spill.

Sirte's power plant on the western outskirts is controlled by forces loyal to Tripoli. The rest of the city has fallen into the hands of Islamic State which has exploited a security vacuum.

The eastern government had already attacked in January a Greek-operated tanker docking at Derna, killing two seamen and accusing the shipper of sending weapons. NOC had said the tanker was only carrying heavy fuel oil for a power plant.

Two weeks ago forces loyal to the official government shelled a Turkish ship off the Libyan coast after it was warned not to approach. One crew member was killed in what Turkey described as a "contemptible attack".—*Reuters*

France wins big, Italy, Blanchett lose out in Cannes

CANNES, (France), 25 May — French film “Dheepan” won the top Palme d’Or prize for director Jacques Audiard at the 68th Cannes International Film Festival on Sunday, crowning a good night for French cinema but a bad one for Italy and actress Cate Blanchett.

The choice of a film that revolves around the lives of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka’s civil war moving to France was seen as sending a political message, but the awards overall left some critics and festivalgoers dumbfounded.

“It’s extremely disappointing, nobody seems happy,” Jay Weissberg, European-based critic for trade publication Variety, told Reuters. “It’s an anti-climactic finish to a festival that was middling to begin with.”

Ethan Coen, who along with his brother Joel served as co-president of the jury, defended the jury’s choices, especially the Palme d’Or winner.

“Everybody had an enthusiasm for it, to some degree or another we all thought it was a very beau-



Director Jacques Audiard, Palme d’Or award winner for his film “Dheepan”, delivers a speech on stage during the closing ceremony of the 68th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, on 24 May, 2015.

REUTERS

tiful movie,” he told a press conference.

Actor and jury member Jake Gyllenhaal got a laugh when he interjected: “It’s a good prize.”

Hungarian director Laszlo Nemes’s debut film “Saul Fia” (Son of Saul), which made a huge impact at the festival for its portrayal by non-professional actor Geza Rohrig of a Jewish “Sonderkommando” forced labourer in the Auschwitz concentration camp, took the

Grand Prix second prize.

Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos’s surreal English-language film “The Lobster” about guests at a posh singles hotel who are turned into animals if they don’t find a mate took the Jury Prize.

Taiwan’s Hou Hsiao-Hsien won best director for “Nie Yianniang” (The Assassin) and Mexican director Michel Franco got best screenplay for “Chronic”.

But three Italian entries among 19 films competing for the Palme d’Or went home empty-handed, as did Blanchett whose performance as a wealthy woman who falls in love with a shopgirl in the lesbian romance “Carol” won high critical praise. Instead, Rooney Mara, who plays the shopgirl in director Todd Haynes’s film shared the best actress award with France’s Emmanuelle Bercot, who starred in director Maiwenn’s “Mon Roi” (My King). Among the Italian films, Nanni Moretti’s “Mia Madre” (My Mother), about a woman director whose life spins out of control whilst her mother is dying, had been tipped as a possible winner.

France’s Vincent Lin-

don, who took the best actor prize for his portrayal in Stéphane Brizé’s film “La Loi du Marché” (The Measure of a Man) of a floorwalker in a supermarket that has a secret plan to get rid of employees to boost the bottom line, was unapologetic about France’s strong showing.

“It’s not because it’s in Cannes that we can’t receive prizes as other people and this year maybe they wanted to celebrate French cinema,” Lindon said.

The Palme d’Or winner tells the storey of Tamil refugees trying to make a new life on a violent and drug-infested French housing estate.

“I’m very moved. Winning a prize from the Coen brothers is something that is exceptional,” Audiard, who has won two smaller Cannes awards in the past, told the closing ceremony. “I’m thinking of my father.”

Scott Roxborough, a critic for the trade publication *The Hollywood Reporter*, said Audiard had been in the running for a Cannes award for a long time.

“I don’t think it’s his best film but it’s a hot topic ... It honours the director and sends a political message at the same time,” Roxborough said.—Reuters

‘Tomorrowland’ Tops Slow Memorial Day Weekend With \$32.2 million



(L-R) Cast members George Clooney, Raffey Cassidy, Britt Robertson and director Brad Bird pose at the City Of Arts and Sciences before the premiere of the movie “Tomorrowland” in Valencia, Spain, on 19 May, 2015.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 25 May — There weren’t as many fireworks at the Memorial Day weekend box office this year as newcomer “Tomorrowland” disappointed with a \$32.2 million debut.

The science-fiction adventure stars George Clooney and was directed by Brad Bird of “Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol” renown. The Disney release is expected to pull in a lacklustre \$40.7 million for the four-day period.

That’s still good enough for a first place finish, with Universal’s “Pitch Perfect 2” coming in a close second with an estimated \$30.3 million three-day haul and a projected \$37.9 million for the four days. The acappella comedy’s domestic total stands at \$125.4 million.

“Tomorrowland” had been expected to generate \$40 million over the three-day period and \$50 million over the four-day stretch. With a \$180 million price tag, Disney faces an uphill climb to profitability. Not helping matters, overseas figures were an underwhelming \$26.7 million.

Disney distribution chief Dave Hollis predicted that the film would pick

up steam as schools let out, noting it is the only PG-rated release in the month of May.

“The trade off when you’re taking a bit of a chance on a new piece of [intellectual property] is that... it takes audiences a little longer to find a film,” he said, adding, “This one is going to find its audience.”

“Tomorrowland” appears to have been dented by middling reviews and an overly secretive marketing campaign that left too many plot details under wraps. The film’s opening weekend crowd was 51% male, with adults making up 61% of ticket-buyers and families comprising 30% of customers. It received a mediocre B CinemaScore, indicating mixed word-of-mouth.

Hollis said consumers initially seemed to respond to marketing materials that teased the film’s plot elements whilst keeping plot information close to the chest, but the studio would comb over exit data to see if the strategy backfired.

“We wanted it to be something that was cool and edgy and mysterious,” he said.

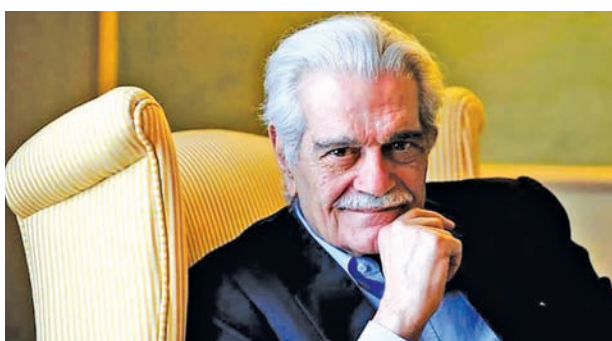
Reuters

Legendary actor Omar Sharif suffering from Alzheimer’s disease

LOS ANGELES, 25 May — “Lawrence of Arabia” star Omar Sharif is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, says his son.

The Egyptian cinematic icon’s son revealed in an interview with that the 83-year-old actor is struggling with his memory and retired from the industry because of his illness, reported *People* magazine.

“My father has Alzheimer’s. It’s difficult to determine what stage it’s at. It’s obvious he’ll never improve and it will get worse,” Sharif’s son, Tarek



“My father has Alzheimer’s. It’s difficult to determine what stage it’s at. It’s obvious he’ll never improve and it will get worse,” Sharif’s son, Tarek El-Sharif, said.

PTI

El-Sharif, said.

El-Sharif revealed his father confuses the names

of his films and has been struggling with the illness for the last three years.

“He still knows he’s a famous actor. The loss of memory affects above all specific things, details like when he was in a specific places or who he acted with in a specific film,” he added.

Sharif, who was born in Alexandria, Egypt, first rose to international fame for his role in 1962’s “Lawrence of Arabia” starring alongside Peter O’Toole.

He later starred in classics such as “Doctor Zhivago” and “Funny Girl” with Barbara Streisand.

PTI

Actress-comedian Anne Meara dies

LOS ANGELES, 25 May — Anne Meara, a veteran TV and comedy film actress and mother of Ben Stiller and wife of Jerry Stiller, has died. She was 85.

Meara, who was also a comedienne, had recurring roles on shows such as “The King of Queens and Sex and the City” and often appeared with her family on screen. She passed away on 23 May, said Ben’s representative.

“The Stiller family is

deeply saddened to share the beloved Anne Meara passed away last night at the age of 85. She is survived by her husband and partner in life Jerry Stiller. The two were married for 61 years and worked together almost as long,” the rep said in a statement.

No more details were provided. In addition to Jerry and Ben, she is survived by daughter Amy and several grandchildren.



Anne Meara, a veteran TV and comedy film actress and mother of Ben Stiller and wife of Jerry Stiller, has died. She was 85.—PTI

Meara began her TV and movie acting career in the ’50s. She and Jerry were part of the comedy duo Stiller and Meara and often appeared together on “The Ed Sullivan Show”. They also both appeared on the same episodes of “The Love Boat” and “The King of Queens”.

Meara and her husband co-starred with their son in several movies, including “Heavy Weights”, “Highway to Hell”, “The

Independent”, which also featured Amy, and “Zoolander”, the latter of which Ben helmed.

He also directed Meara in the cult 1994 movie “Reality Bites”, in which she played a newspaper editor who tells Winona Ryder’s main character LeLaina to “define irony”.

Meara and Ben also co-starred in the 2006 movie “Night at the Museum”.

PTI

GENERAL

Exhibition of Spanish artist Joan Miro held in Sao Paulo



People visit the exhibition of Spanish artist Joan Miro in the Tomie Ohtake Institute, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 24 May, 2015. The exhibition, promoted in partnership with the Foundation Joan Miro of Barcelona, will be held in Sao Paulo until 16 August and bring more than 100 pieces of works including paintings, sculptures drawings of the spanish artist.

XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(26-5-2015 07:00 am~ 27-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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|---|--|
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| * A Person with Faith | * News Extra "Rohinja" |
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Two dead as south-central US storms force evacuations

SAN ANTONIO, 25 May — Two people were killed in flash flooding and severe storms in Texas and Oklahoma that forced evacuations and rooftop rescues and left thousands without power, officials said on Sunday.

The National Weather Service reported river flooding across southern Oklahoma and central Texas, where 6 to 9 inches of rain fell overnight. Flash flooding remained a threat on Sunday from central Iowa into southern Texas, where the heaviest rainfall was expected, the NWS said.

Tornado watches were in effect in the Midwest and south on Sunday evening, including Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas and Louisiana, the NWS said.

As much as 3 inches of rain could fall in east central Texas on Monday, and possibly more in certain areas, the NWS said.

"They haven't seen flooding like this for probably a good decade, probably more like 25 years, even longer, on some of these rivers," said Kurt Van Speybroeck, a NWS meteorologist in Fort Worth, Texas.

He said soil was saturated from heavy rainfall over the past three weeks.

Helicopters rescued

people off rooftops in Hays County in central Texas.

More than 1,000 people were rescued or evacuated from 400 homes, county officials reported on Sunday.

The county, which includes the small cities of Wimberley and San Marcos, about an hour's drive north of San Antonio, ordered a Sunday night curfew.

Local officials at an afternoon news conference said debris piles were nearly 20 feet high. An unidentified man was found dead

from the flooding in San Marcos. Three people who had been reported missing in San Marcos were found safe, a representative for emergency management operations said.

In San Antonio, electric utility CPS Energy said it would take up to 48 hours for power to be restored to 2,600 customers.

In Oklahoma, which also had weekend flooding, a firefighter died overnight in Claremore, about 30 miles northeast of Tulsa.

Captain Jason Farley, a 20-year veteran of the

department, had been responding to a call to help about 10 people trapped in their homes by floodwater, said Claremore Fire Chief Sean Douglas. Farley was swept into a storm drain and died.

Another firefighter who rushed to his aid was also swept into a drain but survived with minor injuries, he said.

"It is a tragic event and a devastating loss for us," Douglas said. Dozens of streets were closed, and the Red Cross had opened shelters.—Reuters



Department of Public Safety Trooper Marcus Gonzales walks on the Highway 12 bridge over the Blanco River which was blocked by large trees after flooding in Wimberly, Texas, United States on 24 May, 2015.

REUTERS

Unidentified objects found at Mumbai airport

NEW DELHI, 25 May— Five unidentified objects were spotted at the airport in Mumbai, triggering a security scare, local TV channels reported on Monday.

The objects were spotted

by an airport staffer who alerted the air traffic controllers, the reports said quoting sources. A passenger flight of a private airlines aborted takeoff after it was informed about the objects, which are

suspected to be parachutes, according to the reports.

Some reports also said those were sky lanterns, but there was no official confirmation about it.

According to Indian

aviation rules, paragliding, hot balloons, drones, sky lanterns are prohibited near airport premises.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the reports said.—Xinhua

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(26-5-2015, Tuesday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Mono Classical Songs |
| 6:25 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • News / International News |
| 7:35 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Socio Economic Scenes | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (History) |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| • News / International News | • Head Line News |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary | • Money Talk Myanmar |
| 9:30 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News |
| 9:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • People's Talks |
| 10:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 11:35 am | 9:00 pm |
| • Documentary | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | • Hluttaw Image |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Sing & Enjoy |
| 12:35 pm | |
| • Hluttaw Image | |
| 1:45 pm | |
| • Sing & Enjoy | |

11 killed, 20 injured in road mishap in western India

NEW DELHI, 25 May — At least 11 people were killed and 20 others injured in a major road mishap in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Monday, a senior police official said.

"The mishap happened when two buses collided head-on on the national highway 8 that connects Mumbai to Ahmedabad in the neighbouring state of Gujarat," he said, on condition of anonymity. While 11 people, including a five-year-old girl, were killed on the spot, those injured have been admitted to a local hospital, the official said, adding the victims included passengers and drivers of both the buses.

Local TV channels reported, quoting eye-witnesses that the driver of one of the buses felt asleep on the wheels that led to the accident. A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official added.—Xinhua

Walcott hat-trick gives Wenger FA Cup final headache

LONDON, 25 May — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger faces a selection headache ahead of next weekend's FA Cup final against Aston Villa after Jack Wilshere and hat-trick hero Theo Walcott fired the Gunners to a 4-1 victory over West Bromwich Albion on Sunday.

The hosts blew West Brom away with a four-goal blitz in the first half which ensured a third-placed Premier League finish and secured their place in the Champions League group stage next season.

A series of injuries to Walcott and Wilshere have confined the pair to the substitutes' bench for most of the season, but the England internationals were in scintillating form as Arsenal ended a barren run of three home league games without scoring.

"Every chance we created we scored in a convincing way, the first half was of top quality," Wenger told reporters.

"After halftime, we tried to keep it going but eased off. Overall, we did the job well and finished the season on a high, and now we can focus on the FA Cup final."

Wenger refused to be drawn on his team selection for next Saturday's match, saying: "I cannot tell you what I will do next weekend, but you can see that some players are in good shape."

Olivier Giroud has been Arsenal's main striker of late but Walcott, usually a winger, was given a runout with the Frenchman rested.

Walcott put Arsenal ahead in the fourth minute in his first league start since mid-March with a swerving strike which flew into the top corner from a tight angle inside the area.

He doubled the lead 10 minutes later when he stabbed home from eight metres out and Wilshere put the result beyond doubt in the 17th minute with a stunning half-volley from just outside the area which rocketed into the top right corner.

Walcott completed a first-half hat-trick in the 36th minute, latching onto Santi Cazorla's sliced shot to tap in from close range at the far post after yet another spell of mesmerising first-touch football from the hosts.

Reuters



Theo Walcott celebrates after scoring the second goal for Arsenal.—REUTERS

Hull go down, Newcastle survive on final day of drama

LONDON, 25 May — Hull City were relegated and Newcastle United survived the drop on a dramatic final day of the Premier League season on Sunday while West Ham United announced that manager Sam Allardyce's contract was not being renewed at Upton Park.

While the spotlight shone brightest at St James' Park, where Newcastle preserved their top flight status by beating West Ham United 2-0, the mood was a lot darker at KC Stadium where Hull drew 0-0 with Manchester United to finish in the bottom three.

"We just haven't been good enough. I thought at the start of the season that we had enough to stay up but we haven't done enough," Hull manager Steve Bruce told Sky Sports.

"You can look for all sorts of excuses: injuries, suspensions, but in the end we have not been good enough, and that goes for me too at the top."

Elsewhere, the goals flew in at Stoke City,



Hull City's Paul McShane and Stephen Quinn in action with Manchester United's Wayne Rooney during their Barclays Premier League at The Kingston Communications Stadium on 24 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Leicester City and Arsenal, who warmed up for next week's FA Cup final against Aston Villa with a 4-1 win over West Bromwich Albion.

Champions Chelsea enjoyed the party atmosphere at Stamford Bridge where they came from behind to beat Sunderland

3-1 with Loic Remy scoring twice and Diego Costa once from the penalty spot as their season ended on a high with the presentation of the Premier League trophy after the game.

Didier Drogba's final match in a Chelsea shirt ended with him being chaired off by his team

mates during the first half as the fans gave him a standing ovation.

There was a far worse send-off for Steven Gerrard who suffered his heaviest defeat in more than 700-plus matches for Liverpool in their 6-1 hammering at Stoke City.

Reuters

Drogba to leave Chelsea for second time

LONDON, 25 May—Didier Drogba is leaving Chelsea for the second time and will play his last game for the Premier League champions against Sunderland on Sunday. The Ivory Coast striker, who first signed for Chelsea in 2004, has scored 104 goals in 253 league matches, becoming a talisman during the most successful era in the west London club's history.

Drogba will be best remembered for scoring a late equalizer and the decisive spot-kick in the penalty shootout against Bayern Munich which won the 2012 Champions League



Chelsea's Didier Drogba celebrates after winning the Barclays Premier League during their Barclays Premier League at Stamford Bridge on 3 May, 2015. REUTERS

final. The 37 year-old resigned for Chelsea last year, after leaving the club in 2012 for Shanghai Shen-

hua and then Turkey's Galatasaray following a highly successful eight year spell.

In total Drogba has

won four Premier League titles with Chelsea, three League Cups, four FA Cups and the Champions League.

The striker was voted Chelsea's greatest-ever player by supporters in 2012. "I want to play for at least one more season and in order to play more football I feel I need to go to another club," he told Chelsea's website.

However he also raised the possibility of a return to the club once his playing days are over, saying: "All the fans know my love for Chelsea and I hope to be back here in the future in another role."—Reuters

Colourful Federer's mood darkened despite easy win

PARIS, 25 May — Roger Federer enlivened a routine day at the office with a violet and pink outfit and a several dabs of brilliance to launch another French Open quest but his mood darkened after a security breach on Sunday.

The evergreen Swiss was in full control against Colombia's Alejandro Falla, marking the start of his 62nd consecutive appearance at a grand slam tournament with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 victory on court Philippe Chatrier.

When he walked off,

however, a fan sauntered on and began trying to snap a selfie with a mobile phone before he was belatedly removed by a security guard.

"I'm not happy about it. Obviously not one second I'm happy about it. It happened yesterday in the practice, too," a ruffled Federer told reporters, adding that organizers had apologized.

Tournament director Gilbert Yvern told a news conference that even though a mistake had been made and that the incident was "embarrassing", there

was no reason to change security procedures at the tournament.

The 17-times major winner, champion at Roland Garros in 2009, was the star turn on a low-key opening day in a sunny French capital, taking to the court after women's third seed Simona Halep got the ball rolling. Romanian Halep, seeded three after reaching the final last year, was made to work hard by 91st-ranked Russian Evgeniya Rodina, huffing and puffing her way to a 7-5, 6-4 victory.

"It was a tough match,

because it was the first round and it is always difficult to start the tournament," she said.

Federer also made a few errors as he loosened up against a player he almost fell to in the first round at Wimbledon in 2010. But he was never in any danger.

Strolling on to court with a perfectly-matched violet shirt, pink shorts and black bandana, 33-year-old Federer quickly warmed to his task, while Falla offered enough resistance to provide some lunchtime entertainment.—Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer in action during the first round at French Open, Roland Garros, Paris, France on 24 May, 2015. REUTERS