

President hosts dinner in honour of heads of state and government of ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May —President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner in honour of the heads of state and government attending the 24th ASEAN Summit at the Jade Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 pm on Saturday.

Present at the dinner were Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister Samdech HUN SEN of Kingdom of Cambodia, President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia, Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong of Lao PDR, Prime Minister Dato Sri Haji Mohammad Najib of Malaysia, President Benigno Aquino of the Republic of the Philippines, Prime Minister



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attend dinner hosted in honour of the heads of state and government attending the 24th ASEAN Summit at the Jade Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Lee Hsein Loong of Singapore, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam and Special Envoy from Thailand Mr. Phongthep Thepkanjana and officials. President U Thein Sein made a welcoming

speech at the dinner. In his speech, President U Thein Sein said, "During Myanmar's Chairmanship, we will place great emphasis on the matters which could generate positive impacts on improving the quality of life of our peoples."

"While we are all striving for the emergence of the ASEAN Community by

2015, we need to ensure the success and sustainability of the community by giving special focus on the roles of women and children," he continued.

Before and during the dinner, artistes from the ministry of culture entertained the guests with music and dances featuring the cultures in the ASEAN region.—MNA

"Myanmar in good position to facilitate dialogue with China" as South China Sea issue dominates agenda of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and ASEAN Foreign Ministers pose for documentary photo at ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—The recent incident between China and Vietnam in the South China Sea was among

the main topics at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday in preparation for the ASE-

AN Summit on Sunday, with a joint statement announcing that the ministers "expressed their serious concerns over the

ongoing developments in the South China Sea that have increased tensions in the area."

(See page 3)

Union Ministers and European Ambassadors visit Sittway

SITTWAY, 10 May—Locals in Sittway are pleased with the healthcare services they are receiving.

"I have come here to receive vaccination as I am pregnant. I am pleased with healthcare services," said a local woman in Dar Paing Village as union ministers and European ambassadors visited the town.

Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Ohn Myint and U Khin Yi, together with ambassadors of Norway, Switzerland and the EU Office, visited an emergency hospital, clinics

and rural health department branches in Sittway this morning.

The ministers and the ambassadors viewed the medical treatments being given to locals and comforted them in clinics in Set Yon Su Ward, Thet Kay Pyin Village, Dar Paing Village and The Chaung Village.

Then, the union ministers and the ambassadors arrived at the temporary relocation center opened at Sittway Technical High School and heard reports on destruction of UN/INGO

(See page 2)

ASEAN to undertake implementation of DOC and COC, Secretary-General says

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—ASEAN Secretary-General on Saturday said the block will undertake full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Secretary-General Le Luong Minh hold a

press conference on the sideline of 24th ASEAN Summit held at Myanmar International Convention Center.

Le Luong Minh told the reporters that ASEAN foreign ministers expressed 'serious concerns' about the latest development in the issue of territorial disputes in the region, and called on to undertake full and effective implementation of the DOC and COC

in order to create an environment of mutual trust and confidence.

Commenting on visa schemes, Secretary-General said that although ASEAN member countries are making efforts to develop visa schemes, it is not ready to implement the Smart Visa Schemes.

Regarding his view on the estimation of an expert from the Asia Development Bank that

Asian Economic Community could not be established in 2015, Le Luong Minh said that as the plan for AEC was implemented in 2009 based on three separate blueprints, the development in each sector has reached 15 per cent each year, and they will be undertaken effectively in next one and half year due to the overall improvement of the plans.

MNA

Myanmar hosts ASEAN Summit for the first time



Photo shows MICC in Nay Pyi Taw where ASEAN Summit and related meetings are being held.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May 2014—Sunday will mark another milestone in Myanmar's history as it hosts the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, the country's administrative and political capital. This will be the first time Myanmar hosts an ASEAN Summit since joining the Association in 1997. President U Thein Sein will be welcoming his counterparts, Heads of State/Government from the other nine Member States for their annual Summit on 11 May to be held at the newly-built Myanmar International Convention Center.

ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh expressed optimism about Myanmar's ability to provide leadership to the Association at this critical stage of ASEAN's Community building. Minh said "Myanmar's chairmanship comes amidst the country's on-going democratization and reform process which has been enjoying strong support from ASEAN Member States and the international community at large." He added "ASEAN

is committed to extending all necessary assistance and cooperation to ensure the accomplishment of Myanmar's chairmanship. Myanmar's success is ASEAN's success."

As Chair of ASEAN for 2014, President U Thein Sein will preside over the meetings of ASEAN Leaders and theirs with sectoral groups such as the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, civil society, and youth leaders from the region. Mindful of the regional bloc's objective of establishing a three-pillared politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible Community next year - one that is people-oriented and people centered, Myanmar's theme for its Chairmanship of ASEAN is "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community."

Ensuring that the implementation of action lines for establishing the ASEAN Community 2015 are on track will be a top priority on the Summit's Agenda. The ASEAN

Heads of State/Government will also exchange views on current regional and international issues.

It is expected that the 24th Summit will pick up from the legacy of the last Summit in Brunei where the Leaders enunciated the need to draw up ASEAN's post-2015 vision. ASEAN Secretary-General Minh said, "Geography has put ASEAN in a unique bridging position between the great Asian powers and it will continue to assert its centrality in the evolving regional architecture." He emphasized that, "the ASEAN Community will leverage this position to maintain peace and stability in the region which are requisite ingredients for narrowing the development gaps within and between ASEAN Member States."

ASEAN is nearing the homestretch of its implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community which brings together the ten Member States as a single market by the end of 2015. Despite the publicized challenges, ASEAN

has made it clear that the ASEAN Economic Community will push through as planned and that it has addressed 80% of required action lines altogether. As the region gears up for ASEAN Community 2015, various socio-cultural cooperation initiatives are being implemented by Member States in the areas of education, health, cross-border pollution control and disaster management, among others.

ASEAN was established in 1967 by the five founding members, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Later, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia joined making up what is now the ten-Member- State Association. The Summit is the association's highest policy-making body and the Chairmanship is rotated in alphabetical order among the Member States every year.

ASEAN Secretariat



Health staff are providing medical treatment to locals in Rakhine State.

MNA

Joint Statement of ASEAN foreign ministers on ongoing developments in South China Sea

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — ASEAN foreign ministers expressed "serious concern" about the ongoing developments in South China Sea which have caused the regional tensions.

All parties concerned in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions which could undermine peace and stability in the area, and to resolve disputes by peaceful means without resorting to threat or use of force.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers "reaffirmed the importance of

maintaining peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea." Moreover, the six principles of ASEAN on South China Sea and the joint statement of 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) are also important.

The ministers also called on all parties "to undertake full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to undertake full and effective implementation of the DOC in order to create an environment of mutual trust and confidence."

MNA

Union Ministers and European Ambassadors ...

(from page 1)

offices, houses and warehoused in March by some locals, security measures taken after the incident, stability and arrangements for resumption of work of UN/INGOs, temporary relocation of UN/INGOs in West Model Village in Sittway, healthcare services for locals, cooperation between the ministry of health and UN/INGOs.

Head of UNOCHA

Mark Cutts explained the close cooperation between the UNOCHA and ECC to the ministers and the ambassadors.

The ambassador of the EU to Myanmar also explained the plans to help the locals without racial or religious discrimination.

Later, they went round Sittway and studied the development of the town.

MNA

NATIONAL

AIPA meets to prepare for plenary session



Speaker of Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann at preliminary coordination meeting of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held a preliminary coordination meeting at Royal Ace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday morning, with an address by the speaker of Union Parliament and People's Parliament, reports said. The coordination meeting was held ahead of ASEAN-AIAP Plenary Session scheduled to start simultaneously alongside the 24th ASEAN Summit

hosted in Myanmar.

At the meeting, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann gave a brief account of Myanmar's involvement in meetings of AIAP and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). He said his study tours of parliament sessions worldwide are of great help to him as a speaker, adding that Myanmar MPs also gain a lot of experience from meetings with foreign MPs.

In connection with the

legislative sector, Thura U Shwe Mann said 98 laws have been enacted in a span of three years. He attached importance to the role of parliament in establishing ASEAN Community by 2015, calling on parliamentarians to serve public interests.

The First ASEAN Parliamentary Meeting (APM) took place in Indonesia in 1975, and the second in Malaysia the same year. Two years later, APM met for the third time in the Philippines.

In 1977, APM agreed to set up an organization under the name of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organ-

ization (AIPO), which was later renamed ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in 2007.

Myanmar was accepted as a member to AIPA in its 32nd meeting in 2011.

The Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann separately met a Laotian delegation led by Hon. Pany Yathotou, President of the Laos national assembly and President of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly-AIPA, and First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Cambodia Dr Nguon Nhel and party at Royal Ace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief on inspection tour of Cocogyun

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, accompanied by top military officers and departmental officials, encouraged the mobile military medical troupe in giving treatment to locals at the hospital in Cocogyun of Yangon region on Saturday morning, reports said.

The commander-in-chief went on a guid-

ed tour of the hospital and had open conversations with patients.

At a meeting with local departmental officials and organizations, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing briefed on health and transport services provided by the armed forces in public interests. He called on local people, departments and military stations to work in harmony for regional development.

Myawady

Myanmar, Indonesia sign agreement on Visa Exemption on ordinary passport holder

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May —During the 24th ASEAN Summit hosting in Myanmar, signing an agreement on Visa Exemption on ordinary passport holder between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia was held in Myanmar International Convention Centre on Saturday at 4 p.m.

The said agreement was signed by U Wunna Maung Lwin, the Union

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natelegawa, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. The Ambassador of Myanmar to Indonesia, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar and the senior officials from the two ministries also attended the ceremony.

MNA

MOFA releases press statement not to convene interface meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May —The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on Saturday. The full text of the press release is as follows:-

Press Statement

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in accordance with the precedence of ASEAN summits, has made necessary arrangements to convene the interface meeting between the ASEAN leaders and the civil society organizations of ASEAN member states on 11th May, during the 24th ASEAN summit in Nay Pyi Taw.

The arrangements undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are in accordance with the ASEAN practice and as such, the representatives of civil society organizations attending the said Interface Meeting must be chosen by their respective ASEAN member countries. The ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2014 (ACSA/APF 2014), realizing the precedence and the practice of ASEAN, rejected the representatives chosen by some ASEAN member states. In this regard, it subsequently informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of its decision not to attend the interface meeting.

In light of the untoward reaction by the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2014 (ACSC/APF 2014), the interface meeting between the ASEAN leaders and civil society organizations of ASEAN member states will not take place as planned on 11 May 2014.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10 May 2014

‘Myanmar in good position to facilitate dialogue with ...

(from page 1)

Myanmar's Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut said the incident shows that implementation of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea was of the utmost importance to “settle the disputes in a peaceful manner and to prevent another incident from happening.” Commenting on the ASEAN chair's position, the deputy minister said that “Myanmar is in a good position to facilitate dialogue, because we have a strategic partnership with China and good relations with all ASEAN member states. And we are not part of any South China Sea issues.”

While especially the top leaders of Vietnam and the Philippines are pushing for unity and a commons stance among

ASEAN countries on the issue to be included in the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, Myanmar Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh remained elusive during a press conference in answering questions regarding the South China Sea or the declaration.

Earlier in the day the Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam Pham Quang Vinh stressed the need for ASEAN to stand united on the issue: “For all the foreign ministers the current developments and collisions in the South China Sea have been a very serious matter and they think and stress that ASEAN needs to have a collective voice and position on this issue.”

He said that the state-

ment at ministerial level has been adopted with “everybody satisfied in a way that ASEAN can play a central role and has adopted a collective position on this issue.”

According to the statement, the foreign ministers urge all parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and “to resolve disputes by peaceful means without resorting to threat or use of force,” calling on all parties to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to undertake full and effective implementation of the DOC in order to create an environment of mutual trust and confidence.

The Vietnamese deputy foreign minister stressed that his country has been “consistently pursuing contact with the Chinese side on various levels and most recently on May 7,” as China “has sent their oil rig deep into Vietnam as well as a massive

number of ships, including military ships. That has created a violation of international law and poses a serious danger to peace and stability in the region as well.”

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa also stressed that the rule of law needed to be applied in order to address the South China Sea disputes.

“We need to speed up the process of the Code of Conduct and work more earnestly on it. ASEAN and China are very strong partners for development and for peace in our region.

So we have a common view on peace and a peaceful settlement of the South China Sea dispute,” he said. China lays claim to large parts of the South China Sea, with Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Taiwan all having competing claims in the region.

NLM

CB Bank introduces FIFA Visa prepaid card

YANGON, 10 May—A press conference on FIFA Visa Prepaid Card issued by Visa and CB Bank was held at the CB Bank head office on Strand Road in Yangon on Friday afternoon.

Deputy General Manager U Zeyar Aung of IT section of the bank introduced use of FIFA Visa Prepaid Card.

As a gesture of hailing the 2014 World Cup to be held in Brazil in coming June, the FIFA Visa Prepaid Card jointly issued by Visa and CB Bank are available at the CB Bank head office, CB Bank



card section and CB bank branches from 6 May to 13 October.

As a special programme, those who early

paid the money for the card will be presented gifts as official FIFA country cap, official FIFA Football jersey and traveler bag with

respective country brands.

For further information, may dial 01-378905 and call centre 1874.

MNA

Children smile with better lips

YANGON, 10 May—Under the programme of 4th Operation Smile's Myanmar-Singapore Friendship Medical Mission 2014, the Health Department of the Ministry of Health, Fraser & Neave Ltd of Singapore and Myanmar Brewery Ltd sponsored treatment of cleft lip and palate patient children at Yangon General Hospital on Friday.

The medical treatment was provided to 24 patient children on 6 May, 26 children on 7 May, 28 children on 8 May and 21 on 9 May, totaling 99.

The medical team consisted of surgeons and nurses from the Philippines, India, Japan, the US, England and Mongolia and they will leave Myanmar on 11 May.

Soe Win (MLA)



Japan's products showcased at show in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 10 May—Myanmar Promotional Services (MPS) Co Ltd opened the Japan Products Show 2014 in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of establishment of the Japan-Myanmar diplomat-

ic relations at the city hall in Mandalay on Friday.

Mandalay Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun, Managing Director Mr Toshihiro Mizutani of JETRO (Yangon)

and Mr Isazawa of Mitsubishi Co., cut the ribbon to open the show.

It is aimed at introducing Japan's high quality products to the Mandalay market.

With the assistance of

the Japanese Embassy, the show displays photo copiers, printers, 3-D TV, video cameras, bathroom and kitchen utensils, electronic equipment, cosmetics, vehicles and engine oil, factory and household goods and water purifiers.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



International conference focuses on ASEAN Community Knowledge Networks for the Economy, Society, Culture and Environmental Stability

MANDALAY, 10 May—The 10th ASEAN Community Knowledge Networks for the Economy, Society, Culture and Environmental Stability was launched at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay on Fri-

day morning.

Experts from Yuxi Normal University, Choxing Normal University, Ho Chi Minh City Open University, Huntington University, Mandalay University, Yadanabon

University, Mandalay University of Computer Studies, Yezin University of Agriculture and Mandalay Education College discussed exchange of international information technology and culture.

A total of 110 experts from international community and 80 from Myanmar joined the international conference.

They focused on issues of Asia and Pacific regions and Mekong basin concerning the building of the new nation with economic, technological, social and environmental points of view.

They also concentrated on poverty alleviation, uplift of living standard, standardization of foods and drugs, taking care of the aged, protection of natural resources and energy of the nation, advancement of science and technology, climate change, utilization of energy, political and economic challenges, human development and health care policies.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Basic painting training given to students in Yamethin

YAMETHIN, 10 May—Trainees of Summer Basic Painting Course organized by Yamethin Social Excellent Library Committee took practice in creating paintings at Kanthit Park in Yamethin of Mandalay Region on Friday.

U Win Zaw (Bogale) gave training to the youths in depicting the paintings.

"We missed the chance to conduct the painting training course for 20 years ago. This training course benefits the students," said a parent of trainee.

Over 40 trainees are attending the course. The organizing committee sets a plan to conduct the painting contest.

Hlaing Than Tint
(Yamethin)



OPINION

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 May, 2014

Ten star flowers in 2014 Summit

By Aung Khin

Star flowers are ordinary flowers, but they are valued by millions of Myanmar people. With similar affection for majority of people in the region, Myanmar has chosen the ten star flowers for the logo of ASEAN chairmanship.

Under the theme “Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community,” the ten star flowers are going hand in hand like ten

pinions of driving force for the peaceful and prosperous future of the region.

To reach a peaceful and prosperous community, the ten star flowers of ASEAN will accelerate participation of women, youth, parliamentarians and media in the activities of the bloc.

Myanmar is very exciting as a rotating chair of ASEAN for the first time after joining the bloc in 17 years, taking priority over full implementation of remaining tasks in realizing ASEAN Community by 2015.

Reform processes in politics, economy and administrations of Myanmar has resulted in more active role of the country in regional and international affairs. Despite tension in the South China Sea, the key agenda items of 24th ASEAN Summit will include partners’ readiness to launch ASEAN Economic Community, to lower

trade barriers in the region and lift restrictions on the movement of labor force.

ASEAN aims to establish the economic community, built on the principles similar to the European Union’s, by the end of 2015 with three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

As the ten star flowers have joined together with each other as pinions of a machine, they will never relinquish the unity even though some regional tensions exerted force on them in bringing about peaceful and prosperous community.

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China Sea disputes threaten ASEAN unity in Myanmar

By Puy Kea

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—China’s fomenting of disputes in the South China Sea this week is haunting delegations and leaders of the 10-member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as they start to discuss a wide range of issues in Myanmar’s capital Saturday.

Until the Chinese actions earlier this week, the delegations and leaders of this regional bloc had not been expected to touch on anything sensitive or controversial at the 24th ASEAN Summit, the first chaired by Myanmar since it joined ASEAN in 1997.

Plans had been to focus on the ASEAN Economic Community to come into force next year and an ASEAN vision for post-2015.

But with the new conflict between some ASEAN members and China,

the South China Sea disputes that disrupted the ASEAN meeting in 2012 in Cambodia again threaten to dominate the bloc’s meeting in Myanmar.

In 2013, when Brunei was in the ASEAN chair, the issue was effectively sidelined.

Now, with Myanmar, China’s most likely ally in ASEAN after Cambodia, in the ASEAN chair, the clashes this week in the Paracel Islands between Vietnam and China and between the Philippines and China in another part of the South China Sea are sure to cause headaches for the group that continually tries to avoid direct confrontations among its 10 members.

The Paracel clash pits a Vietnam determined to protect its territorial integrity against a China that lays claim almost the en-

tire South China Sea and that unilaterally declared its sovereignty over most of the airspace above the South China Sea.

Vietnam, although it is hardly in a position to challenge China militarily or economically, is likely to seek ASEAN solidarity against China, ASEAN’s largest trading partner.

The Philippines is likely to seek similar ASEAN support and both countries are also likely to seek support from the United States and Japan in their claims in the South China Sea.

Some wonder why China has taken new actions in disputed territories only a week after U.S. President Barack Obama completed his four-country Asian tour that included the Philippines and Malaysia and less than a week before the 10 ASEAN leaders

meet in Myanmar.

“China is making another test for both ASEAN and the U.S on the maritime dispute,” an ASEAN diplomat told Kyodo News.

This test, the diplomat added, places ASEAN in the uncomfortable situation of having to respond to China and trying to decide in what manner to make a response—whether with a stand-alone statement, a foreign ministerial-level communication or directly from the ASEAN chair.

Two years ago, the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China in Scarborough Shoal placed ASEAN in the unenviable position of failing to issue a statement from the chair for the first time in ASEAN’s 45 years as Cambodia dug in against any censure of Chinese aggression.

This time, Vietnam is already pushing for a strong regional statement against China, but again the fragility of the 10-member group may be highlighted if, as some ASEAN sources suggest, some members are more concerned about their own economic ties with China than appearing as a united ASEAN.

At a statement-drafting committee meeting Friday, Vietnam pressed for a clause on the South China Sea disputes with China to be inserted in the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration. But Brunei reportedly wanted only to mention “maritime” difficulties and to avoid naming any parties in the disputes.

Pham Quang Vinh, Vietnam’s deputy foreign minister, has emphasized his country wants a collective response from

ASEAN.

Ei Ei Khin Aye, deputy director general of Myanmar’s foreign affairs ministry, said the issue is being addressed by the drafting committee, but added no decision has yet been taken.

“Every country is pushing for their own national interests naturally, but we have to make sure the chosen wording would benefit not only one or two countries but all members,” she said.

Later, the foreign ministers suggested a stand-alone statement on the conflict will emerge before the end of the summit on Sunday.

The ASEAN members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo

ASEAN ministerial meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — The statement of the ASEAN foreign ministers on South China Sea was issued Saturday at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held at the Sapphire Hall of Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw. The ASEAN external relations guideline was also approved at the meeting.

The coordination meeting of ASEAN economic ministers was also held Saturday at the MICC. Economic ministers of the ten ASEAN members, the ASEAN Secretary-General and the deputy secretary-General discussed matters related to regional economic cooperation.

In the afternoon, 11th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting was held at the MICC. Participants in the meeting discussed review of global and regional economy, elimination of non-tariff barriers and ASEAN position paper (draft) to be submitted on behalf of the ASEAN by Myanmar in the G-20 summit in November.

The 11th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting was also held at the same venue this morning. Latest developments of organizations under the council and the roadmap of the council were discussed at the meeting.

MNA

Myanmar’s industrialization slow as deadline for ASEAN Economic Community approaches: Myanmar economic minister

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May — Myanmar’s main challenge ahead of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 is to speed up its industrialization, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw said on Saturday after the 11th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

He said that problematic issues will be addressed and that Myanmar has now fulfilled 50 to 60 percent of the tasks in order to be

ready for the AEC, adding that the country has been “systematically planning” its strategy for a decade.

ASEAN has set its target of launching the ASEAN Economic Community on 31 December, 2015, with the minister urging ASEAN communities to be “resilient” during the economic reform process which “poses challenges.” He said that the ASEAN economics ministers have agreed to closely cooperate in order to overcome the challenges before and after the establishment of the AEC.

Regarding reforms in the trade sector as part of efforts to prepare for the AEC, “ASEAN member countries have reduced the tax rates. However, they are still facing problems on how to solve the issues of non-tariff barriers,” the minister said.

Commenting on the economic relations between ASEAN and China, the minister said ASEAN will carry on in conformity with its policies on China, and that ASEAN will settle the issue of regional instability in a peaceful manner in accordance with



Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw.

Photo: AYE MIN SOE

international laws, without harming the economy of the bloc, Dr Kan Zaw said.

PHOTO GALLERY

PRESS CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND 11th ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING.



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin makes clarifications at Press Conference of foreign ministers who attended the related meetings to ASEAN Summit, in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Local and foreign correspondents and officials seen at Press Conference of foreign ministers of ASEAN countries in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Ministers and parties of respective ASEAN countries attending 11th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Staff members of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications sell stamps and communication equipment to be easily used for better on-line services to delegates of ASEAN countries, media and local and foreign guests at Myanmar International Convention Centre.

PHOTO: TIN SOE



Delegates and guests at the entrance to venue where related meetings to 24th ASEAN Summit will be held, in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

PHOTO GALLERY

ASEAN COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING AND ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON 10 MAY 2014



Foreign affairs ministers of ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo at 14th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Participants from ASEAN countries attending 14th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Delegates from ASEAN countries take part in discussions at 14th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin delivers an address at ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Delegations led by foreign miniters of ASEAN countries attending ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.

MNA

PHOTO GALLERY

**11TH ASEAN
POLITICAL AND
SECURITY COMMUNITY
COUNCIL MEETING
AND ASEAN ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING**

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and foreign ministers of ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo at 11th ASEAN Political and Security Community Council Meeting.—MNA



Delegation led by ministers of ASEAN countries take part in 11th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



ASEAN delegations join discussions at 14th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Delegations led by ministers of ASEAN countries participate in discussions in 11th ASEAN Political and Security Community Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA



Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw poses for documentary photo with ministers of ASEAN countries at 11th ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May.—MNA

PHOTO GALLERY



President U Thein Sein and wife together with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam.— MNA



Prime Minister Samdech HUN SEN of Kingdom of Cambodia.— MNA



President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia.— MNA



Prime Minister H.E. Thongsing Thammavong of Lao PDR.— MNA



Prime Minister Dato Sri Haji Mohammad Najib of Malaysia.— MNA



President H.E. Benigno Aquino of the Republic of the Philippines.— MNA



Prime Minister H.E. Lee Hsein Loong of Singapore.— MNA



Prime Minister H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam.— MNA



Special Envoy from Thailand H.E. Mr. Phongthep Thepkanjana.—MNA

Thai government supporters gather to 'defend democracy'



Anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban (R) speaks to other protesters during a rally outside the Government House in Bangkok on 10 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 10 May — Supporters of Thailand's beleaguered government gathered on Saturday on the outskirts of Bangkok saying they were determined to safeguard democracy and avert a coup

as anti-government protesters, based at a central park, planned their "final push".

Thailand's polarized politicians have been unable to forge a compromise over a nearly decade-long

split between the royalist establishment and a populist former telecommunications tycoon, whose sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was ousted as prime minister on Wednesday.

Her sacking followed

six months of anti-government protests that have unnerved investors, frightened away tourists and dented growth in South-east Asia's second-biggest economy.

"We are here to show that we don't agree with the anti-government protesters' mission to install their own unelected prime minister," Thanawut Wichaidit, a spokesman for pro-government activists known as red shirts, told *Reuters*. He said tens of thousands of loyalists of Yingluck and her brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, were gathering on the western fringes of Bangkok for a rally to defend democracy.

"We will only accept a democratically elected prime minister. The final objective of the anti-government protesters is a coup, a silent coup or one by the military. We will not

stand for this," Thanawut said.

Yingluck was thrown out of office for abuse of power over the appointment of a security agency chief and on Thursday she was indicted by an anti-corruption agency for negligence over a rice subsidy scheme aimed at helping farmers that ran up huge losses.

Yingluck's Puea Thai Party still runs the interim government and is hoping to organize a 20 July election that it would probably win. But anti-government protesters want the government out, the election postponed and reforms to end Thaksin's influence.

"Thaksin's headless puppets have the nerve to appoint a new caretaker prime minister but their action is illegal," anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban a former deputy premier in a government

run by the pro-establishment Democrat Party, told his supporters late on Friday. "We can almost taste victory. We won't retreat. We are almost there."

Suthep called his supporters out onto the streets of Bangkok on Friday for what he says will be a final push to get the government out and install an unelected "people's council" to oversee reforms aimed at excluding Thaksin from politics.

Thaksin or his loyalists have won every election since 2001 but his enemies say he buys votes. They want to change the electoral rules before new polls to try to stop his party winning again. Suthep has called on the upper house Senate to appoint an interim prime minister. A new Senate speaker, elected on Friday, has called for a session of the assembly on Monday.—*Reuters*

Indonesian opposition party wins election, eyes coalition for Jokowi

JAKARTA, 10 May — Final results from Indonesia's legislative election confirmed on Friday that the main opposition party had won, but failed to secure enough votes to put forward its presidential candidate Joko "Jokowi" Widodo without a coalition.

The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) won 18.9 percent in last month's voting, the election commission said, short of the 25 percent threshold needed to allow the hugely popular Jakarta governor to run as president on 9 July.

PDI-P's failure to secure a decisive victory has led to some concern in financial markets that Southeast Asia's biggest economy is in for a period

of political horse-trading. Both stocks and the rupiah have lost ground since the vote. However, PDI-P has quickly found a coalition partner, making Jokowi the only candidate so far able to meet the threshold, while other political parties have bickered with each other.

Shortly after the election results were announced, the small National Democrat (NasDem) party, which won 6.7 percent, reaffirmed that it was backing PDI-P and Jokowi.

"We have already announced our coalition with PDI-P and ... with the official results, we confirm our alliance with PDI-P," NasDem party executive Ferry Baldan told *Reuters*.

Jokowi is expected to name his vice presidential candidate soon. Several

names are in the fray, including that of the popular former vice-president Jusuf Kalla.

Candidates and their running mates must be registered by May 18. If no candidate wins a simple majority, there will be a second round in September.

PDI-P's closest rivals were Golkar, once the parliamentary vehicle of the long-serving Suharto, on 14.8 percent, and Gerindra, led by ex-general Prabowo Subianto, with 11.8 percent.

The two parties have met to discuss the potential for a coalition but have not come to any agreement. Prabowo is running a distant second to Jokowi in opinion polls, but will also need the support of at least one other party to be able to run.

Friday's results also confirmed the sharp decline of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Democratic Party, following a series of graft cases last year. Yudhoyono must step down this year after serving two terms.

His party's share of the vote fell to only 10.2 percent from above 20 percent in the previous election.

Reuters



A woman holds her ballot paper during voting in the parliamentary elections at polling station in Jakarta on 9 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Search for Flight MH370 heads to site of first 'ping'



Chinese patrol ship Haixun 01 is pictured during a search for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, in the south Indian Ocean on 5 April, 2014, in this photo courtesy of China News Service.—REUTERS

HMAS STIRLING NAVAL BASE, (Australia), 10 May — An Australian naval vessel carrying an underwater drone involved in the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 left port on Saturday on its second mission to scan part of the Indian Ocean where the longest sonar "ping" was heard over a month ago. The Ocean Shield is heading to the area where a signal was first located and heard for some two hours on 5 April, about 1,600 km (1,000 miles) northwest of Perth to launch the *Bluefin-21* submersible.

More than two dozen countries have been in-

involved in the hunt for the *Boeing 777* that disappeared from radar shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing with 239 people, mostly Chinese, on board in one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries.

Weeks of daily sorties have failed to turn up any trace of the plane, even after narrowing the search to an arc in the southern Indian Ocean. Batteries on the black box voice and data recorders have gone flat.

The search had been centered on a 314-square-km (121-sq-mile) area around the second "ping" located and monitored for

about 13 minutes on 5 April, and which search authorities identified as their strongest lead. With the search of that area complete, the focus is shifting to the area where the first, and longer, signal was detected the same day, US Navy Captain Mark Matthews told journalists at a naval base near Perth.

"What you do is you go look at your best indications and you pursue them until they're exhausted," he said. "These things don't happen fast. These searches don't happen on the hours or days cycle. These happen on the weeks and months cycle."

Reuters

WORLD

Putin marks Victory in Crimea as Ukraine violence flares



A man holds a flag, which reads 'Lugansk Republic', during celebrations to mark Victory Day in the Eastern Ukrainian city of Lugansk on 9 May, 2014.—REUTERS

SEVASTOPOL, 10 May — President Vladimir Putin flew in to Crimea on Friday for the first time since it was

annexed by Moscow, proclaiming as he marked the Soviet victory in World War Two that incorporating the

former Ukrainian territory had made Russia stronger. In east Ukraine, where pro-Moscow rebels plan a

referendum on Sunday to follow Crimea in breaking from Kiev, at least seven people were killed and

dozens were wounded in chaotic fighting in the center of the port of Mariupol.

One of the most serious clashes yet between Ukrainian forces and separatists, it edged the former Soviet republic closer to civil war.

The head of NATO, locked in its gravest confrontation with Russia since the Cold War, condemned Putin's visit to Crimea, whose annexation in March has not been recognized by Western powers. He also renewed doubts over an assurance by the Kremlin leader that he had pulled back troops from the Ukrainian border. The pro-Western government in Kiev, labelled "fascist" by Moscow, said Putin's visit was intended to escalate the crisis.

Watching a military parade in Sevastopol on the Black Sea, Putin said: "There is a lot of work ahead but we will overcome all difficulties because we are together, which means we have become stronger."

Reuters

UN nuclear agency seeks detonator clarification from Iran

VIENNA, 10 May — The UN nuclear watchdog has received an explanation from Iran about the development of detonators that can help set off an atomic explosive device, and has asked for further clarification, diplomatic sources said on Friday.

How Iran responds to the UN agency's questions about so-called Exploding Bridge Wire (EBW) detonators is seen as an important test of its willingness to cooperate fully with a long-stalled probe into suspected atomic bomb research.

Iran says allegations of such activity are baseless, but has offered to help clear up the issues with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a Vienna-based UN body.

The United States says Iran's readiness to tackle the IAEA's concerns will be central to the success of efforts to reach a broader diplomatic accord to end the decade-old nuclear dispute, which Tehran and major global powers aim to sign by late July.

Reuters

British PM Cameron says won't quit if Scotland votes for independence



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron wraps up a speech to placard waving Conservatives during an European election campaign rally at a science park in Bristol, on 8 May, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 10 May — British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Friday he would not quit if Scotland voted to leave the United Kingdom in a September referendum to become an independent country.

Asked if he would resign if he presided over the break-up of the United Kingdom, Cameron said the 18 September vote would not determine his future as prime minister or Conservative leader as that would be

decided at Britain's general election next May.

"I believe, as prime minister, I did the right thing by enabling this vote to go ahead, but the vote is about whether Scotland stays in the United Kingdom or separates itself from the United Kingdom," Cameron told BBC Radio.

"It's not about my future, it's about Scotland's future."

His comments came after reports he had told this

to allies in an effort to ensure Scots did not use the referendum to try to punish him or the Conservative party, which is unpopular in much of Scotland.

All three major UK political parties are campaigning to preserve Scotland's 307-year-old union with England, but Cameron is likely to face most of the blame if Scotland leaves as he approved the referendum in 2012, believing the vote would fail.—Reuters

UN official asks if 1 million Syrians must die before world acts

GENEVA, 10 May — A top UN aid official, frustrated by obstacles to humanitarian aid in Syria, asked on Friday if a million people needed to be killed and neighbouring states collapse before the world would take action to stop the conflict.

John Ging, director of operations at the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said the humanitarian crisis was getting even worse with almost 2.8 million refugees in neighbouring states and 6.5 million displaced in Syria.

Over 3.5 million people are in areas where aid is blocked or hindered, and another 240,000 are under

siege, he told a news conference in Geneva.

Moreover, Damascus has a deliberate strategy of denying medical care to the wounded by removing anything that could be used as medical supplies from convoys, Ging added, calling this "an abomination, indescribably unacceptable in 2014."

"The valid question to ask those political leaders is ... how many poor people will you accept to be killed before you do something different?" he asked.

"It's 5,000 a month at the moment and it's over 150,000 already. Is it 200,000? Is it a quarter of a million? Is it a million people?"—Reuters



Members of a family walk along a street covered with garbage in al-Kalaseh neighbourhood in Aleppo on 6 May, 2014.—REUTERS

About 20 pro-Russia rebels killed in fighting in east Ukraine

MARIUPOL, 10 May — Ukrainian forces drove pro-Russian rebels from police headquarters in the eastern city of Mariupol on Friday in a pitched battle, killing 20 of them, the Kiev Interior Ministry said. The forces then withdrew from the centre of the city.

The action appeared to be one of the biggest yet in Kiev's attempt to end an insurgency in the country's east, though the number of dead could not be independently confirmed. But having expelled the armed fighters from the yellow-stone building, burnt out in the course of the clashes, the Ukrainian forces, along with their armored cars, abandoned the area.

Reuters

Budget-strapped Israeli military banks on future US aid

JERUSALEM, 10 May — Budget-strapped Israel is pressing the United States to conclude a deal extending defence aid beyond 2017, when Washington's current \$3 billion annual payouts to its Middle East ally expire, officials said on Friday. They said a swift agreement on future US grants would help Israel's military draft a five-year austerity plan accommodating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's conservative government.

"It's difficult to budget into 2018 and 2019 without knowing what funds will be available," an Israeli defence official said.

US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel will visit Israel next week and the future aid will probably be raised by his hosts, according to a different official who declined to be identified by name or nationality.

The previous Republican administration signed a 10-year deal with Israel in 2007 granting it \$30 billion, most of it going on American defence products.

US President Barack Obama, a Democrat, has sparred with Netanyahu over Iran's nuclear programme and peacemaking with the Palestinians. But support for Israel's security remains

strong in Washington — even as policymakers there slash spending on a range of US military programmes.

"Our two nations are forever bound by our shared history and our shared values, and every American dollar spent on Israel's security is an investment in protecting the many interests that our nations share," US National Security Adviser Susan Rice said on Friday, concluding three days of consultations in Israel.

Israel's Defence Ministry and the US Embassy in Israel declined comment on the aid negotiations, which are under way. —Reuters



People leave a supermarket after shopping in the Chacao municipality in Caracas, Venezuela, on 9 May, 2014. Venezuela's Food Minister Felix Osorio said on Friday that 446,195 people have been registered on the Superior Supply Insurance System, a government initiative that seeks to fight against the smuggling and to ensure everyone's access to the products. —XINHUA

UN chief hails truce accord signed by South Sudanese rivals

UNITED NATIONS, 10 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday welcomed a ceasefire agreement signed by South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar, demanding immediate actions by the two parties to carry out the accord, including an end to all hostilities.

"The secretary-general welcomes the signing in Addis Ababa today ... of an Agreement to resolve the crisis in South Sudan," said a statement issued here on Friday night by Ban's spokesman.

Ban "demands that the parties immediately translate these commitments into action on the ground, in particular the cessation of all hostilities."

Kiir and Machar inked the ceasefire deal earlier Friday after their first face-to-face meeting in the Ethiopian capital since a war broke out in mid-December last year. They agreed that a transitional government offered the "best chance" to take the world's youngest country toward elections next year, though there was no immediate decision on who would be part of an interim administration. Under the agreement, the truce will take effect within 24 hours and both sides agreed to disengage their forces and refrain from any provocative actions. —Xinhua

Afghan forces kill 63 Taliban militants, wound 41 others

GHAZNI, 10 May — Afghan security forces have killed 63 Taliban militants and injured 41 others in Ghazni Province since Friday night and the operation is still continuing, an army spokesman Nazifullah

Sultani said on Saturday.

"As part of exerting pressure against Taliban militants, the security forces launched crackdown in parts of Gilan District on late Friday night and so far 63 rebels including

20 Pakistani Taliban have been killed and 41 others sustained injuries," Sultani told Xinhua.

Afghan officials often accuse Pakistan of supporting Taliban militants, a claim rejected by Taliban

as groundless.

The security personnel have also seized a large number of arms and ammunitions during the operations, the official went on to say.

Xinhua

Electrical work halted at World Cup stadium after worker's death

BRASILIA, 10 May — Electrical work at a World Cup stadium under construction in the Brazilian city of Cuiaba was halted until safety precautions were taken, following an electrical accident that killed a worker, labour authorities said on Friday.

The labour prosecutor's office in Mato Grosso state said that Etel Engenharia, the electrical contractor, must assure safety conditions for workers before it can resume work at Arena Pantanal.

Muhammad-Ali Maciel Afonso, 32, who worked for the contractor, died after an electrical accident on Thursday at Arena Pantanal. Afonso was the eighth worker to die during construction of twelve arenas that will host games for the month-long soccer competition.

Builders were scrambling to finish several stadiums on time before the tournament starts on 12 June.

Arena Pantanal, in the heart of Brazil's farm belt, is one of three delayed World Cup stadiums still being built.

The unfinished stadium held a test match last month, but workers are still adding seats, wiring and other final touches. An October fire caused structural damage at the stadium that has since been repaired.

Reuters



People work at the construction site of the electric railway in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia on 27 April, 2014. The first overseas electric railway built to Chinese standards started having its tracks laid in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, on 8 May, 2014. The railway, which will stretch 740 kilometres linking Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa with Djibouti's capital Djibouti, is expected to be completed by the end of 2015, with a total investment of 4 billion US dollars. —XINHUA

About two thirds of schools in Central African Republic closed

UNITED NATIONS, 10 May — Almost two thirds of schools in the conflict-torn Central African Republic (CAR) were closed during the past six months, according to a survey published on Friday by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners.

"The education system is literally on its knees," said Souleymane Diabate,

the UNICEF representative in the CAR. "Many teachers have not been paid for months; there are no textbooks; the little infrastructure that existed before the crisis has been damaged."

Fighting in the CAR has taken on an increasingly sectarian nature following a 2012 rebel-led coup and has since become more brutal with reports of ongoing human rights

violations and reprisal clashes between largely Christian anti-balaka (anti-machete) and mostly Muslim Seleka rebels that have displaced hundreds of thousands of people both inside and outside the country, and left 2.2 million in need of humanitarian aid.

The crisis has also disrupted two school years since the end of 2012 and many families are still too

scared to send their children back to classes, UNICEF noted in a news release. The survey, carried out in February, has painted a grim picture. On average, schools have only been open for four weeks since October 2013 due to the destruction of classrooms, the slow return of teachers to posts and delayed payment of teachers' salaries.

Xinhua

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Pakistan urges US to address concern in post-NATO Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 May — A Pakistani cabinet minister on Friday urged a visiting top American diplomat to address its concern in the post-NATO Afghanistan, officials said.

US Deputy Secretary of State William J Burns held talks with senior Pakistani leaders including Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army Chief General Raheel Sharif. He also met several cabinet ministers and discussed with them bilateral and regional issues. "The interior minister said

Pakistan is looking forward to working with the new Afghan government but emphasized that any bilateral or regional arrangement must address Pakistan's concerns and interests.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan outlined Pakistan's concerns over the situation in the post-2014 scenario in his meeting with the US official. "The minister said Pakistan is looking forward to working with the new Afghan government but emphasized that any

bilateral or regional arrangement must address Pakistan's concerns and interests," the ministry said.

He stressed greater coordination and cooperation in relations in the wake of the drawdown of ISAF forces from Afghanistan.

Burns also met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and discussed bilateral and regional issues, the PM office said.

He called on Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif at General Headquarters and discussed matters

of mutual interest including regional security situation.

Burns, arrived in Islamabad on Thursday evening for talks on security matters when foreign forces are devising exit strategy. Burns is the second senior American official to visit Pakistan.

On Friday, Burns also met the Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations, the Foreign Ministry said.—Xinhua

Iran to unveil destroyer equipped with drones and cruise missiles

TEHERAN, 10 May — Iran will unveil home-made Damavand destroyer equipped with naval drones and cruise missiles, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said on Friday.

"We have been using drone technology in the navy for years, and we have now managed to equip Damavand destroyer with reconnaissance and combat UAVs," Sayyari told *Tasnim News Agency*.

The destroyer is undergoing final tests and more details will be released once it is unveiled, the Iranian navy commander was quoted as saying.

Efforts have been made to employ cutting-edge technology in building the Damavand

destroyer, he said, adding that it is also equipped with advanced cruise missiles.

The Navy will unveil Damavand in the Caspian Sea by October, Sayyari told *Tasnim*.

Once the destroyer enters the operational cycle, Iranian Navy will utilize it in different naval missions, the commander added.

Damavand destroyer is 100-metre long and weighs about 1,300 tons, according to the report. The Iranian Navy launched its first home-made destroyer, Jamaran, in the Persian Gulf in February 2010. Jamaran is equipped with modern radar systems and other electronic warfare capabilities and has a top speed of up to 30 knots and a helipad.—Xinhua



A volunteer packs food for people in need at the Reception and Solidarity Center of the Municipality of Athens (KYADA) in downtown Athens, Greece, on 9 May, 2014. The ongoing debt crisis in Greece has raised the number of people soliciting help from the KYADA up to 20,000 from the pre-crisis level of 3,000.—XINHUA

China dairy maker denies using toxic industrial gelatin

BEIJING, 10 May — A major Chinese dairy maker has refuted a media report alleging that it added toxic industrial gelatin to its yogurt products.

In a statement released on Friday, Beijing Sanyuan Food Co said its production materials were purchased from the world's leading edible gelatin makers, either wholly foreign-funded or Sino-foreign joint ventures.

Quality tests have shown that both the materials used in the production of the edible gelatin and the final gelatin products are up to standards, it said.

The dairy products were sold after passing quality tests, Beijing Sanyuan said.

Lyu Shuqin, vice president of Beijing Sanyuan,

said the company enforces a tough screening system for suppliers to ensure that all production materials are up to standards. The *21st Century Business Herald* newspaper carried a report on Friday alleging that the Beijing Sanyuan Food Co once purchased toxic industrial gelatin from Gelita Cangan Gelatin Co in east China's Zhejiang Province.

The report said its reporters obtained documents showing that the dairy producer bought more than 20 tonnes of gelatin from the German firm, which was embroiled in an industrial gelatin scandal from last year to the beginning of this year. China Central Television, the country's national broadcaster, said in a special report on 15 March, World

Consumer Rights Day, that Gelita Cangan allegedly used leather scraps bought from leather companies to make gelatin that was later used for food and drug production.

Beijing Sanyuan Foods Co is the only major dairy firm that was not implicated in the country's infant formula scandal in 2008 that left at least six infants dead and almost 300,000 with kidney illnesses.

Beijing Sanyuan even benefited from the scandal, with not only a rise in sales but also business expansion. In March 2009, the company bought core assets of Sanlu Group, a dairy firm based in Beijing's neighbouring province of Hebei, which went bankrupt after the scandal.—Xinhua

Militants hold Red Cross workers for seven hours in east Ukraine

KIEV, 10 May — Pro-Russian militants held several Red Cross workers hostage for seven hours in the rebel eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, severely beating one before freeing them in Saturday's early

hours, a local Red Cross official said.

A spokesman for the self-styled "Donetsk People's Republic", which is holding a referendum on Sunday on breaking with Kiev, said the workers had

been detained on Friday evening by rebel activists on suspicion of espionage.

He could not clarify the nature of the accusations leveled against them or say where they had been held. The Red Cross official gave no further details, though the internet newspaper Novosti Donbassa said a Frenchman had been among seven held by activists who entered the Red Cross building in Donetsk. There was no confirmation of this.

"They were released at two o'clock. One had been heavily beaten," Red Cross official Irina Tsaryuk told *Reuters*. He was now in hospital. Red Cross headquarters in Geneva said simply that there had been "some kind of incident last night".—Reuters

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Jennifer Lawrence: I'm way too annoying, people will get sick of me

LOS ANGELES, 10 May — Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence thinks that fans will get sick of her soon.

The 23-year-old actress, who has been a big screen success in recent years thanks to roles in the Hunger Games and X-Men franchises, said she won't stay popular forever, reported Contactmusic.

"Nobody can stay beloved forever. People are going to get sick of me,"

she said.

However, the American Hustle actress admits she most worries about her behaviour away from the camera because she thinks she is often annoying in public.

"I'm way too annoying because I get on red carpets and I am really hyper, most likely because I have been drinking, and I can't 'not photo-bomb' somebody if it's a good opportunity," she added. — PTI



The actress is sure that she won't remain popular forever. —PTI

Chinese studio aims high in Hollywood partnership

BEIJING, 10 May — Huayi Brothers Media Group, one of China's most established private film studios, announced on Thursday that it aims to gross 10 billion yuan (1.6 billion US dollars) at the box office in the next two years with cooperation from Hollywood's Studio 8.

Huayi Brothers has earned 9 billion yuan in the last 20 years, said chairman Wang Zhongjun, adding that the studio's target for the next two years is 10 billion.

"After several years, it will even be possible for us to make 10 billion yuan from one project, considering that the four Hollywood directors cooperating with us all have experience in billion-dollar projects," said Wang.

Huayi Brothers will inject between 120 million and 150 million U.S. dollars into Studio 8 in 2014, the first year for the partnership. According to Wang Zhongjun, Huayi Brothers will become an entertainment empire

focused on film and television production along with online games and theme parks.

The studio also announced on Thursday its production plan through 2015, with 32 movies directed by or starring big names from home and abroad, including Chinese kung fu star Jackie Chan, Hong Kong film director Hark Tsui, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp and Keanu Reeves.

Directed by David Ayer and starring Brad Pitt, "Fury" is set for release in November 2014.

The new films announced for 2015 are a Jackie Chan action movie set in ancient China and the third installment of Hark Tsui's Detective Dee series.

"The Ghouls," directed by Wuershan and supervised by Kuo-fu Chen, is a co-production between Huayi Brothers, Wanda Media Group and Enlight Pictures and aims at two billion yuan in box office.

Xinhua



Contestants of Miss Tourism International pose for photos during the parade in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 9 May, 2014. The Miss Tourism International China Final will kick off here on 12 May, 2014. — XINHUA

Slattery swaps Manhattan for 'God's Pocket' in directorial debut

LOS ANGELES, 10 May — When "Mad Men" star John Slattery chose to direct his first film, he moved a world away from Manhattan's Madison Avenue to ponder the plight of the working class in "God's Pocket," featuring the late Philip Seymour Hoffman in one of his final roles.

Best known as silver-haired playboy Roger Sterling on AMC's hit 1960s ad-world drama "Mad Men," the 51-year-old Slattery recruited Hoffman and "Mad Men" co-star Christina Hendricks for his tale of a man down on his luck in a blue-collar enclave. "God's Pocket" premiered at the Sundance Film Festival

in January and opens in limited US theatres on Friday.

Slattery adapted the script from a 1983 novel of the same name by Pete Dexter, drawn to "how people behave in a fish-bowl" like God's Pocket, located on the gritty outskirts of South Philadelphia, where everyone's history is embedded in the small neighbourhood.

The portrayal of the seedy community is infused with black comedy moments as fights break out, from long-stewing grudges to alcohol-fuelled fistfights.

"There's a fatalistic sense of humour that all these people have because they know everything,"



Cast member John Slattery poses at the premiere for the seventh season of the television series "Mad Men" in Los Angeles, California on 2 April, 2014. —REUTERS

Slattery said. "That dark sense of humour in conjunction with the sort of heavy circumstances of what happens I found very appealing." In the late 1970s, a young man who

is a racist is killed at a construction site, and his stepfather, Mickey (Hoffman), finds himself stuck with the body because he can't afford the burial.

Reuters

What Mallika Sherawat will be doing in Cannes this year

NEW DELHI, 10 May — Actress Mallika Sherawat, who has to have the best PR agency in the world, will be inaugurating the Confederation of Indian Industry, or CII, Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival this year. Mallika will also be speaking the inaugural session with producer Ashok Amritraj, filmmaker Sudhir Mishra, sound designer Resul Pookutty and Arun Kumar Singh, the Indian ambassador to France.

Mallika, whose fifth year at Cannes this will be, has previously been spotted at the French Riviera in a



Mallika Sherawat dirty dancing with Antonio Banderas at the Cannes Film Festival in 2012. — PTI

series of costumes ranging from revealing to frumpy, and dirty dancing with

Hollywood star Antonio Banderas.

This year, Mallika has

mostly made headlines for crooning a Marilyn Monroe-like birthday ditty for BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi, and for appearing in the desi version of The Bachelorette called Mere Khayalon Ki Mallika.

The actress, best known for roles in Pyar Ke Side Effects, Hisss and Jackie Chan movie The Myth, is also believed to have been cast in American TV series Hawaii Five-0 on which Antonio Banderas' wife Melanie Griffith has a recurring role.

PTI

GENERAL



Image provided by the Galapagos National Park shows the Galapaface vessel that went aground on Friday morning, in the coast of San Cristobal, Galapagos, Ecuador, on 9 May, 2014. According to information of the Galapagos National Park Management, there are no human victims nor environmental damages, local press said.—XINHUA

More plastic scrap recycled in China

BEIJING, 10 May—About 30 percent of plastic scrap have been recycled in China, up from 20 percent in 2010, said the China Scrap Plastics Association.

Last year, China recycled about 28 million tonnes of plastic scrap that it produced, Saturday's *People's Daily* quoted the association as saying.

From 2006 to 2010, only about 46 million tonnes of plastic scrap were recycled, according to the association. China is one of the world's biggest plastic

producer and consumption market. It needs about 80 million tonnes of plastic a year, which means the demand of 240 million tonnes of crude oil. Recycling plastic scrap is considered an effective way to reduce the use of crude oil.

To recycle one tonne of scrap plastics means to save six tonnes of oil supply, the newspaper report said.

Plus about 8 million tonnes of scrap plastic imported from abroad, the country's recycling

business has saved about 216 million tonnes of oil supply last year, it added.

Despite notable profits and benefits in sustainable development, the plastic recycling industry stirs concerns for air and water pollution. Low-level recycling, such as simple burning, might emit toxic substance.

So far the country has about 3,000 recycling businesses of different sizes and capacities.

Some are big companies with good technolo-

gies but the rest are small workshops whose operation causes environment concerns, admitted Du Huanzheng, chairman of the association, in an earlier interview with *Xinhua*.

The industry should raise the benchmark of technical and environmental management and impose stricter self-discipline, he said. The association is working on an industrial regulation on qualifications of a recycling business and will issue it next year, Du said.—*Xinhua*

Nadal coasts past Berdych to reach Madrid semis



Rafael Nadal

MADRID, 10 May — Nadal thumped Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-2 on Friday

to set up a semi-final against the Madrid Open's surprise package, unseeded fellow Spaniard Roberto Bautista. Defending champion Nadal has not been at his dominant best on his favoured clay this year, losing in the quarter-finals in Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

However, he had a relatively easy ride against the outclassed Czech sixth seed, a player he has now beaten on 18 occasions in 21 meetings on all surfac-

es and 17 times in a row. Nadal broke Berdych's serve three times without losing his own and, with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic withdrawing and Andy Murray knocked out on Thursday, remains firmly on course for a fourth Madrid Open crown.

David Ferrer, the fifth seed, beat unseeded Latvian Ernests Gulbis 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 to join his compatriots in the semis.

Reuters

Defoe waits to see if MLS adventure will end World Cup bid

TORONTO, 10 May — England forward Jermain Defoe will wait for a phone call this weekend that will determine if his North American adventure has cost him a World Cup dream. The goalscorer left Tottenham Hotspur for Toronto in January to follow a path to Major League Soccer (MLS) previously paved by the likes of David Beckham, Thierry Henry and Defoe's former Spurs strike partner Robbie Keane.

Defoe grabbed both goals in a 2-1 win over Seattle Sounders on his debut in March and a week later netted again in a 1-0 victory over DC United. Toronto's fans were impressed but the striker hopes it is not a case of out-of-sight,

out-of-mind for England manager Roy Hodgson who announces a 23-man group plus standby players on Monday before his eventual World Cup squad is finalised by 2 June. "It's down to the manager," Defoe told reporters of his England prospects. "I'm sure he knows what every player can do, even before he was the England manager he probably knew all the players anyway. As players you just concentrate on playing for your club and then ... you wait for the call." The 31-year-old Defoe's decision to quit one of English football's top six clubs was viewed by many European observers as a dead-end move into semi-retirement, albeit a handsomely comfortable

one at \$8 million a season. Not only did he say farewell to the Premier League but he also risked waving goodbye to his hopes of an England place at next month's World Cup in Brazil to close out his career in a football backwater with struggling Toronto. Defoe's credentials as a leading striker for club and country are impeccable. The diminutive forward left White Hart Lane as Tottenham's fifth-highest scorer with 143 goals, having netted more times for the club in Europe than any other player. Defoe has also scored 19 goals for England in 55 games, having represented his country at the 2010 World Cup and 2012 European Championship.—*Reuters*



Toronto FC forward Jermain Defoe (18) controls the ball against Vancouver Whitecaps defender Carlyle Mitchell (24) in the Canadian Championship semi final game at BMO Field. Toronto defeated Vancouver 2-1.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(11-5-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Min Gun Sayadaw

6:25 am

2. Documentary

7:00 am

3. News / Weather Report

7:20 am

4. MRTV's Youth Programme

8:00 am

5. News/ International News

8:45 am

6. 24th ASEAN Summit (Live Broadcast)

10:30 am

7. (38) Phyar Mingalars

11:10 am

8. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

12:00 am

9. News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

10. Round Up of The Week's International News

2:45 pm

11. Documentary

3:00 pm

12. News

3:15 pm

13. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

4:00 pm

14. News

4:30 pm

15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Economic)

4:50 pm

16. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm

17. News/ Weather Report

7:15 pm

18. Weekly Entertainment News

8:00 pm

19. News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

20. News

21. Tamyethnar Takwetsar

22. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-5-14 07:00am~12-5-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News

* Preserving Myanmar Handicrafts

* World News

* Myanmar Movie Review "Satan's Dancer"

* Local News

* On the River

* World News

* Short Cut

* "Not Just a Bridge"

* Local News

* A Visit to San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda

* World News

* Kid's Home

* Local News

* National Kandawgyi Garden (Pyin Oo Lwin)

* World News

* Black Gold (Part-I)

* Local News

* Great Shwedagon -The Planetary Posts

* World News

* Distinguished Myanmar Ladies

* "Ma Myint Zu"

* Local News

* Kason Full Moon Day of Buddha

* World News

* Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Byit)

* Local News

* ANANDA GU PHAYA

* World News

* Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages

* Local News

* Sittway, Evergreen Seaside Town

* World News

* Amazing "U Nyein Chan Kyaw"

Myanmar coaches to work on Chinlone techniques to promote the sport across Asia

By Aye Min Soe

BAGO, 10 May — As Myanmar's traditional *Chinlone* — a hand-woven cane-ball sport—made its international debut during the SEA Games here, a veteran coach has said the game's over 40-year-old playing techniques should be improved in order to make the sport more popular across Asia.

"We must do research on how to improve the techniques of *Chinlone* and discuss with coaches from across the country on how we can develop our traditional sport," 77-year old U Sein Maung said.

As it takes at least four to five years of hard work for a person to become a professional in Myanmar's popular traditional sports, which combines artistic movements with kicking techniques, most of the Myanmar people remain amateurs, but cite the sport as their favourite hobby.

During the game, six people have to circle on the ground and support each other to be able to kick the cane ball.

Like U Sein Maung, many professional players believe that Myanmar's traditional *Chinlone* sport deserves more popularity, not just across Asia, but the world. "The game is popular not only with young people but also with over 60-year old men in Myanmar" he said.

"It is a really lovely sport because during the game, we have to support each other and save each other when we make errors. When a teammate strikes the *Chinlone* beautifully because of our support, we are very happy," said a player of the Yoe Yoe Lay Chinlone Club which was founded in 1969 in Bago.

Taking pride in his



Six players concentrate on playing Chinlone sport as Myanmar traditional sport activity.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

work as a coach since his thirties, U Sein Maung said he fell in love with the sport after he recovered from paralysis of both his legs caused by wrong injections, believing that

playing the traditional cane-ball sport helped him to totally recover.

He worked for the Myanma Port Authority of the Ministry of Transport as a coach for the ministry's

A young woman demonstrates skills of Chinlone sport in a hall.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Chinlone team and retired at the age of 60. However, he has continued his career till today with strong dedication to the sport.

The veteran coach said he made a good career for himself as a coach for *Chinlone*, developing new techniques for the sports, and training and producing many male and female medalists across the country in region and state competitions.

In 1968, U Sein Maung witnessed the importance of introducing new techniques to improve discipline. At the time, the Myanmar government hired a Japanese coach to train selected volleyball players. At first, he was not optimistic about hiring a foreigner to train the Myanmar volleyball athletes. But later he was surprised to see how some athletes became



U Sein Maung, 77 years old *Chinlone* professional, explains techniques of *Chinlone* sport.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

outstanding professionals after receiving training from the Japanese coach.

"After I witnessed the importance of learning new techniques, I committed myself to finding new techniques for our *Chinlone* sport," U Sein Maung said.

According to an official of the Myanmar Chinlone Federation, a delegation from Brazil

approached the federation decades ago to get a book on the techniques of Myanmar traditional *Chinlone*. But the federation did not have any books. All they could do was to demonstrate the sport.

According to U Sein Maung, the current technical book has been used by the MCF for 40 years.

"I officially advised the MCF to develop and upgrade new techniques for *Chinlone* because there are many weaknesses in our old techniques," he said.

The traditional *Chinlone* sport was included for the first time in the 27th South-East Asia Games in December, 2013, in Myanmar, with the local athletes bagging gold in the *Chinlone* events.

"I should say that some ASEAN countries like Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia can beat Myanmar in *Chinlone* within the next five years if they improve

their techniques because they also use cane balls in Sepak Takraw, which is a related sport," he said.

"It's doesn't matter which country wins or loses in sports. Any country can beat Myanmar in *Chinlone* in the future. But, If our traditional sport spreads across Asia, then I can say I have achieved my life goal," U Sein Maung said.

Liverpool will text Ex-players Andy Carroll, Stewart Downing ahead of West Ham's PL clash against Man City: Lucas

LONDON, 10 May— Liverpool midfielder Lucas Leiva has revealed that his former teammates Andy Carroll and Stewart Downing, who currently

play for West Ham United, would be asked to do their old club a massive favour by beating Premier League title favourites Manchester City on Sunday.

Lucas said that his club would be texting the former Liverpool striker and winger duo before Sunday when West Ham would go up against Man-

chester City in the Premier League clash.

According to the Daily Star, Lucas said that of course Carroll and Downing have been at Liverpool with them, worked with them and he is sure that the duo would do their best to get points for West Ham first and help their former club to revive their chances of winning the English title.

The Brazilian midfielder said that it is not the end of the season as they have still got Newcastle United to play, adding that it is quite hard for City to drop many points, but Liverpool still has to believe that maybe something good is coming for them.

Lucas feels that the former Liverpool striker-winger duo can still help them end their 24-year wait for the Premier League title this year by defeating City on Sunday.

Carroll currently plays for West Ham as a striker with Downing playing at the club as winger, the report added.—Reuters