

President U Thein Sein visits Myanmar Aviation Academy, Ngwehsaung Recreation Camp

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — President U Thein Sein accompanied by union ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Htay Aung, U Ye Htut and Dr Daw Khin San Yi, deputy minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials paid a visit to Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region, on Monday.

The president cordially greeted trainees at Myanmar Aviation Academy at Patheingyi Airport where Chief Executive Officer U Tun Myint explained the main building and training hall of the academy and attendance of the trainees.

The president posed for documentary photo together with trainees of the academy.

On arrival at Ngwehsaung recreation camp, the president met with outstanding students.—MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially meets outstanding students at Ngwehsaung recreation camp in Patheingyi.—MNA

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Yangon Region Gov't to form public bus service company with 40/60 JV system

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 4 May — The Yangon Region Government plans to establish a public bus service company to operate a modern bus service along main routes in Yangon, retaining a 40 per cent share of the company while offering 60 per cent to the public.

Authorized capital of the first public bus service company in Myanmar is set at K100 billion, and the business would be established with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT Lite) system through the Public, Private, Partnership (PPP) system, said U Myint Swe, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, at a ceremony held Monday to invite shareholders for establishing the company.

The bus service will operate with the i-pay system and a control system using the Global Positioning System (GPS) and modern communication technology,

The project is divided into phases, with the capi-

tal for the first phase set at K25 billion and the government to inject K10 billion during the first phase and invite the public to invest in the business by buying shares, he said. Each unit

of the shares is priced at K100,000, he added.

The bus line with BRT (Lite) system is aimed at reducing inconvenience to the public due to traffic congestion and to provide

the public with a safe and comfortable bus service, the chief minister said.

The first phase would start with around 100 2010-model buses and (See page 2)

Current private bus lines should upgrade their services to compete with upcoming services of the first public bus service company.

PHOTO: AYE

MIN SOE



Step taken toward establishment of national minimum wage

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 4 May — The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will meet owners of garment factories in the near future in Yangon as part of efforts for negotiating the establishment of a national minimum wage.

Nearly all industries except garment factories became hopeful of reaching a compromise solution during recent negotiations between employers and workers in Yangon and upper Myanmar, so the ministry will meet again with garment factories to find a win-win solution between the employers and workers of garment factories, said U Aye Lwin, Joint-Secretary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

During that meeting, the ministry's officials and employers will discuss a win-win solution for breaking the deadlock between the employers of the gar-

ment factories and workers based on establishing the same minimum wage for garment workers across the country, based on region or state, based on job type or based on working hours, said the UMFCCI's joint-secretary who also participated in the negotiations in Yangon and upper Myanmar.

The ministry brokering the negotiations between employers and employees for establishment of the minimum wage also has a plan to conduct negotiations comprising all sectors including employers, workers, authorities and representatives from workers' unions.

The ministry will try to get a proposed figure for the national minimum wage during that meeting and submit it to the parliament for debate and approval, he said, quoting the Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint.

"After the minimum wage is approved by the (See page 2)

Myanmar, foreign delegations discuss religious freedom



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin holds talks with US and Canadian ambassadors for religious freedom.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. David N Saperstein, Ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom of the United State of America and Dr Andrew P W Bennett, Ambassador for Religious Freedom of Canada at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, on Monday.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views and discussed matters related to the religious freedom in Myanmar.

MNA

Outstanding students visit pagodas in Pakokku, Pakhangyi

BAGAN, 4 May— Outstanding ninth grader students from Bagan camp paid homage Thihoshin Pagoda, Shwemuhtaw Pagoda and Sithushin Tharekhan Buddha image in Pakokku and Pakhangyi ancient city on Monday.

The youth visited the ancient monastery in Pa-

khangyi built by Kyiwun-min U Po Toke in the reign of King Mindon in 1868.

The youths plan to hold the conclusion of the recreation camp in the evening at Bagan Basic Education High School and will leave for Nay Pyi Taw on 5 May.

Min Min Zaw (Kalay)

Yangon Region Gov't to form public bus . . .

(form page 1)

the company will buy the buses through the tender system, said Dr Maung Aung, an adviser to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the first phase, the bus line will operate along the main route from the southern to northern parts of Yangon.

The first phase is tentatively targeted to launch within five months, and the government has already begun to build stations for the bus line, said Dr Maung Aung. Foreign investment is not allowed during the first phase of the project, he added.

Meanwhile, the Yangon Region Government has invited current private bus service businessmen to invest in the project in cash or in kind.

Private bus service businessmen are also allowed to invest their buses in the business as an in-kind investment, but their buses must meet the criteria set by the company, said Dr Maung Aung, adding that the buses should be fully air conditioned and should be 2010 model buses or later.

Currently, more than 360 bus lines are operating with 3,500 buses in Yangon, transporting around 2 million people a day.

According to Yangon's All Bus-Line Control Service, out of its 6,000 buses, just more than 3,000 can operate daily due to the scarcity of drivers and conductors and the difficulty in securing a license for running bus services since 2012 when the number of buses increased in the city.—GNLM

Syrian journalist wins UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2015

RIGA (LATVIA), 4 May — Journalist U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) of Myanmar, who chaired international jury, delivered a speech at the presentation of UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2015 in Riga, Latvia, on 3 May.

Latvian President Mr Andris Berzins, Ulla Koski, Vice-President of Helsingin Sanomat Foundation, chair of jury U Ko Ko and UNESCO director-general Ms. Irira Bokova spoke on the occasion.

The UNESCO director-general awarded UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2015 to Ms Yara Bader, on behalf of Syrian journalist Mazen Darwishg. The Syrian hu-



Family photo. Photo EU2015.LV

man rights activist and journalist established the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression in 2014.

The prize winner was selected by 12 members of jury from Myanmar, Sweden, Indonesia, Tunisia,

Peru, Nigeria, Morocco, South Africa, Brazil, Slovakia, US and Bosnia.

Thant Kyaw Zin

Step taken toward establishment . . .

(from page 1)

parliament, both employers and employees must follow it," U Aye Lwin said.

According to the rules and by-laws of the Minimum Wage Law, the minimum wage level can be amended within two years after its announcement.

Representing the UM-FCCI which has brokered

the establishment of the minimum wage, Daw Thet Thet Khaing, Joint-Secretary-3 of the UM-FCCI, has suggested both sides take locations of factories and job types into consideration when establishing the minimum wage and to focus on reaching a win-win solution between them.

"In fact, a figure is just

a figure on paper. Market mechanisms or the labour market will decide the minimum wage," she said.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann suggested that both employers and workers on 24 April consider the daily wage level of K3,000 for government employees set by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue as a "standard" for setting the minimum wage level for workers, urging the ministry to complete the task as soon as possible.

The Pyithu Hluttaw enacted the minimum wage law in March 2013, and the government approved the related by-laws in July 2013.—GNLM

A worker at a production line of a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in western part of Myanmar.

PHOTO:
AYE MIN SOE



Scouts take part in skill contest in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLOWIN, 4 May — Youth scouts visited Pwekauk waterfalls and the site for construction of new scout camp after paying homage to Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Buddha Image in PyinOoLwin on Monday.

In the afternoon, they participated in skill contests of scouts. Yesterday, they sold domestic products for raising the scout fund at Basic Education Basic School No 1 and No 2 in PyinOoLwin.—MNA



Farmer Channel Studio goes into operation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—The Farmer Channel Studio was commissioned into service in the compound of the Agricultural Research Department in Yezin, here, on Monday, with Vice President U Nyan Tun in attendance.

The vice president unveiled the signboard of the studio after viewing the harvest of a 50-acre seed production farm of Paletwe hybrid species of the department.

Union ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Win Myint and U Kyaw Hsan cut the ribbon to open the studio.

The studio was built with the aim of broadcasting modern agricultural

technologies, research and educative works, interviews and teleplays in time for the farmers.

The vice president viewed documents related to Myanmar's agricultural history displayed at the seed bank, and booths on soil, paddy and crops, beans and pulses, maize, preservation of genes of plants, pest prevention, biotechnology and water utilization.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing reported to the vice president that as the benefit of the agricultural sector is less than other sectors, the ministry and farmers are to join hands in bringing agricultural produce to the market.

Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun of the Agricultural Research Department briefed the vice president on conducting research works for production of hybrid paddy strains.

MNA



President U Thein Sein visits Myanmar Aviation Academy at Patheingyi Airport. (News on page 1)—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun unveils signboard of Farmer Channel Studio.

MNA

Upper Namhtwam hydropower project to benefit local residents in Putao District

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thar Htwe viewed progress of construction of diversion weir, power intake structure and drain, concreting works, building of the water control tank and laying of pre-stressed pipelines at Upper Namhtwam hydropower project on Namhtwam Creek, seven miles southwest of Putao, Kachin State on 1 May.

Efforts are being made for completion of the project in 2015-16 fiscal year, with benefiting local residents in

Putao District.

The project will install four 0.8 megawatt generators at the power plant to be able to generate 14.13 million kilowatt hours per year for ensuring sufficient electricity consumption of local residents.

While in Machanbaw on 2 May, the deputy minister inspected plans to install a power line between Putao and Machanbaw and met with engineers from Putao District and Township. After the meeting, the deputy minister attended to the needs.

MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Myanmar embassy staff in Washington D.C

WASHINGTON D.C, 4 May — A Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met with Myanmar embassy staff at the residence of the Myanmar ambassador in Washington D.C on 2 May.

At the meeting, the speaker urged the embassy staff to play their roles in the transition to democracy and market economy.

Then, the speaker met with Myanmar affairs activists at the residence of the ambassador and received an open letter.

On 3 May, the delegation led by the speaker visited Mount Vernon of the wife and relatives of George Washington before sailing along the



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and party visit Washington D.C. in the USA.—MNA

Potomac River.

The delegation also visited the Pentagon Me-

morial, the Airforce Memorial and Iwo Jima Memorial. —MNA

Thai abbot contributes humanitarian assistance to fire victims



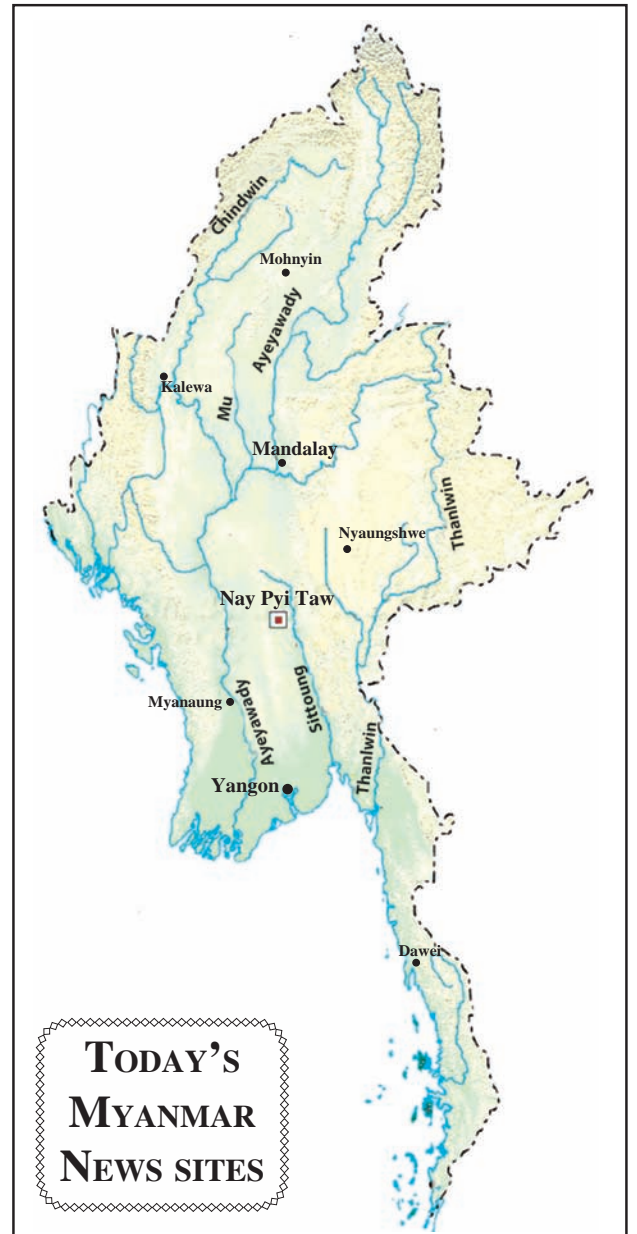
DAWEI, 4 May — A relief camp was opened for fire victims who lost their property in the outbreak of fire in Ohlok Ward in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 30 April. Well-wishers donate clothes, foodstuffs, kitchen utensils and foods to the fire victims daily.

On 3 May morning, Thai citizens led by the abbot of Dhammakaing monastery in Thailand together with Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and ministers comforted the fire victims.

The Thai abbot donated humanitarian assistance worth K4 million for the fire victims through the chief ministers who shared the aid to them.

So far, well-wishers have donated assistance K25,711,550 and K21,559,200 in cash to the fire victims up to 2 May.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



TODAY'S
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Locals get traffic knowledge at UN Global Road Safety Week activities

MANDALAY, 4 May — The educative show and contest in commemoration of the UN Global Road Safety Week May 4 to 10 was held at the office of Mandalay Region Directorate of Road Administration on Monday.

Officials will present prizes to the winners in the quiz and cartoon contests in commemoration of the UN Global Road Safety Week.

“The commemorative week is aim to reduce traffic accidents and disseminate traffic knowledge to the local residents and traffic users,” said Re-



gion Transport Minister U Kyaw Hsan.

“The list of traffic accidents is displayed at the show. Death in traffic accident stands ninth in 10 types of deaths across the world in 2014,” said an of-

cial.

According to the list in 2012, a total of 11,675 traffic accidents left 3,422 persons dead and 19,684 injured in Myanmar.

Aung Ye Thwin

Kalewa Township to build independence monument, people's park



KALEWA, 4 May — In line with the instructions of the Sagaing Region Chief Minister, a plan is underway to construct an independence monument and the People's Park near Myittha River at the entrance to Kalewa, Sagaing Region.

Chairman of Kalewa

District Management Committee U Maung Htoo held a meeting at the office of Township General Administration Department on 30 April with Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Soe Thein, Region Hluttaw MP U Kyaw Soe Win and Chairman of Township Management Committee U

Tint Naing together with departmental officials on soonest implementation of the project.

The district and township authorities inspected the site chosen for construction of the Independence Monument and the People's Park.

Joe Net

Police prepare taking uric samples from suspect drug users

MOHNYIN, 4 May — A squad comprising more than 60 social anti-drug squad members, acting on a tip-off, raided a group who abused narcotic drugs in a jungle, on the eastern bank of Nantyin Creek near Nanma Village, 10 miles north of Mohnyin, Kachin state on 2 May.

The anti-drug squad members arrested 83 suspects and handed them over to Mohnyin police

station by car.

In meeting with the civic anti-drug squad members, the commander of Township Police Force explained that the police arrested eight persons along with narcotic drugs in possession among the suspects. But, he said that the police cannot arrest 75 remaining persons due to lack of firm evidence. He noted that only when police have firm evidences over

those remaining persons with the results of uric test on using the drugs, will action be taken against them. So, it needs to take sample of uric from them before release, he added.

According to the process, the police must take an adequate time for uric samples from the suspects and send it to Mandalay General Hospital to receive the results.

GNLM-001

Firefighters donate blood at North Okkalapa General Hospital, DSGH (1)

YANGON, 4 May—In honour of the 69th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day, a total of 600 firefighters carried out sanitation tasks at North Okkalapa General Hospital on 1 May.

Altogether 53 firefighters donated blood at the hospital while 63 members also donated blood at No 1 Defence Services General Hospital in Mingaladon Township.

Deputy Director-Gen-

eral U Myat Thu and Director U Aung Kyaw Myint of Fire Services Department viewed round sanitation tasks of the fire brigade members.

Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

Engineering company to give rental and maintenance services



MANDALAY, 4 May— UE-Wakita JV Equipment Co., Ltd. held a self introduction at Sedona Hotel, here, on Sunday evening, with an address by Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan.

Chairman of the company Mr Teiji Wakita made an opening speech while Chairman and CEO U Win Khaing of United Engineering Group of Companies extended greetings.

UE-Wakita JV Equipment Co., Ltd will give services of rental and maintenance of civil engineering

and construction equipment transportation vehicles, generators, compressors, welding and related plants and equipment, construction tasks, implementation of hydropower projects and building of housings.

The base of the company is opened at UE road in Myaungdaga village, Hmawby Township, Yangon.

The ceremony was also attended by Mandalay City Development Committee members, departmental officials and engineers.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

MANDALAY, 4 May— The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security organized meetings of representatives of employers and employees to set minimum wage.

Government will approve the minimum wage agreed by employees and employers through the meetings, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint told the both sides of representatives from Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions at a meeting at the hall of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Chanayethazan Township on Sunday.

The union minister stressed that the agreement must be based on a win-win solution for both sides so as to ensure long-term existence.

Mandalay Region

Employers, employees to set minimum wage



Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan, Vice Chairperson of the minimum wage setting national committee deputy minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security

Daw Win Maw Tun and secretary director-general U Myo Aung spoke about coordination for the minimum wage.

Mr Christopher of International Labour Organi-

zation, Secretary of UMFC-CI U Aye Lwin, Chairman of Mandalay Region CCI U Aung Than, employees and employers participated in the discussions.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Myawady Daily marks 4th anniversary ceremony

YANGON, 4 May—The Myawady Daily under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office held its fourth birthday at its branch on Mogaung Road in Yankin Township, here, on 2 May.

Chief Editor Lt-Col Win Bo spoke about aims of publishing the daily to rebut rumours and inform the people of correct news.

Veteran journalists Tekkatho Myat Thu and

Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe of the Standard Times daily spoke on the occasion.

The chief editors and the veteran journalist presented prizes to outstanding officers and staff.

The ceremony was also attended by officials of Myanmar Press Council (Interim), Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Writers Association and media persons.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Fire victims receive citizenship scrutiny cards



DAWEI, 4 May—An outbreak of fire left 330 people from 67 houses

homeless in Ohlok Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 30 April.

A staff team led by Head of Township Immigration and National Reg-

istration Department issued citizenship scrutiny cards to fire victims as of 1 May.

Up to 2 May, they have delivered household registrations to 53 households and 70 citizenships scrutiny cards to the local people.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

University students view round thriving paddy, vegetable plantations

NYAUNGSHWE, 4 May — Students from Yezin University of Agriculture together with supervisors visited a five-acre Paletwe hybrid paddy farm and organic vegetable farm of farmer U Win Shwe and use of fertilizer at the farms in Tilaw village in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan

State, on 3 May.

They viewed thriving strains of paddy plantations in the region.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun spoke about development of agriculture sector, environmental conservation, local food sufficiency, increasing family

income of local farmers, cultivation of organic plants and use of fertilizers.

Local farmers give priority to cultivation of Paletwe hybrid paddy for boosting production and emergence of a market of organic vegetables for local consumers.

Nay Myo Thurein

ASEAN-plus-3 pledge further structural reform for sustainable growth

BAKU, 4 May — Financial chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea on Sunday agreed on the need to promote structural reforms to remove bottlenecks to sustainable growth and to be vigilant against risks arising from large capital outflows.

Meeting on the fringes of the Asian Development Bank annual meeting in

the Azerbaijan capital of Baku, the finance ministers and central bank governors said in a joint statement their economies are poised to sustain this year the momentum of relatively high growth of the previous year.

While reaffirming their commitment to “carrying out the necessary structural adjustments,” they sounded the alarm about the possibility of a sharp run-up in oil prices and capital out-

flows amid the changing global economic environment.

“With ample global liquidity and the high levels of public and private debt, greater attention needs to be paid to the potential market volatility and asset price declines triggered by capital outflows,” they said.

To deal with these risks, the financial chiefs called for macroeconomic policy steps, where appro-

priate, “supported by macro-prudential measures and capital flow management measures,” in addition to continued regional financial cooperation. They endorsed “non-binding high-level principles” for such policy measures as reference, the statement said.

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

Vietnam.

In a separate statement released by the Japanese Finance Ministry, Japan pledged continued efforts to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation with ASEAN countries as agreed in 2013, a move aimed at supporting infrastructure development for stronger connectivity within ASEAN nations and helping improve financial supervision, among other goals.

Earlier Sunday, the finance ministers of Japan, China and South Korea met and agreed to continue implementing “timely and effective macroeconomic policies” to help boost demand, according to a joint message released after the trilateral meeting.

Neither the statement from the ASEAN plus three nor the trilateral talks mentioned the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a multilateral lending body China is setting up later this year.—*Kyodo News*

Malaysia's Najib faces leadership test in by-elections

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 May — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak faces a test of his popularity this week in two by-elections that come hard on the heels of calls by the country's former long-time leader, Mahathir Mohamad, for him to step down. The influential Mahathir, 89, has intensified attacks on Najib in recent weeks, criticising him for his management of the economy and scandals arising from debt-laden state fund IMDB and the murder of a Mongolian model nine years ago.

Mahathir has said the ruling United Malays National Organization risks losing the next election, due by 2018, if Najib remains its leader. A poor showing in this week's by-elections could weaken the premier's position. Najib's government has drawn criticism over a new tax on goods



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks during the opening ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27 April, 2015.—REUTERS

and services, with 10,000 demonstrators turning out last Friday in the biggest show of public dissent since protests sparked by allegations of election fraud after Najib's re-election two years ago. The ruling Barisan Nasional coalition, which has led the multi-ethnic southeast Asian nation since independence in 1957, is widely expected

to win Tuesday's election for its traditional stronghold of Rompin in the eastern state of Pahang. But anything short of a resounding victory would be seen as a reflection on Najib's leadership, political analysts said. “The results would be used to test whether Najib is a poison pill or a magic wand for his party,” said Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

“If the win margin diminishes compared to previous years, then one could argue that Najib's leadership is dented.” Risks to Najib stem largely from factions in his own party since opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, arguably Malaysia's most charismatic politician, was convicted of sodomy and jailed in February, after a trial he decried as politically motivated.

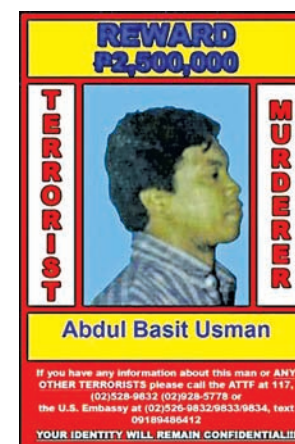
On Thursday, An-

war's wife, Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, stands for her husband's seat in the northern island of Penang, but could struggle to win, as ties among the three-party opposition alliance, the Pakatan Rakyat, have frayed.

A push by one member, Parti Islam se-Malaysia (PAS), to introduce an Islamic penal code has alienated it from Anwar's party and the ethnic Chinese Democratic Action Party. PAS threatened to boycott the alliance's by-election campaign. “This internal squabbling will affect the election result,” said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) think tank in Kuala Lumpur. “This was supposed to be a safe seat for Pakatan. But now the expectation is that BN will get more votes in the seat than before.”

Reuters

Philippines says Islamist militant was killed by followers



A handout photograph released by the US embassy in Manila on 30 Jan, 2007 shows a wanted poster for Abdul Basit Usman, a former member of the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

REUTERS

MANILA, 4 May — The Philippines' most wanted Islamist militant, whose death at the weekend could boost peace efforts in the country's south, was killed by his own bodyguards in pursuit of a bounty offered by the United States, the head of the military said on Monday.

Abdul Basit Usman, a militant with strong al-Qaeda links who was blamed for numerous bomb attacks in the southern Philippines, had been hunted by security forces since 2002.

“There was in-fighting among his group,” General Gregorio Pio Catapang told journalists at the main army base in Manila. “Reports reaching this headquarters revealed that Usman and five of his unidentified cohorts were killed in a shoot-out allegedly with fellow members of his group.”

Catapang said he had information that Usman's followers had turned on him because of a \$1 million bounty offered by the US State Department, without elaborating.

But his account was

contradicted by the country's largest Muslim rebel group, which said its fighters killed the renegade Usman.

In March 2014, the Philippines signed a peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ending about 45 years of conflict that has killed 120,000 people and displaced 2 million.

But the rebels will not lay down weapons until after a final peace deal is reached. They are waiting for Manila to set up a new Muslim autonomous government in the south, granting wider powers over its economy, politics and social life.

Catapang said Usman was travelling with seven bodyguards towards a rebel camp in Guindulungan town, on the southern island of Mindanao, when a firefought erupted within his group.

“The bodies were discovered by Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels,” he said, adding army and police units were trying to establish the identities of the slain militants.

The MILF's chief peace negotiator, Mohagher Iqbal, told *Reuters* that Usman was killed by its forces when he resisted arrest.

Usman's group was intercepted by rebel forces near a creek at around 10:30 am (0230 GMT) on Sunday, but chose to shoot it out rather than be taken to the guerrilla's main camp, he said.

Both Catapang and Iqbal said Usman's death would be a boost to the peace efforts.

“Our security operations will continue until we get all the potential spoilers to the peace process,” Catapang said, adding there were still 10 foreign Islamist militants and about 100 local renegade Islamist militants in the south.—*Reuters*

Xi calls on building community of shared destiny across Taiwan Strait



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, meets with visiting Kuomintang (KMT) Chairman Eric Chu in Beijing on Monday.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 4 May — Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called for

both sides of the Taiwan Strait to build a community of shared destiny and settle political differences through equal

consultations.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Kuomintang (KMT) Chairman Eric Chu in Beijing on Monday.

The meeting took place in the Great Hall of the People and is the first between Xi and Chu, bringing broad attention and expectations.

Stressing the 1992 Consensus is the foundation for the exchanges with Taiwan authorities and political parties, Xi said the mainland is willing to take the lead to share the development opportunities with Taiwan compatriots.

“We are willing to give priority to Taiwan in opening-up. Our efforts to open up to Taiwan compatriots will be bigger,” he said.

Both the CPC and

KMT should be brave when facing lingering political differences and difficulties, pool wisdom of compatriots of both sides and actively search for a solution, he said.

“The two sides can consult with each other on equal basis under the principle of One China, and reach a reasonable arrangement,” Xi said.

The meeting is part of Chu's first visit to the mainland since he was elected KMT chairman in January. He met with Yu Zhengsheng, top political advisor and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, on Saturday and attended the 10th Cross-Strait Economic, Trade and Culture Forum in Shanghai on Sunday.—*Xinhua*

Israel sets up field hospital in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 4 May — As part of Israel's humanitarian mission to Nepal, a field hospital is being built near Kathmandu. In the next few hours, people affected by the earthquake will begin receiving the same treatment offered in the most high-tech medical facility in Israel.

The 260-member IDF (Israel Defence Force) disaster team sent to Nepal in the wake of the earthquake there includes 40 medical personnel on a mission to save lives. One of their priorities is to set up a field hospital near Kathmandu. "The team brought the most recent technology possible," explains Lt Col Asi Hempel, a doctor in the IDF's Medical Corps. "The field hospital will be equipped with everything: x-rays, operating rooms that will work 24/7, laboratories and more."

The hospital will have the ability to receive and provide care for around 200 patients a day. "Israel's top specialists for traumatic in-



Israel's MDA helps local rescue efforts.—MDA(MAGEN DAVID ADOM)

juries are among the medical team in Nepal," says Lt Col Hempel. The IDF has gained much experience from past humanitarian missions, and as a result has

developed unique technology for its field hospital. "We pioneered a state-of-the-art system with the IDF's C4I Branch, that allows us to create an internal digi-

tal medical file for every patient." The Israeli delegation includes also personnel from MOFA, civil society organization and many volunteers.—GNLM

Japanese lawmakers in Beijing with hope of improving bilateral ties

BEIJING, 4 May — A group of senior Japanese lawmakers from ruling and opposition parties arrived on Monday in Beijing with the hope of keeping up momentum for increased exchanges with China.

The three-day trip by the group comes as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks, the second in the last five months, on the sidelines of a regional summit in Jakarta on 23 April.

Amid further signs of thawing relations between Tokyo and Beijing, Abe

and Xi at that time agreed to promote various exchanges, despite remaining political difficulties.

One month ago, lawmakers representing the Japanese and Chinese parliaments resumed their meeting for the first time since January 2012, as tensions over territory and wartime issues have eased somewhat over the last several months.

The cross-party delegation headed by Masahiko Komura, vice president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has requested to hold talks with

someone from the Chinese leadership.

On Monday evening, the Japan-China Friendship Parliamentarians' Union will meet with former Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan.

During their stay through Wednesday, members of the parliamentarians group are also scheduled to discuss Abe's government security policies with experts from the China Institute for International Strategic Studies, which is affiliated with the People's Liberation Army.

Kyodo News

Local al-Qaeda claims February murder of US citizen in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 4 May — The leader of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) claimed responsibility for the murder of a US citizen hacked to death in Bangladesh in February and the deaths of other "blasphemers" in the region, SITE Intelligence Group reported on Sunday.

Bangladeshi police stood by their assessment that the murder of blogger Avijit Roy, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, was the work of a local militant group called Ansarul-Bangla Team which claimed responsibility shortly after the attack.

"Now we have to investigate whether this Team is working as the branch of al-Qaeda," said Dhaka police chief Muhammad Habibur Rahman.

Avijit, who wrote a blog that highlighted humanist and rationalist ideas and condemned religious extremism, was hacked to death in Dhaka on 26 February. His family said radical Islamists were to blame.

SITE, which monitors Internet messages posted by jihadist groups, said AQIS leader Asim Umar made his claim in a 9-minute video, listing several people killed in Bangladesh and Pakistan.—Reuters



People gather at a destroyed shop following a suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 4 May, 2015. One civilian was killed while 15 others were wounded after a suicide bomber targeted a government bus in the Afghan capital on Monday morning, sources and witnesses said.—XINHUA

Maersk meets Iranian officials over vessel, says no progress

COPENHAGEN, 4 May — Maersk Line said on Monday it has met again with the Ports & Maritime Organization (PMO) in Iran regarding the seizure of the vessel Maersk Tigris but the Danish shipping company has still not received any official documents from Iranian authorities.

"We have yet to receive any written notifications (court ruling, arrest order or similar) pertaining to the seizure of Maersk Tigris or the cargo case," Maersk wrote in a statement.

The shipping company reiterates that it is not the owner of the vessel, which is unconnected to any cargo dispute, and therefore insists again the crew and vessel be released as soon as possible.

Reuters

Korea reaffirms opposition to Japan's Meiji industrial heritage listing

SEOUL, 4 May — Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se reiterated on Monday that South Korea is opposed to the listing of the Japanese Meiji-era industrial sites as an UNESCO heritage site, saying Korean laborers were forced to work at some of the locations. Japan has listed 23 manufacturing, shipbuilding and coalmining sites of the Meiji era as heritage of the Japanese industrial revolution and asked UNESCO, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to register them as a world cultural heritage site.

South Korea has expressed opposition to the Japanese move, and Yun repeated the government's position in testimony to

the National Assembly on Monday.

The Japanese listing violates the spirit of the World Heritage Convention that aims to protect human heritage that possesses "universal values," Yun said.

Yun made the remarks shortly before an advisory panel to UNESCO endorsed Japan's application.

According to South Korean government data, 57,900 Koreans were sent to work in seven of the 23 facilities, including those in Nagasaki and Kitakyushu.

Japan says the 23 industrial sites, located in eight prefectures, represent the country's industrialization in the late 19th to the early 20th centuries.

Kyodo News



Heavy snow hits north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 3 May, 2015.—XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 5 May, 2015

Taxpayers should be duly recognized

By Myint Win Thein

Myanmar has been undergoing a democratic transition for over four years but some words and phrases of the past eras are still lingering in the media. As these words and phrases can only represent the old eras, they should be left behind in the past.

For example, Myanmar media still use the phrases “government funds” or “state funds”, but it is common to see the phrases “taxpayers’ money” or “public taxes” in Western media and those of many other countries in the world. Although it is true that the government constitutionally has the right to manage taxes, it is also undeniable that taxpayers’ money consists of tax revenue collected from the people.

In addition, the government is also placing more emphasis on public taxes than on any other income sources like exports of natural resources. This factor is one of the most important characteristics of democratic reform. The media should use the phrase “taxpayers’ money” to duly recognize taxpayers and honour them as responsible citizens of Myanmar.

Moreover, no two words or phrases have exactly the same meaning and so cannot be substituted for each other. They have different definitions literally, logically, socially and so on, according to semantics, the study of meanings of words and sentences.

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.

A Visit to Room No.113 of the Bago Hostel

By Dr. Saw Mra Aung

(Continued from 4-5-2015)

Thus Ko Aung San came to Yangon University at the age of 17, where he took the combination of Myanmar, History, Pali and English. As he was peeked on pretence, social conventions, formalities and courtesies, he never paid heed to these matters. He, as a day student, was then accommodated at room No. 15 on the ground floor of the Bago Hostel. A few days after his hostel life had started, he was got at by Ko Kyi Sein, a native of Dawai, who was one of his table-partners in the dining hall, for his using the terms “Min(you)” and “Ngar (I)” which are the addressing terms used only among the intimate friends of same age in the Myanmar. Despite the protest of the latter, he persisted with them by answering that he could also use the same addressing terms when talking with him. In profound friendship, Ko Aung San believed, these idle things should be dispensed with. Friends should open their hearts to each other, discussing when need arouse. So standing on ceremony and choosing addressing terms among bosom friends seemed meaningless to him.

During his early university days, Ko Aung San was almost alone, sometimes being lost in thoughts and sometimes with his eyes glued to books in his room. He hardly made friends with other students. He might not respond when greeted on the way. So he was recognized as an uncouth unsociable Anyathar (uncivilized man from Upper Myanmar) by his fellow students. He was mediocre in appearance, being of medium height and slim figure. His complexion was neither too fair nor too dark. He was always wearing stern face and a bushy hair. He used to walk rapidly, with his head hung down and teeth gritted as if thinking seriously of something unsatisfactory. He was always wearing a

loosely floppy fawned-coloured cotton Myanmar jacket, gathering his second-hand Bangkok longyi up to the knees for freer movement of his legs and carrying an umbrella gripping its horizontal length in the middle in the long trail fashion, whether it was sunny or rainy. He seemed to pay no heed to his dress. He assumed the appearance of a philosopher. So no doubt, amongst the university students of those days who used to be dressed smartly, emphasizing formalities and courtesies, Ko Aung San, who was contrary to all other students in available ways, would be an idiosyncratic fellow to them to every inch.

When he came to the second year, he had to move to room No. 105 on the first floor of the same hostel. At that time, he diverted his attention from school lessons to politics, particularly to political thoughts. On the other hand, having understood that English was the key to the success of public speaking, he read English intensively and extensively and practiced speaking it before the mirror in the privacy of his room to the extent that the students living next to his room and the passers-by gave a peep into the room out of curiosity. Often, he participated in the debates to improve his public speaking-skill. In July 1932, at the ceremony of appointing new chairman of the student union, a topic “Monks should not participate in politics” had to be debated. First, Dr. Ba Han, one of the greatest intellectual giants of that time, made discussion in protest of the topic in the accent of a native English speaker. Then, U Ba Pe, a then eminent political leader, discussed it in support in English. The audience was so much spellbound by the presentation of the two leaders that there was a pin-drop silence in the hall. At that time, a seventeen-year old Ko Aung San with a stern face and a bushy hair stood up suddenly and discussed, making references to some Pali phras-

es “ Santisakkoca, subharoca, apakiccoca,” (Monks should have little affairs) and saying that monks, therefore, should not get involved in the political affairs. Although he spoke quickly in the parrot manner, he could convey his intended message in the full view of a great audience. At another meeting of the student union, Ko Nu, the then president, spoke in English. Even though his English was not perfect, his delivery was good. There was warm applause at the end. Then, Ko Aung San rose to his feet and spoke in English. He tried to put on the airs of Dr. Ba Maw or Sir Maung Ji who were then considered the most educated personalities in Myanmar. But it was a miserable show and students booed him in the mocking manner. But he spoke on unperturbed, making the mockers feel exhausted. Later, to improve his English, he, together his friend Ko Hla Pe (who was later known as Bo Lat Ya), went to English professor Mr. Rhodes and practiced speaking English with him.

Having loathing for formalities, pushiness and flatulent boasts, he never frittered away his precious time on tidying up his room. So it was always at sixes and sevens. Books and dust occupied every conceivable place. His bed was always unmade and the mosquito net kept hanging lazily so that he could just pull down when he climbed into bed. Dirty towels and clothes dangled from the net hangers. Sometimes spreading over his bed were thick books with candle remnants on their covers suggesting that he had sat up reading through the whole previous night (At that time, light was available in the hostels of Yangon University up to 11 p.m). When time went by, he became more sociable and exposed to many students. Especially, he made friends with fellow students such as Ko Kyaw Nyein, Ko Mya Sein, Ko Win Shin, and Ko Thein Tin (Nyo Mya) and tutors such as U Wun, U

Tat Htut, etc. Every evening, he used to speak leisurely with Ko Mya Sein, Ko Sein Kyi, etc in the corridor in front of his room. Whatever he talked about had nothing to do with his school lessons but with only current political and educational situations. He was apt to speak loudly in short stilted sentences, either in Myanmar or in English, with emphasis and a self-styled finality. When speaking, his open-palmed right hand made cutting movements in the air with his brows knitted into a frown. He was brutally open and outspoken. His laughter was loud, hearty and uninhibited. He practiced speaking without any shyness and inhibition, looking on his friends as his audience. He turned a deaf ear to their mockery at all. So he could soon speak many topics extempore. Whereas he used to treat his friends to good meal when he was rolling in money, he often helped himself to their clothes, regarding them as his own. Gradually, the students came to notice his lovable traits and characters from among his crudeness. So he was elected an executive of the student union in the 1935-36 academic year. But his colleagues appointed him editor of Oway Magazine. While serving as the editor, Thein Tin, under the pen name of Nyo Mya, contributed an article “The Hell Hound at Large” to the magazine ridiculing the university authorities. Editor Ko Aung San was asked to identify the writer on pain of expulsion from the university. But he, on the grounds of editorial and journalistic etiquette, rejected the ultimatum. This was one of the immediate reasons that brought on the Second Student Strike. After the student strike, he was appointed Chairman of the All Burma (Myanmar) Students’ Union in May 1936. That year, he was too busy to sit for the examination. But in the 1936-37 academic year, he resumed his B.A Senior Class, living in room No. 113 and passed the examination with Roll. No 56 that year.

On 3 November 1938, he resigned from the All Burma (Myan-

mar) Students’ Union and entered the Doe Bhmar Association. He had become a Thakin since. In those days, Thakins were known to be aggressive, recalcitrant, crude, obstinate, blunt, outspoken and high-handed in manner. Ko Aung San was that type. So Thakin fitted him to a “T”. In the Thakin group he was at home. He became General Secretary of the Doe Bhmar Association in May 1939. Then a handful of Thakins led by Thakin Aung San decided on fighting against the British for the national independence, seeking military assistance from the Japanese. So Thakin Aung San and Thakin Hla Myaing set off secretly on a sea voyage for Japan on August 1940 to realize their plan. Thus thirty Thakins who would later be known as Thirty Comrades in Myanmar history underwent military trainings in Formosa, Hainan and Taiwan Islands for some months. In December 1941, the Thirty Comrades arrived back in Bangkok and formed the Burma Independence Army (BIA), drinking blood of allegiance together. Then the BIA with the leadership of Bogyoke Aung San marched together with the Japanese army into Myanmar at the beginning of 1942 to shoo away the British from Myanmar. They reached Yangon on 9 March and continued with their march up to Upper Myanmar till May. During the march, Bogyoke Aung San’s paraphernalia of office were simple. He had an American binocular and an American style helmet and a rather handsome Japanese officer’s sword. He had a Japanese style green bush shirt and cotton breeches and some vests, towels and native cotton longyi. He made all his clothes into a small bundle with another Myanmar longyi and carried the commander-in-chief’s possession in this undignified manner all the way. He never called time-consuming and pompous military conferences and just gave out his orders verbally. He never pressurized his men with a formal instruction which could be called operational.

(See page 9)

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker visits Republic of Korea



Speaker U Khin Aung Myint poses for documentary photo together with Speaker of National Assembly of ROK Dr Chung Eui-hwa and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — At the invitation of the speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint left for Seoul on 28 April evening and arrived at the Incheon International Air-

port on 29 April morning.

Then, Speaker U Khin Aung Myint met with the speaker of the National Assembly at the parliament

A Visit to Room No.113 ...

(from page 8)

When Bogyoke Aung San returned to Yangon, he was attacked with a fit of severe fever. The five-month labourious march seemed to make him weak physically and mentally. So he was forcibly put to the BIA hospital, where he was attended patiently and kindly by Daw Khin Kyi, a senior nurse. After a few days at the hospital, the stone heart of Bogyoke Aung San yielded to great kindness and tenderness of Daw Khin Kyi. He took only the medicine administered by Daw Khin Kyi and ate only the meal fed by her. When U Kyaw Nyein, who was then hospitalized together with him, teased him with the name of Daw Khin Kyi, he responded nothing but remained with the bright face wearing a sheepish smile. One evening, he, together with Bo Sakyar and Dr. Myint Swe, visited the Daw Khin Kyi's room and Daw Khin Kyi served them with coffee in the verandah. At that instant, Bogyoke appealed her insistently to sing a song named "Sein Kyu Kyar Nyaung". To her wit's end, she had to sing another classical song "May-khummyaw" (song composed about a love-sick girl yearning for the return of her lover) to the violin played by Dr. Myint Swe. As it was a moon-lit night, the moon was then at her brightest against the cloudless sky.

The golden moon-light, cool night breeze, the song of Daw Khin Kyi and the melodious sound produced from the violin played by Dr. Myint Swe would surely carry away Bogyoke, who was always locked in his enemy, to a romantic fairy land. Rare occasion of happiness and romance it would be for Bogyoke, a crude and heartless soldier! Some days after he had been discharged from the hospital, he entertained Daw Khin Kyi with a special dinner and asked her for the permission of marriage. Thus the wedding ceremony of Bogyoke and Daw Khin Kyi was celebrated at the BIA hospital on 6 September 1942. At the wedding reception, Dr. Ba Than, medical superintendent, sang a classical song "Thet-wei" (song composed about a lad whose love is yielded exhaustively to his lover). At the wedding reception, he, being a person disgusted with formalities and glitzy affairs, with a jerk, pulled away the golden-chain barring the bride and the bride-groom from their seats. And he went straight to the seat prepared for the bride-groom, as if nothing had happened to him. After marriage, they lived at Grassmere Vale No. 4 near Inya Lake. Daw Khin Kyi bore him three children serially each a year- Aung San Oo in June 1943, Aung San Lin in May 1944 and Daw Aung San Su Kyi in

June 1945. Although Bogyoke was Minister of War at that time, he contented himself with whatever he had. He wore and ate whatever given and prepared by his beloved wife. Every morning, Daw Khin Kyi used to prepare fried rice with a piece of sausage for Bogyoke and the three children. One morning, during the visit of U Aung Than to his younger brother's house, Bogyoke and the three children were sitting with each fried rice plate with a piece of sausage in front. At that instant, Aung San Lin, who was not satiated with his sausage, suddenly snapped at the sausage from his father's plate and swallowed it. Bogyoke, casting a look of sympathy and understanding at his beloved son, said nothing but ate the plain fried rice with a great relish. U Aung Than, at the plight of his younger brother who was then Minister of War, felt touched. On one occasion, he asked Bo Tun Hla, his personal assistant, to enquire about the price of a plot of land in May Myo so that he could resign from the military position and live there peacefully as a writer after the regaining of independence. But when he heard the price of the land of May Myo, he with a sigh of disappointment murmured that he was too far poor to live there. Even men who were not invested with his power and influence were able to amass large fortunes then. But he

building and discussed cooperation between parliaments of the two countries.

At the meeting, U Khin Aung Myint said that there are about 30,000 Korean working in Myanmar and Korea is the sixth largest foreign investors in Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation was composed of members of different political parties and Myanmar has been undergoing a democratic transition for more than four years, according to U Khin Aung Myint.

Then, U Khin Aung Myint said he would like to study the experience of Korea Parliament, which has more experience.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman U Khin Shwe of an Amyotha Hluttaw Committee, representatives U P Maung Soe, U Kaw Rine, U Kyun Ken, U Hwai Yain, U Maung Thar

was uninterested in personal gain (Nepotism and cronyism). During the Japanese occupation, he, together with Myanmar officers and Japanese officers, often had to attend dinners and official functions. The attendees sometimes, due to the hot weather, had to take off outer jackets in the stuffy rooms, awaiting the time of the dinners and functions. To the surprise of others, when their war minister took off his military jacket, he had nothing underneath, not even a vest. That was Bogyoke Aung San whose selfless dedication to the country was unique.

In August 1944, the Anti-Facist People Freedom League was formed. Then the resistance against the Japanese was declared on 27 March 1945. During the resistance, Bogyoke Aung San himself took command at the forward area. Unlike most commanders, he always led his men in the field. He never passed orders from the rear command posts. He always wanted to be with his men in the forward area. So it was necessary for his deputies to restrain him. Once, the Headquarter which the Japanese wanted very much to destroy was besieged by them. Heavy fighting at close range ensued. Having found that the situation was challenging, he left cover to direct a machine gunner. His aides were alarmed. When they could not persuade him to go back under cover, they

Khin, U Soe Win, U Nyunt Hlaing and U Thein Swe and Myanmar Ambassador to Korea U Soe Lwin and officials.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker gave interviews on democratic reform, constitutional reform and elections to journalists from Yonhap News Agency and Korean Parliament Television Channel before attending the luncheon hosted by the speaker of the Korean National Assembly.

In the afternoon, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker met with parliamentarians led by Chairman Mr Lee Sang Min of Law and Judicial Committee and discussed cooperation between the two parliaments.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker viewed round the parliament building including the library and records of prominent of par-

liamentarians. On 30 April morning, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker and the delegation visited Paldang Hydropower Plant in Namyangju before meeting with Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister of Korea Mr Lee Dong Phil and visiting the exhibitions of Samsung Company. On 1 May, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker visited Daedon Agricultural Machinery Factory and viewed round machinery before attending a luncheon hosted by Vice Chairman Mr Park Byeong Seug of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association, meeting with Mr Koh In Suck of Seoul Water Supply Centre and visiting the national museum and the museum of military history in Seoul. On 3 May, the Myanmar delegation visited the museum of traditional culture and went back to Myanmar on the same day.

fore, could by no means be a perfect man. He might have his own defects and weaknesses. Some attribute his sensitiveness, credulity, being unsociable and untidiness to his weaknesses. But his honesty, frankness, selflessness, resoluteness, perseverance, patriotism, could surpass these so-called weaknesses. To be candid, neither be I an idolist nor I stick to personal cult. But I hold Bogyoke in high esteem, - not for his public celebrity nor for his being a public figure. It is his selflessness or having no interest in personal gain and his resoluteness which made the impossible the possible, that is, with a rabble army with a minimum training, he fought against that of the sun-never-set empire that make me admire and adore him. Today, it has been 68 years since Bogyoke left us behind. But we still remember him for these elusive qualities of his. The present population of our country stands at over 50 million. If only one million people out of them have selflessness and resoluteness like Bogyoke, we, I honestly believe, could pull our country out of the depth of poverty. Especially, I would like to request the new generation youths who are to shoulder the State's responsibility in the future to make selfless contributions to the nation and the people following in the footsteps of our Bogyoke!

Win or lose, Cameron's political career hangs by a thread

LONDON, 4 May — Prime Minister David Cameron is Britain's most popular major party leader and his Conservative Party the most trusted on the economy after helping revive it. But win or lose a knife-edge election this week, his career hangs by a thread.

If he loses, it's over instantly. And even if he wins but doesn't secure an overall majority, which opinion polls suggest no party will achieve, he could face a leadership challenge from inside his famously ruthless party before too long.

A descendant of King William IV, Cameron, who came to power in a coalition with the centre-left Liberal Democrats in 2010, says he wants to serve another five-year term "to finish the job" of fixing the economy. He also plans to deliver a European Union membership referendum, which he hopes will cure his country and party of its Eurosceptic

angst.

But if he doesn't get the Conservatives re-elected on their own, with their first overall majority in the House of Commons for 23 years, he may struggle to serve out a full term.

"The Conservatives are very hard-nosed," Greig Baker, a former Conservative staffer who now runs a public affairs firm called Guide told *Reuters*. "If Cameron can deliver them ministerial red boxes he'll survive the election. But his long term prospects are very bleak. The party has never loved him."

Tim Bale, author of a history of the Conservative Party, says Cameron faces a rough ride from his party even if he keeps the keys to the prime minister's residence, 10 Downing Street.

"If he manages to hang onto Number 10 I think they'll forgive him for a couple of weeks," said Bale. "Then it could be difficult."



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech during an election visit to the Ambleside Sports Club in Nuneaton, Britain on 3 May, 2015.
REUTERS

While polls show voters generally like him personally, Cameron, 48, is the product of an unusually privileged background. The son of a wealthy stockbroker, he attended exclusive boys' boarding school Eton College and Oxford University, and married a woman who traces her ancestry back to another king — Charles II of England.

In a country acutely

attuned to class, that rubs some Britons up the wrong way. One of his own outspoken lawmakers once called him and his finance minister "two posh boys who don't know the price of milk". Opposition lawmakers and parts of the media have likened him to "Flashman", a fictional upper class literary anti-hero of the nineteenth century.

His strongest boast is that he pulled the economy from a deep downturn to deliver one of the fastest growth rates in the developed world. But real wage growth has only just started to pick up, meaning many voters say the recovery hasn't benefited them.

Perhaps Cameron's biggest weakness is that he has failed to quash a perception among some voters that he heads "the nasty party," a term coined by one of his own ministers, Theresa May, more than a decade ago to urge the party to be

more inclusive.

When Labour's Tony Blair beat them in three straight elections, Conservative insiders feared their failure was a result of a reputation for being indifferent to the poor, close to big business and intolerant of gays and ethnic minorities.

Cameron, who became Conservative leader in 2005, tried to change that. He started talking about the environment and a "Big Society" where communities would be given more power. In office, he legalized gay marriage, increased foreign aid and appointed Britain's first female Muslim cabinet member.

But efforts to make the party seem friendlier were set back by its approach to the budget deficit he inherited — the biggest since World War Two. To reduce it, Cameron pushed through cuts to welfare spending, which the opposition Labour Party said forced the

most vulnerable to pay to clean up a mess made by rich bankers.

Cameron says he took other measures to help those on low pay, including lifting the threshold for income tax, raising the minimum wage, overseeing the creation of 2 million new jobs and giving people state help to buy their first homes.

But a policy to reduce social housing payments to those in state-funded homes with spare bedrooms, dubbed the "bedroom tax" by Labour, became emblematic of what Cameron's critics called a heartless attitude toward the poor. Polls showed cutting welfare was nevertheless popular with some voters who resented a class of people portrayed as feckless parasites in a series of TV programs which held up an unflattering magnifying glass to "Benefits Britain".

Reuters

US Justice Department to boost disclosure of cellphone tracking programmes — WSJ

WASHINGTON, 4 May — The US Justice Department will begin disclosing more information about how law enforcement officials use secret cellphone tracking devices and is reviewing how the technology is deployed, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Sunday.

The newspaper, quoting Justice Department officials, said senior officials had determined they must be more open about the way the devices are used and why, although there was no agreement about how much to disclose or how quickly.

Asked about the report, Justice Department spokesman Patrick Rodenbush said: "With regard to this particular technology, the Department of Justice is in the process of examining its policies to ensure they reflect the department's

continuing commitment to conducting its vital missions while according appropriate respect for privacy and civil liberties." The *Journal* said the FBI had begun getting search warrants to use the technology that traces criminal suspects through their cellphones. For years, the bureau did not get such warrants, the paper added.

Inside the Justice Department, the FBI, US Marshals Service and Drug Enforcement Administration deploy the technology, the *Journal* said, with each agency having its own rules about how to use it.

The technology was created over a decade ago to help hunt militants and spies abroad. The *Journal* said many local police departments were now using it to track criminal suspects they are investigating.—*Reuters*

MILAN, 4 May— Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi promised a new electoral law expected to be passed in parliament on Monday, despite fierce opposition from many within his own ruling party, would clear a path for wider reforms of the economy.

Renzi brushed aside resistance from rebels in his centre-left Democratic Party (PD) last week by imposing confidence votes to prevent further amendments being added to the bill after more than a year of debate.

The bill, which guarantees a big majority to the winning party in an election and gives party bosses wide powers to hand-pick preferred candidates, comes before parliament for a final vote later on Monday, after which it will



Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi addresses a news conference in Brussels on 23 April, 2015.
REUTERS

become law.

"The electoral law which will, I think and hope, be approved by the Italian parliament has a great element of clarity," Renzi said at an event at the Milan stock exchange.

"There will be the same government for five years, it will be clear who has won, it will be voters who decide which party wins, not party agreements," he said.

Together with a separate reform of the Sen-

ate that will see the upper house reduced to a non-elected chamber with limited powers, the new law is intended to ensure stable governments able to last a full five-year term.

"There will be a system in which our country will finally be a point of reference for political stability which is a precondition for economic and cultural development," he said.

Renzi noted that Italy, one of the world's slowest growing economies for

more than 20 years, had had 63 governments since World War Two but that none had been strong or durable enough to push through core reforms, despite a widespread recognition that change was needed. Critics counter that the new law is undemocratic because it gives too much power to one leader and they note that the chief beneficiary is likely to be Renzi himself, who faces a weak and divided opposition and holds a clear lead in opinion polls.

The law is opposed by all the opposition parties and has also caused a split in the PD where 38 deputies, including senior figures in the party's old guard sidelined by Renzi, refused to back the government in last week's confidence votes.—*Reuters*

Greece cites progress in talks with EU/IMF lenders, aims for May deal

ATHENS, 4 May — Negotiations between Greece and its international lenders over reforms to unlock remaining bailout aid have made headway and an agreement could be closer this month, a government official said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras's three-month-old government is under growing pressure at home and abroad to reach an agree-

ment with European and IMF lenders over reforms to avert a national bankruptcy.

Talks have been painfully slow as the leftist-led government is resisting cuts in pensions and labour reforms that would clash with its campaign pledges to end austerity.

"There were very important steps made at the Brussels Group (talks) which bring an agreement



Tourists stand in front of the parliament building as pigeons fly by in Athens on 27 April, 2015.—REUTERS

nearer," the official said, declining to be named.

"All sides aim for an agreement at a Brussels Group level within May."

The talks between technical teams from Athens and EU/IMF/ECB lenders are expected to resume on Monday, the official said after the country's chief negotiators met with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. A euro zone official also said there was

convergence on some issues but sticking points remained and that talks were expected to continue through Wednesday.

Athens hopes that a successful conclusion of the negotiations at the so-called Brussels Group could lead to recognition of the progress by the Eurogroup of euro zone finance ministers and bring some liquidity relief.—*Reuters*

Taleban, Afghan negotiators unable to agree ceasefire



Afghan security forces arrive at the Kunduz airport on 30 April, 2015. —REUTERS

AL-KHOR, 4 April — Taliban representatives met with Afghan political figures for a second day in Qatar on Sunday, and one participant said the two sides discussed a possible ceasefire but ultimately disagreed over the continued presence of US troops in the country.

The United States and Pakistan, long-regarded by critics as sympathetic to the Afghan Taliban, both welcomed the closed-door talks aimed at ending an insurgency that has raged in Afghanistan since US-backed forces drove the Taliban from power in 2001.

The informal talks, hosted by Qatar's foreign ministry, came as fighting escalated after the withdrawal of most US and allied troops. The Taliban recently launched an offensive in northern Afghanistan that brought its fighters to the outskirts of Kunduz city, a provincial

capital.

Participants in Sunday's meeting in Al-Khor, a seaside town north of Doha, emerged from the venue smiling and laughing on Sunday but refused to talk to waiting reporters.

The Afghan government has made no official statement on the meetings, though a member of the country's High Peace Council confirmed a delegation would attend meetings in Qatar with the Taliban.

One Taliban participant in the talks told *Reuters* by telephone late on Sunday that an eight-member Taliban delegation, headed by Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, had held direct dialogue with Afghan officials.

"After the dialogue began, our people gave demands and conditions in written form and ... distributed copies among all the participants," he said on condition of anonymity.

"Then the dialogue started openly, and the

Afghan delegation and Qayyum Kochai, uncle of (Afghan) President Ashraf Ghani, demanded we stop our fighting and announce a ceasefire. They called us brothers and advised us to come to Afghanistan and obey the Afghan constitution," he said.

The Taliban said they would not stop fighting until all foreign forces left Afghanistan, he said.

The government delegation argued that most foreigners had already left and only trainers remained, who would also leave if the Taliban stopped fighting, he said. The talks ended with no agreement except to hold another meeting in the United Arab Emirates "probably next month".

Tens of thousands of Afghans have died since the US and its allies drove the Taliban's hard-line Islamist regime from power in 2001. Several previous peace initiatives have failed.

Taliban and Afghan sources have said the Qatar

dialogue was also attended by representatives of several countries including the United States, China and Pakistan.

An official of the US State Department said the United States had "no meetings ongoing or scheduled with the Taliban in Doha or elsewhere", but Washington was "strongly supportive of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process whereby the Taliban and the Afghans continue engaging in talks towards a settlement to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan".

Pakistan had no comment on whether it attended but applauded the dialogue.

"Pakistan fully supports peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban in Qatar," said Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, the foreign secretary of Pakistan. "Peace in Afghanistan is imperative for peace in the region."

Chinese officials could not immediately be reached for comment.—*Reuters*

Heavy clashes in Aden airport, alliance accused of cluster bomb use



A Southern Popular Resistance fighter fires a weapon mounted on a truck during clashes with Houthi fighters in Yemen's southern city of Aden on 3 May, 2015.

REUTERS

ADEN, 4 May — Local fighters battling the rebel Houthi militia in Yemen's port of Aden stormed areas around the airport on Sunday in an operation supervised by the Saudi-led coalition, which also provided air support, the group's spokesman said.

"Special forces from the southern fighters have been prepared and trained for an operation to attack Aden airport," said Ali

al-Ahmadi, spokesman for the Southern Popular Resistance.

Ahmadi retracted an earlier statement that 40-50 coalition special forces fighters had deployed alongside his militia and Saudi Arabia denied that a major ground operation was under way or that it had put non-Yemeni forces on the ground in Aden.

The coalition, which seeks to restore the gov-

ernment of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, includes eight other Arab states and is receiving logistical support from the United States, Britain and France. It has refused to rule out the eventual use of ground troops, but to date it has mostly used air power and some artillery on the Saudi border to bombard Iranian-allied Houthi militia and allied army units.

Reuters

Suicide bomber blows himself up in heart of Damascus

AMMAN, 4 May — A suicide bomber blew himself up on Monday in a central neighbourhood of the Syrian capital where major security compounds are housed, according to a Syrian army source.

The army source told state television the security forces had killed all the members of "a terrorist group" in the bustling Rukn al Din district during a chase after a suicide bomber blew himself up.

The source did not say whether there were any casualties but a resident contacted by *Viber* said the army had sealed off the main streets of the congest-

ed part of the capital adjacent to key government installations and embassies.

Security forces detained scores of people after the explosion rocked the dense residential and commercial quarter, which is a main crossroad of the city and is home to many Syrian Kurds.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said security officials may have been the target, as many senior officials live in the area and a number of major branches of Syria's intelligence apparatus are based there.

"Our initial information is that security per-

sonnel were targeted as this area that has been hit before by the rebels," said Rami Abdul Rahman, the head of the British-based rights monitor that employs a wide network of people on the ground.

The heavily defended heart of government controlled Damascus city has seen several major bombings over the past-four years during a civil war that has killed more than 200,000 people.

Suicide bombings are rare but one killed several members of President Bashar al-Assad's inner circle in the Syrian capital in July 2012.—*Reuters*

Airliner diverted to UAE airbase after blast warning — news agency

DUBAI, 4 April — An Air Arabia airliner flying from Kuwait to the United Arab Emirates was diverted to a UAE military airbase on Sunday after a passenger warned the plane was about to explode, the UAE state news agency *WAM* reported.

The aircraft was boarded after landing at the Al Minhad airbase by the au-

thorities who resolved the situation using "appropriate standard procedures", the agency reported, without elaborating.

The UAE-based budget carrier said in a statement that Air Arabia flight G9128 from Kuwait to the UAE emirate of Sharjah was diverted following instructions from air traffic control due to an

unruly passenger onboard.

The "flight landed safely and the authorities are currently holding the necessary investigation", the statement said.

Air Arabia is based in Sharjah, one of seven emirates that make up the UAE. The Al Minhad airbase near Dubai is a hub for US-allied forces in the Middle East.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 LAND & SEA LOGISTICS**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV VEGA KAPPA VOY NO (1523)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA KAPPA VOY NO (1523) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-445)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-445) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (405N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (405N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2015 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interests to provide hands on provision of Consulting Services to support MCIT for developing eGovernment Delivery Unit under the World Bank/IDA funded Telecom Sector Reform Project. The submission of the EOI is requested to deliver the documents (including CV/ resume) to the address below by June 1, 2015.

Attn:

Mr.Than Htun Aung, Projector, Telecom Sector Reform Project.

Building Number 2, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel: +95 67 407435 , Fax: +95 67 407539

E-mail: thanhtunaung@ptdmyanmar.com, tsrproject2014@gmail.com

Daw Nwe Ni Soe Yin, IAC, S12 Exchange Building, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel: +95 9 2000037, Fax: +95 67 421777

E-mail: nwenisoeyin@gmail.com, nwenisy@mpt.net.mm
The Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for each assignment title are available at http://www.mcit.gov.mm/ptd_news

Baltimore lifts curfew imposed after unrest, relieving many

BALTIMORE, 4 May — The mayor of Baltimore on Sunday lifted a night curfew imposed on the city last week to stem a spate of looting and arson that followed the funeral of a young black man who died from injuries suffered while in police custody.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said she believed sufficient calm had returned to allow her to end the 10 pm-5 am curfew, which took effect last Tuesday after protests over the death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray turned violent on Monday.

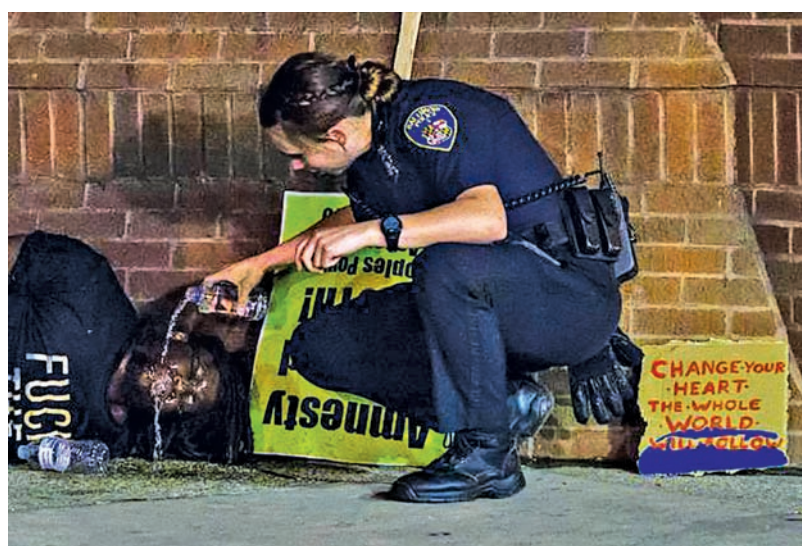
"My goal has always been to not have the curfew in place a single day longer than was necessary," the mayor said. "I believe we have reached that point today."

The mayor said the Maryland National Guard would begin withdrawing from the streets over the next week.

The surprise announcement on Friday by

A police officer douses a man, who was hit by pepper spray after defying a curfew, with water as he lies detained in west Baltimore, Maryland on 2 May, 2015.

REUTERS



the city's chief prosecutor that she was bringing criminal charges against the six police officers involved in Gray's arrest has helped to defuse outrage over his death.

The protests in the mostly black city of 625,000 have been a reprise of nationwide anger that erupted last year after the deaths of unarmed black men in confrontations with police in Missouri, New York and elsewhere.

"What we saw over the past few days is not just the resiliency of our city, but also our communities coming together," the mayor told a news conference. "We want to heal our city."

Republican Governor Larry Hogan welcomed the decision by the Democratic mayor, who had faced criticism for what some saw as a slow initial response to Monday's violence.

"It's going to take a while for us to get totally

back to normal, but I think lifting the curfew is a good idea," he said at a separate news conference on Sunday. He said an additional 1,000 police officers and 3,000 National Guard troops had been brought in to help keep the peace but were now going home.

Hogan was among those who expressed concern over the financial impact of the curfew, which forced bars and restaurants to close early.—Reuters

Two men arrested by North Korea say they spied for South

WASHINGTON, 4 May — Two men arrested by North Korea in March said in interviews with CNN that they spied for South Korea's intelligence agency, the cable television news network reported on Sunday.

North Korea said Kim Kuk Gi and Choe Chun Gil were South Korean nationals working as spies for Seoul's National Intelligence Service from the Chinese border city of Dandong. North Korean state media accused one of them of running an "underground church" and spreading foreign information on USB sticks and SD memory cards in the country. South Korea has called the accusations "groundless."

On Sunday, CNN reported North Korea made the two men available for separate interviews, with official minders present.

The network said it could not independently verify the accounts, which it said were similar to each other and to a North Korean

state media report in March about their arrests.

Choe told CNN he had been a businessman and worked as a spy for three years. He said he was arrested while trying to obtain boxes of materials from North Korea that were related to military operations, CNN reported.

Kim said he was a missionary and worked as a spy for nine years. He told CNN that South Korea's National Intelligence Service wanted itineraries of foreign leaders visiting North Korea and other information.

North Korea has arrested others it believed were spies in recent years.

On Saturday, it said it arrested a South Korean man with a US green card who was a student at New York University. Joo Won-moon, 21, was detained on 22 April crossing from the Chinese side of the Yalu River, according to North Korea's KCNA news agency.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HONOR PESCADORES VOY NO (4)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HONOR PESCADORES VOY NO (4) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD.**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (06/15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (06/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (F) 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 KUL NATEE CO**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV LOYAL UNION VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LOYAL UNION VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 HYUNDAI GLOVIS CO.LTD**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV INNWA STAR VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1032W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1032W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.5.2015 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 MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (100N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (100N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 YANG MING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XITHA BHUM VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XITHA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**
Extension of the request for the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)
Joint Venture Project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested local and international investors for the request of the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) regarding the joint venture project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa) from 17.3.2015 to 23.3.2015 in the national newspaper and to be submitted not later than (12:00) noon at the date of 4.5.2015.
MPE hereby announces that the submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 4.6.2015 from 4.5.2015.

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Four killed in shooting on Wisconsin foot bridge, including suspect

WISCONSIN, 4 May — A man fatally shot three people on a walking and biking bridge in central Wisconsin on Sunday, and wounded a fourth before being found dead himself, police said. "We believe that this was a random act and we do not believe that anyone was targeted," Menasha Police Chief Timothy Styka said during a news conference aired on local television. It was unclear how the suspected shooter died. The attack occurred at 7:30 pm on the Trestle Trail bridge over Little Lake Butte des Morts in Menasha, about 35 miles southwest of Green Bay. The wounded person was in surgery at a nearby hospital, the police chief said. Authorities did not release the identities of the victims. —Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kayah and Kayin States, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Blur claim sixth number one album with 'The Magic Whip'

LONDON, 4 May — British band Blur hit the top of the UK album chart on Sunday with "The Magic Whip", the group's first number one album in 12 years, the Official Charts Company said.

Nearly 24 years since their debut album, Blur saw off Taylor Swift's "1989" and James Bay's "Chaos and the Calm", which placed second and third respectively. Former number one "Stages" by Josh Groban charted in fourth, ahead of "Title" by Meghan Trainor.

In the singles chart, Felix Jaehn's remix of "Cheerleader" by Omi overtook "See you Again" by Wiz Khalifa to win the top spot, after a tight race decided by just over 1,000 total sales. New entry "I Really Like You" by Carly Rae Jepsen charted in third position, with "Lean On" by Major Lazer in fourth and "Hold my Hand" by Jess Glynne at number five.

Reuters

'Avengers: Age of Ultron' scores second biggest opening with \$187.7 million

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — "Avengers: Age of Ultron" scored the second-biggest domestic opening in history this weekend, kicking off summer blockbuster season with a mammoth \$187.7 million (123.97 million pounds) debut.

Globally, the film is a juggernaut, pulling in an estimated \$627 million in 12 days of release. At that pace, "Avengers: Age of Ultron" should pass \$1 billion, particularly after it opens in China on 12 May.

One record remained tantalizingly out of grasp for Captain America, Iron Man and company, however. Going into the weekend many analysts predicted that "Avengers: Age of Ultron" would top the \$207.4 million haul posted in 2012 by the first film in the super-team series. That box office high-water mark will stand... at least until "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"

lands in theatres this Christmas.

Part of the issue may have been weaker reviews than the first "Avengers" film, as well as competition from the NBA playoffs, the Kentucky Derby and the hotly anticipated boxing match between Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao.

The "Avengers: Age of Ultron" results are still an astonishing feat and a testament to the powerful sway that Disney and Marvel have over moviegoers around the world. The three biggest North American debuts in history are now all Marvel movies, with "Avengers: Age of Ultron" displacing "Iron Man 3" and its \$174.1 million opening from its runner-up perch on the all-time list. "It would be a shame to see headlines saying 'Avengers 2' fails by not setting opening weekend records," said Phil

Contrino, vice president and chief analyst at BoxOffice.com. "This is still a massive debut, but there's something about the movie industry where people feel every weekend should set a new record."

Roughly \$18 million of "Avengers'" opening weekend loot came from 364 Imax screens, while premium large format screens scored a record \$13.5 million haul. The film played broadly across demographic categories. Roughly 59% of the audience was male, 41% was 25 years and older, 12% were teenagers and 22% were families. "Avengers: Age of Ultron" carries \$250 million in production costs and screened in 4,276 North American locations.

Earth's Mightiest Heroes didn't leave much left over for other films in the marketplace. A vast chasm exists between the first and second place finishers on



the domestic charts, with "Age of Adaline" clocking in behind "Avengers: Age of Ultron" with \$6.3 million, bringing Lionsgate's romantic fantasy's total to \$23.4 million. Universal's "Furious 7" nabbed third

place with \$6.1 million, bringing its stateside plunder to \$330.5 million. The action sequel is now the fourth highest-grossing film of all time on a worldwide basis with \$1.4 billion in tickets sold.—Reuters

David Beckham celebrates 40th birthday with wife, kids



Former soccer star David Beckham started off his 40th birthday in Morocco shirtless.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Former soccer star David Beckham started off his 40th birthday in Morocco shirtless.

The former pro soccer player joined Instagram on the same day, and shared several photos from his family getaway, reported *Us* magazine.

"Good morning and hello! It's great to final-

ly be on Instagram, been a long time coming but I can't wait to start sharing all my special moments with you," Beckham captioned his first pic.

"Thank you for all your birthday messages so far. Looking forward to a great day with friends and family," he added.

Sharing a snap with his eldest son Brooklyn, 16, he

continued, "I feel a very lucky man. Here's a photo with @brooklynbeckham the real boss of the family!" Victoria, 41, even added a special touch with a "Happy Birthday" banner, confetti, and birthday hats. "So excited to be spending this special day with David and the kids in Marrakech!," she wrote.

PTI

Amal Alamuddin to gift George Clooney a Porsche for his birthday



Hollywood star George Clooney is getting a brand new Porsche from wife Amal Alamuddin on his 54th birthday.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Hollywood star George Clooney is getting a brand new Porsche from wife Amal Alamuddin on his 54th birthday. The lawyer reportedly is getting her actor husband a Porsche 911 GT3 RS worth 135,000 pounds, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

A family source has been quoted as claiming, "Amal has been looking for the right car for him to replace his black Porsche 911

and the new one is much faster." The source added, "He's already test-driven it for his birthday present."

Amal, 37, was said to have arranged to buy George one of the first available in the US. The four-litre, 200mph motor will be placed in the same garage as George's 1959 red and white Chevrolet Corvette. In addition to the pricey car, Amal plans to buy George a smoothie maker.—PTI

New 'Star Wars' products to debut at 4 September global event

LOS ANGELES, 4 May — Major retailers and Disney Stores around the world will start selling the first merchandise tied to the upcoming film "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" during an event that will kick off just after midnight on 4 September.

Walt Disney Co announced the plans on Sunday, just ahead of May the Fourth, an unofficial holiday known among fans as Star Wars Day.

Demand for "Star Wars" merchandise is expected to jump with the 18 December release of "The Force Awakens," the first movie in 10 years from the celebrated sci-fi franchise, Wall Street analysts say.

At the 4 September event, Disney stores and

other retailers will open at 12:01 am to sell products ranging from toys, books, and collectibles to comics, e-books, apps, apparel and lifestyle accessories, Disney said in a statement. New products will also be

sold online at Disneystore.com.

The company urged fans to document their 4 September shopping experiences on social media with hashtags #ForceFriday and #MidnightMad-

ness. It also unveiled new product packaging that features Kylo Ren, a masked villain from "The Force Awakens." Disney bought "Star Wars" producer Lucasfilm for \$4.05 billion in 2012.—Reuters



Star Wars: The Force Awakens cast members (L-R) Oscar Isaac, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, writer, director and producer J.J. Abrams, producer Kathleen Kennedy and show host Anthony Breznican appear at the kick-off event of the Star Wars Celebration convention in Anaheim.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Laos gov't supervises enterprises to ensure increases of minimum wage flowing to workers

VIENTIANE, 4 May — Factories and manufacturing assembly plants are in the sights of Laos' officials as the government seek to ensure recent increases of the minimum wage flowing to workers, Lao News Agency KPL reported on Monday.

The minimum monthly wage for unskilled labour increased to 900, 000 kip (111.25 US dollars) from 626,000 kip (77.39 US dollars) as a result of regulations

that came into force on 1 April.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare began inspections of businesses in the capital to ensure compliance with legislation and expects to complete its nationwide inspection by September.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare's Director of Labour Management Phongsaysack Inthalath said the minimum wage of 900,000

kip had been calculated based on a typical basket of necessities including rice, meat, fish, electricity and water.

The rate applied to staff deemed unskilled, inexperienced and without vocational qualifications employed by manufacturers, retailers and service providers and social sectors as well as to domestic workers and those engaged in the non-formal sector.

Meanwhile, employees with trade or professional skills and related vocational qualifications should be paid more.

He said some businesses were ahead of others in implementing the pay rise.

"Some companies have asked for the postponement of the new minimum wage payment to improve their pay roll or be better prepared," Phongsaysack was reported as saying.—Xinhua

American Vonn named Pyeongchang honorary ambassador



Skier Lindsey Vonn arrives for the TIME 100 Gala in New York on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 4 May — United States Olympic skier Lindsey Vonn has been named as an honorary ambassador for the 2018 Winter Games in South Korea's Pyeongchang, organizers (POCOG) said on Monday.

Vonn, an Olympic gold medallist at the 2010 Vancouver Games, becomes the first international honorary ambassador for Asia's first Winter Games outside of Japan.

Local athletes undertaking the role include Olympic figure skating gold medallist Kim Yuna, Major League Baseball player Choo Shin-soo and speed skater Lee Kyouhyuk.

Vonn, who on Sunday announced the break-up of her relationship with Tiger Woods, was scheduled to appear at a ceremony in Seoul on Wednesday to mark her appointment, POCOG said.

Reuters

France, Qatar sign 6.3 billion euro Rafale warplane, missile deal

DOHA, 4 May — President Francois Hollande and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani signed on Monday a 6.3 billion euro (£4.6 billion) agreement for the sale of 24 Dassault Aviation-built Rafale fighter jets.

The contract — the third this year for Dassault AVMD.PA after deals to sell Rafale jets to Egypt and India — also includes MBDA missiles, and the training of 36 Qatari pilots and 100 technicians by the French military.

Officials said the accord also provided for the training of a number of Qatari intelligence officers.

"It's a good choice," said Hollande, who had talks with Sheikh Tamim and will go on later to Saudi

Arabia, where he is due to attend a summit on Tuesday of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh.

Dassault is in talks aimed at supplying 16 of the multi-role combat jets to Malaysia and has resumed discussions over potential fighter sales to another Gulf Arab state, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Dassault chief executive Eric Trappier told reporters Kuwait was also evaluating the plane. The Qatar sale was "a good sign for all the countries of the region" because now they would see the capabilities of the aircraft, he said.

"It's a little bit the snowball effect — except it's in the desert," he said.

Reuters



An archer in traditional costume shoots an arrow while riding a horse at full speed during the annual "Yabusame Shinji" event at Shimogamo Shrine in Kyoto on 3 May, 2015. Archers shot at three 50-centimetre-square targets set at 100-metre intervals.—KYODO NEWS

Earthquake rattles New Zealand's South Island — USGS

LONDON, 4 May — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 hit the near the New Zealand South Island resort towns of Queenstown and Wanaka, the US Geological

Survey said on Monday.

The quake was centred 59 km (36 miles) north of Queenstown at a depth of 10 km (six miles) according to the USGS. Social media

users reported feeling the tremor but there were no immediate reports of damage or injury. The quake was initially measured at 5.9 magnitude.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(5-5-2015 07:00 am~ 6-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

- * News
- * Responsible Tourism and Environment
- * A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
- * News
- * A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2)
- * A Person with Faith
- * Temple Stalls
- * News
- * Bagan Choral Dance
- * Ride for Climate Change
- * Myanmar Street Food
- * News
- * Image of The Monks
- * Myanmar Invites You
- * News
- * Chaung Tha at its peak period
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Today Myanmar "Fire Outbreak"
- * News
- * Taste of Myanmar (Noodle With Fermented (Soya Bean)
- * Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
- * Trishaw Man
- * News
- * Pride of Myanmar — Bagan arts and handicrafts
- * A Tourist Destination of Shan State
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * News
- * A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)
- * Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
- * News
- * Flying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure — Inle Lake (Part-1)
- * Egg Shell
- * News
- * Youth Filmmaker "Kaung Sint"
- * Kambawzathardi Golden Palace — A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days
- * Shaping Life with Music

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(5-5-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
 - Physics Exercise
- 7:00 am**
 - News / Weather Report
- 7:35 am**
 - Socio Economic Scenes
- 11:30 am**
 - Head Line News
- 12:00 noon**
 - News / International
 - News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
 - TV Drama Series
- 2:10 pm**
 - Documentary
- 2:35 pm**
 - Teleplay (Htar)
- 3:30 pm**
 - Head Line News
- 4:35 pm**
 - Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
- 4:45 pm**
 - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Philosophy)
- 5:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
- 5:30 pm**
 - Head Line News
- 6:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
- 6:35 pm**
 - Money Talk Myanmar
- 7:35 pm**
 - People's Talks
- 8:00 pm**
 - News / International
 - News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - News / International
 - News / Weather Report
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
 - TV Drama Series

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(5-5-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Mono Classical Songs
- 6:15 am**
 - Myanmar Series
- 6:45 am**
 - Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 7:00 am**
 - Fashion Show
- 7:10 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 7:55 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:30 am**
 - Musical Programme
- 8:45 am**
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 9:15 am**
 - Radio Teleplay
- 10:05 am**
 - ASEAN China Cultural Show
- 10:35 am**
 - Myanmar Video

Real Madrid face another defensive barrier at Juventus

TURIN, (Italy), 4 May — Having battled to break down one of Europe's meanest defences in the quarter-finals, Real Madrid will have to do it all over again when they face Juventus in their Champions League semi-final.

The defending champions took just under three hours to break down Atletico's resistance in the previous round, winning 1-0 on aggregate with a goal in the 88th minute of the second leg.

On Tuesday, they face a Juventus side who were crowned Serie A champions on Saturday with four games to spare after conceding only 19 goals in 34 games. Juve's defence has been just as impressive in the Champions League with only five goals against in 10 games and six clean

sheets.

However, Juventus are also a more refined outfit than Atletico, less prone to rough-arm tactics and capable of coming out and attacking depending on the circumstances.

Central defenders, Giorgio Chiellini, Andrea Barzagli and Leonardo Bonucci, have been playing together for four seasons for both Juventus and Italy, winning four successive Serie A titles.

"I think we have the best defence," Bonucci said ahead of their semi-final first leg against Real. "We know and understand each other perfectly after playing together for so long."

The question is whether it is good enough to stand a Real Madrid attack led by the prolific Cristiano Ronaldo, who sounded another



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (C) is challenged by Sevilla's Grzegorz Krychowiak (L) and Diogo Gomes Figueiras during their Spanish first division soccer match at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville, southern Spain on 2 May, 2015.—REUTERS

warning by firing his 25th La Liga hat-trick in the 3-2 win over Sevilla on Saturday.

Juventus will also have to worry about breaking down Real's defence, which has not conceded an

away goal in the competition since their 2-1 win at Ludogorets Razgrad on 1 October, a total of 444 minutes' playing time.

Although Juventus are the dominant force domestically, Italian football

has been in the doldrums for several years and they cannot compete with Real's spending power.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since Juventus last played in the semi-finals 12 years ago when, coincidentally, they also faced Real and won 4-3 on aggregate.

The only two surviving players from those ties are the respective goalkeepers Gianluigi Buffon and Iker Casillas.

Altogether, Juventus and Real have met 16 times before, all in the European Cup/Champions League, since their first meeting in the 1961/62 quarter-finals.

Those games have included one in the final in 1998, when Real Madrid won 1-0 to claim their seventh title. The most recent was in the group stage last

season when Real won 2-1 at the Bernabeu and drew 2-2 in Turin.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, who has surpassed expectations in his first season at the club, was happy to accept the underdogs' role.

"It's not every day you get to play Real Madrid so we have to keep our heads to reach the final. If we don't get there, it'll be expected," he told reporters.

"We are among the top four teams in Europe, have won the Scudetto and are in the Coppa Italia final. Nobody would have bet on us at the start of the season.

"Many thought we would be eliminated in the group stage but instead we are facing the reigning champions for a place in the final."

Reuters

Roger Federer crowns first Istanbul Open title

ISTANBUL, 4 May — Seventeen-time Grand slam winner Roger Federer lifted his first Istanbul Open trophy on Sunday after defeating Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay.

Federer started in the opening set with a 3-0 lead. The 33-year-old world No 2 finished the set 6-3 in 33 minutes over Pablo Cuevas, who stunned Grigor Dimitrov in the semis.

Cuevas played a much closer set in the second. But it was Federer who broke the Uruguayan on the seventh game for a 4-3 lead, before giving the advantage back on the next game. However, coming from 0-40 on the ninth game, world No 23 Cuevas showed heart by earning five consecutive points to move 5-4 ahead. And both played tough and proceeded into tie-break.

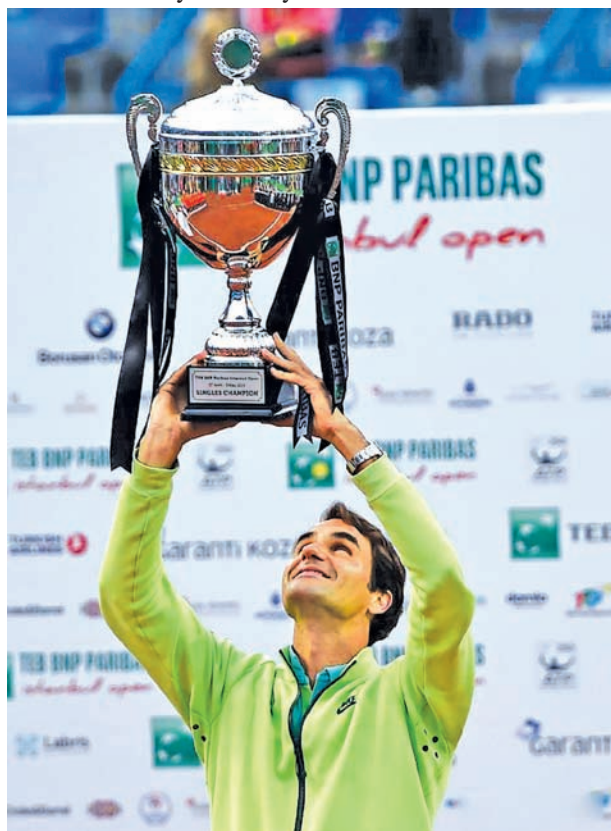
Federer lost two championship points at 6-4, and missed two more at 7-6 and 9-8. Cuevas also wasted three set points at 8-7, 10-9 and 11-10. After Cuevas's backhand was short in the net at 11-12, Federer was

crowned as Istanbul's first champ in his career.

Federer also claimed his first victory on clay

since 2012 Madrid Masters, and added the 85th title in his trophy cabinet.

Xinhua



Roger Federer of Switzerland lifts the trophy after the Men's Singles final against Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay at 2015 ATP World Tour Istanbul Open in Istanbul, Turkey, on 3 May, 2015. Roger Federer won 2-0.

XINHUA

More than 10,000 runners lighten downtown Athens in half marathon



David Le Porho (2nd L of 1st Row) of Canada, the winner of men's marathon in 2:21:53, runs from the start line with other participants during the 2015 GoodLife Fitness Toronto Marathon in Toronto, Canada on 3 May, 2015. More than 14,000 runners from over 50 countries and regions participated in the Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K or Relay on Sunday.—XINHUA

ATHENS, 4 May — More than 10,000 runners from Greece and abroad ran different races of the 4th

Athens Half Marathon on Sunday, enjoying the beauty of downtown Athens free of vehicles. According to the Hellenic Athletics Federation and the Municipality of Athens, coorganizers of the annual event from 2012, more than 4,000 runners competed this year's

half marathon while more than 8,000 people ran the 5km and 3km road races.

Michalis Parmakis, who was struggling with fever, won the half marathon with 1:11:58. He was followed by Georgios Menis with 1:12:36. Seconds later, Giorgos Karavidas arrived at the finish line in front of the parliament building with 1:12:58.

In the 5km and 3km

road races, the winners were Christos Kallias and Jorgo Mino with 15:35 and 8:35 respectively.

Organizers said the Athens Half Marathon, exclusively held in the streets of the Athens city center, is acknowledged as a major national, cultural, tourist and sport event, with the participation of more and more runners from other countries.—Xinhua

Nishikori eyes return to Madrid final

MADRID, 4 May — Kei Nishikori hopes to pick up what he left behind in the final last year as the World No 5 Japanese gears for the Madrid Open.

"I'm stronger both

physically and mentally this year," Nishikori said on the opening day of the tournament on Sunday. "I'm not insecure about playing on clay and I just have to keep my cool."

Fourth seed Nishikori receives a first-round bye and will face either Ernests Gulbis or David Goffin in his first match at the tournament, where three of the Big Four — defending

champion Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray — have entered.

Nishikori settled for a runner-up finish in 2014 after pulling out of the final against Nadal because

of a hip injury but hopes to make up for it this week, coming off a successful defence of the Barcelona Open title.

"I won in Barcelona so I feel confident," said Ni-

shikori, who has also won in Memphis this season. "I was able to play well here last year, and I want to go into the tournament with a fresh feeling."

Kyodo News

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