

Myanmar, Yunnan Province to cooperate in peace and stability in border areas



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Mr Chen Hao, Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Mr Chen Hao, Governor of Yunnan Province

of the People's Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Wednesday.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in peace and stability in border areas between the two countries, combating narcotic

drugs and human trafficking, trade promotion and rule of law.

Also present at the call were union ministers

U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Win Myint, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut and officials.

MNA

Art exhibition for orphans opens at Gallery 65 in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 6 May—An art exhibition titled “Beauties of East and West” opens this week at Gallery 65 in Yangon with the aim of revealing the cultures and traditions of both Eastern and Western countries, artist Than Soe said.

The show will run from 7 to 10 May, featuring 45 acrylic and oil paintings created by artists Ye Min (New York) and Than Soe. The paintings, ranging in size from 1.5'x2' to 4'x3', will be on sale.

“Some of the proceeds from the paintings sold will go to orphans who are taking shelter at a monastery in Yangon,” Than Soe told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* in an interview on Sunday.

“I created ten domestic culture-based paintings for this exhibition, whose prices range from US\$400 up to US\$2,000, but no

prices have been set for Ye Min's handiwork yet,” he said.

The gallery is located at No. 65 on Yaw Mingyi Street in Dagon Township in Yangon.

Ye Min has been active in the art world since

1980. He left Myanmar in 1988 to work as a screen printing artist and graphic artist in the girls' clothing industry in New York. “Beauties of East and West” will be his first exhibition to support orphans

with his friend.

Than Soe who also entered the art world in 1980, has a plan to showcase his handiwork at a group exhibition in late May in Yangon. He is also planning to participate in a watercolour art exhibition in Mandalay, the second largest city of the country, in June.

GNLM



Work of Artist Than Soe will be on display for sale at Gallery 65.

PHOTO: ARTIST THAN SOE

Insufficient administrative capacity causing delay in FDI flows: Serge Pun

YANGON, 6 May—Shortages of expertise and human resources in the government's administrative machinery are causing delays in the flow of foreign direct investment into the country, according to Myanmar's business tycoon Serge Pun.

In an exclusive interview with the Myanmar-language programme of Voice of America in Washington Tuesday, he said companies keen to introduce foreign investment are made to wait longer than necessary due to the many steps in the gov-

ernment's administrative machinery stemming from insufficient capacity.

He also cited the insufficient human capacity and expertise of the Myanmar Investment Commission.

The chairman of Serge Pun & Associates also called for cooperation between the government and business communities in Myanmar to ensure job creation for the country's youths and to improve the skill of the workforce and thereby boost the country's economy.

Serge Pun, a self-made



businessman, expressed his views on the current political and economic situation in Myanmar at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington on Tuesday.—GNLM

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Commander-in-Chief on his first visits to Pakistan and Serbia

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left the Yangon International Airport to pay

official visits to Pakistan and Serbia on Wednesday, at the invitations of General Rashad Mahmood, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Commit-

tee of the Pakistan Army, and Mr Bratislav Gasic, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Serbia.

His visits to the two countries are the first for

a leader of Myanmar's army. Myanmar has maintained diplomatic and military relations with Pakistan for 68 years and with Serbia for 24 years.

It had 40 years of diplomatic and military relations with Serbia's former Yugoslavia.

During the visits, the commander-in-chief will

meet top military leaders of both countries and visit heavy industries to create new levels of cooperation.

Myawady

Union FM meets officials from ICRC, UNFPA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Mr Boris Michel, Head of Operations for Asia and the Pacific Zone, ICRC based in Geneva, Switzerland, paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the latter's office here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of cooperation between Myanmar and the ICRC.

U Wunna Maung Lwin also met Ms Janet E. Jackson, the United Nations Population Fund-UNFPA Representative to Myanmar, on that day to discuss the matters related to cooperation between Myanmar



and the UNFPA on demographic dividend and youth employment.

MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Ms Janet E. Jackson, the United Nations Population Fund-UNFPA Representative to Myanmar.—MNA

Photo and poster show opens marking 70th anniversary of end of World War II, Great Patriotic War

YANGON, 6 May — A photo and poster exhibition jointly organized by the Russian Federation and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the Great Patriotic War opened Wednesday at the National Museum in Dagon Township, here.

Both Russian Amba-

sador Mr Vasily Pospelov and Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan attended the opening and spoke about the purpose of holding the exhibition.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and ambassadors viewed the documentary photos on display.

The show will run up to 17 May from 9 am to 4.30 pm daily.—MNA

Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Russian Ambassador Mr Vasily Pospelov view round works of photo and poster contest.—MNA

Outstanding students visit places of interest in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Outstanding students arrived at Gold Camp in the township of Wunna Theikdi here on Tuesday.

On Wednesday morning, ninth graders from Bagan Camp and tenth graders from Inlay Camp visited the Uppatasanti Pagoda, where they paid homage to Buddha Images and the duplicated relic tooth of the

Buddha, doing meritorious deeds. They also went to the Defence Services Museum, where they studied military devices used the naval, air and army forces. In the evening, the students visited the Gems Museum and the Water Fountain Garden.

Smart eleventh graders from Ngwehsaung Camp are expected to arrive at

Gold Camp on Wednesday evening. Their visits on 7 May will include Thatta Thattaha Pagoda, the parliament and Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground. In the evening, they will join the outstanding students assembly which is scheduled for Thursday evening at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2.

MNA



US-Myanmar Exchange & Gala Dinner marks opening of Myanmar Consulate General in LA

LOS ANGELES, CA, 6 May — A new Myanmar Consulate General was opened at 3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1590, in downtown Los Angeles on 2 May, further strengthening the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mayor of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors the Honorable Michael D. Antonovich presented a welcome scroll to His Excellency U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and a commemoration plaque

to the Honorable U Aung Kyaw Zan, the first Myanmar Consul General on the West Coast. The Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti sent a congratulations scroll to warmly welcome the Consulate. Honorable Judy Chu, Member of US Congress from California's 27th congressional district presented a Certificate of Congressional Recognition to the new Consulate General. The celebrations continued with a Gala Dinner honored by officials and business leaders from both countries later in the evening with over 200 attendees.

Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Kyaw Myo Htut, sent a letter to convey his heartfelt congratulations to the organizers of the US-Myanmar Exchange & Gala Dinner. U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, reiterated Myanmar's determination to invigorate bilateral relations and bolster economic ties with the US, and stated that this opening of the new Consulate General Office reflect the US's engagement and encouragement of the ongoing reform process in Myanmar.—GNLM



Israeli Ambassador Mr Daniel Zohar Zonshine welcomes Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw at a reception to mark 67th Anniversary of Independence Day of the State of Israel at Sedona Hotel on 6 May evening.—MNA

NATIONAL

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—Energy projects need strict supervision to ensure that they have no detrimental effects on the environment, Vice President U Nyan Tun said Wednesday at a meeting organized by the National Energy Management Committee.

The vice president spoke of three energy projects at the national level, saying Myanmar is working with the Asian Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the World Bank Group to satisfy the country's energy and electricity needs in the future.

The meeting will conduct a detailed observation of the projects jointly initiated between the Ministry of Energy and the three foreign organizations, with the vice president stressing an analysis of the reliability of statistics and calculations.

Energy projects need supervision to deter detrimental effect on environment: vice president



Vice President U Nyan Tun addresses coordination meeting of National Energy Management Committee.—MNA

Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Khin Maung Soe, U Win Tun, U Maung Myint, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Ko Ko Oo

and U Zeyar Aung briefed the vice president on implementation of long-term plans for energy, cooperation with international

bodies, and the formulation of policies, rules and regulations.

Prior to the meeting, Vice President U Nyan Tun met a delegation led by Axel van Trotsenburg,

vice president of East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank Group, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.

Their discussions focused on rural poverty re-

duction, investments in human resources, support for the private sector to create more jobs, and Myanmar's Partnership Framework 2015-2017 with the World Bank Group.—MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann calls on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon.

MNA

NEW YORK, 6 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, called on United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the latter's office in New York, the United States, on 5 May.

They exchanged views on human rights, democracy and peace processes in Myanmar. Mr Vijay Nambiar, the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Myanmar, was present at the meeting too.

Thura U Shwe Mann

also met Vijay Nambiar at the latter's office in New York in the morning the same day.

The speaker and his entourage visited Asia Society, where they viewed round the Buddhist Art of Myanmar booth.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives ICRC Asia and Pacific Zone Chief



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Mr Boris Michel, Head of Operations for of Asia and Pacific Zone of ICRC.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—A delegation led by Mr Boris Michel, Head of Operations for of Asia and Pacific Zone of the International Committee of the Red Cross called on Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at his office at Hluttaw Complex,

here, on Wednesday.

They discussed tasks undertaken by ICRC in Asia and Pacific region, endeavours of ICRC in Myanmar and its future plans.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speak-

er of Amyotha Hluttaw and Chairman of Hluttaw Rights Committee U Mya Nyein, Secretary of Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyan-na Soe and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.

MNA

STI Myanmar University nurtures engineering and business students

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—STI Myanmar University linking with University of Bedfordshire in England, the Open University of Hong Kong and Seo Kyeong University of South Korea conducts engineering courses, business, account-

ing and finance and MBA courses on the MICT Campus of Hline Universities in Yangon.

Experience teachers train the students on leadership, analysis and initiative skills in studying the subjects.—MNA

U Myint Naung concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Portuguese Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 7 May—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Naung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Portuguese Republic.—MNA

Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn presents credentials to Vice President of Argentine Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 7 May—Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Argentine Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Amado Boudou, Vice President of the Argentine Republic, on 23 April 2015, in Buenos Aires.—MNA

IPRD official calls for development of libraries



TATKON, 6 May — Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin of Nay Pyi Taw Information and Public Relations Department together with the head of Township IPRD and staff visited Lawka Alin library in Ohnbin village in Tatkon Township on 4 May.

The deputy director supplicated on improvement of the library, increasing of books and publications at the library and convenient reading for the residents to the abbots.

She held talks with librarians and library committees on development of the libraries in the township.

The deputy director donated various subjects of books to the abbot, patron of the library.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)*

Local road under expansion to ease traffic congestion

KALAY, 6 May — Expansion of Bogyoke Road has been completed in Kalay, Sagaing Region recently. Under the guidance of the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, Pinlon Lanmadaw Road is being expanded to be a 100-foot-wide road.

Chairman of Kalay

District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and departmental officials supervised the expansion of the road.

Upon completion, both Bogyoke Road and Pinlon Lanmadaw Road will help ease traffic congestion in downtown Kalay.—*Joe Net*



Dawei Nurses Training School holds capping and coating for trainees



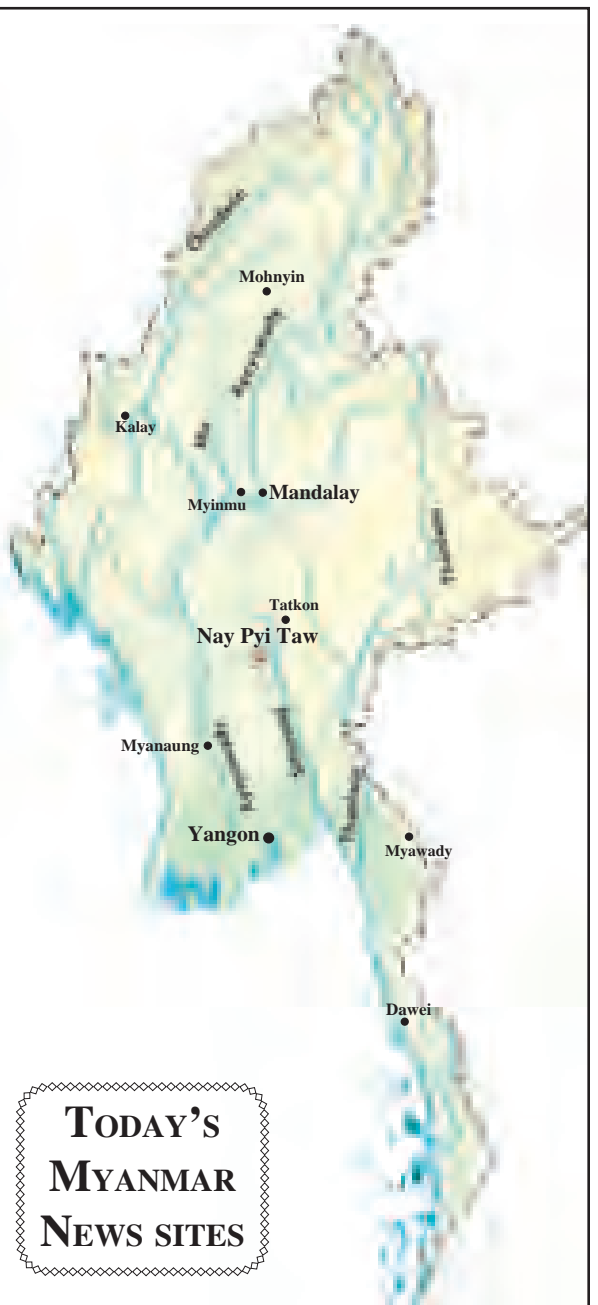
DAWEI, 6 May — A capping and coating ceremony of trainees from the four-year Nursing Course No 22 was held at Dawei Nurses Training School, Taninthayi Region, on 5 May, with a speech by Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko.

Principal of the school Daw Thin Thin Hlaing spoke about capping and coating for the trainees and presented caps and coats to 58 trainees.

Chief Minister U Myat Ko and ministers presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Also present on the occasion were Medical Superintendent Daw Myint Myint Khaing of Dawei General Hospital and departmental officials.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



Health staff take prevention of dengue haemorrhagic fever in rural areas

TATKON, 6 May — Rural health assistant and health staff made field trips to villages in Tatkon Township on 5 May for disseminating health knowledge on prevention of dengue haemorrhagic fever to local people.

Health assistant U Aung Win Hlaing gave

talks on prevention of DHG and dysentery to the local residents in Aintkyel Village.

Health staff cleared water with larvae from the residences and searched DHF suspects in Htantabin Village.

Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)

Meiktila's residents consume drinking water from water treatment plant

MANDALAY, 6 May — Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint inspected supply of water to Meiktila from the water treatment plant near the independence monument in Meiktila in the last week of April. Chairman of Authentic Water and Wastewater Co Ltd Dr Tun Than Tun and engineers spoke about supply of 1.1 million gallons of water to the urban area.

Mandalay Region government allotted K932 mil-

lion of fund to supply of water in Meiktila in 2013-14 fiscal year. According

to the result from laboratory test, the water from the water treatment plant meets

the standards set by World Health Organization. The chief minister and party also

inspected dredging of silt in Meiktila Lake (North) and construction of the bridge

over Meiktila on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Thailand says making progress against illegal fishing

BANGKOK, 6 May — Thailand has made significant headway in the fight against illegal fishing, Deputy Prime Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula said on Wednesday, following a decision by the European Union last month to give the country six months to drastically clean up its fishing industry.

The world's third-largest seafood exporter was issued a "yellow card" by the EU and risks an embargo on its fish exports in October unless it cracks down on illegal fishing.

Thailand's annual exports to the EU are estimated to be worth between 575 million euros and 730 million euros (539 million pounds).

Pridiyathorn said major weaknesses identified by the EU have been resolved, including the registration of thousands of undocumented fishing vessels. "Every organization has solved the important problems including boat registration and installation of vessel monitoring and traceability systems, in order to decipher where the fish comes from, what it is, which waters it was caught from and what the vessel names are," said Pridiyathorn.

A high percentage of the Thai fishing fleet is unregistered and outside government control. Thailand's fishing sector also employs thousands of migrant workers from neighbouring countries including Cambodia and Myanmar.



Migrant labourers sorting fish as they work on a Thai fishing boat in Sattahip, Thailand's Rayong Province. It is claimed that many migrant workers in Thai's fishing industries have been trafficked.—REUTERS

Some are trafficked into the country illegally.

An EU source in Thailand, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the EU's decision did not take into account the use

of illegal migrant labour on Thai fishing boats. "This is about illegal fishing vessels and fishing

practices and what is known as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing," she said.

Some Thai fishermen told *Reuters* last month that they were sceptical the country could clean up its act in time.

Pridiyathorn admitted that Thailand was having difficulty checking historical fishing data.

"What we are having trouble with is checking records retroactively because this involves checking not only in Thailand but also with other, neighbouring countries." An EU delegation is due to visit Thailand next week to discuss progress and action plans with the Thai government.

Reuters

New Japan-funded bridge over Mekong is magnet for tourists

NEAK LOEUNG, (Cambodia), 6 May — The latest and largest Japan-funded suspension bridge across the Mekong River has become a popular tourist site, attracting Cambodians from all walks of life.

One month after "Tsubasa" was inaugurated, people from across the nation are still flocking to the inaugurated the 2,215-metre "Tsubasa" bridge, both day and night, taking selfies or photos with friends and family, and posting them on social media.

Bun Rany Hun Sen, the wife of Cambodia's prime minister, recently uploaded to Facebook a photo of her with her mother and relatives at the bridge, which is located in Neak Loeung, about 60 kilometres east of Phnom Penh. Admiring the spectacular view, another visitor, 89-year-old Mak Ngov, said she had never been to such an amazing bridge in all her life.

"I'd heard about the bridge for about a month but didn't have an opportunity to come and see it until my children brought me here today. I want to stand here as long as possible or until security police chase me out."

When asked why it is so special for her, she replied, "It's very high, very long and of modern construction, with very beautiful scenery on all sides and very breezy. It's the best bridge in Cambodia." Keo Dara, head of traffic police unit guarding the bridge, said thousands of travelers stop and take pho-



A 2.2-kilometre-long bridge called "Tsubasa Bridge" over the Mekong River in Cambodia is seen on 6 April, 2015. The newly completed bridge, built with funding from Japan's official development assistance project, is expected to boost trade between the country and neighbouring nations. —KYODO NEWS

tos on it every day, especially in late afternoon, while the number skyrockets on weekends and holidays.

He said that with so many vehicles descending on the bridge at once, he and his colleagues have their work cut out for them, but have been patiently asking tourists to leave the bridge as soon as they can to ease traffic congestion.

A *Kyodo News* reporter on Wednesday witnessed the occupants of two different luxury cars pay small "coffee money" to the police after being allowed to stop briefly on the bridge to snap photos. The almost carnival atmosphere at the bridge, which links National Route 1 at both sides of the Mekong, has prompted even Prime Minister Hun Sen to voice concerns.

He recently ordered the Ministry of Public Works

and Transport, together with local authorities and traffic police, to take immediate action to ease congestion, such as by cracking down on people who stop their cars on the bridge to take photos as well as on mobile fast-food vendors. Appearing more contented than concerned was Japanese Ambassador Yuji Kumamaru, who told *Kyodo News* he is "so happy that the Tsubasa Bridge has become an attraction spot for everybody in Cambodia."

"It is indeed good to learn that so many people are coming to see the bridge and taking pictures of it," the envoy said, adding, "I think that the construction of the bridge is just about the most successful project of Japan in this country in terms of both winning people's popularity and making huge impact to the Cambodian economy."

The bridge, the third

large-scale one donated by Japan so far, was constructed at a cost of 119.4 million yen (approximately \$127 million) in Japanese grant assistance.

"It was indeed very costly project," Kumamaru said, noting that there had been debate in Japan on whether it should be a grant project or a concessional loan project.

"It is extremely rare to provide assistance of this scale and cost in the form of grant assistance. But after long and difficult consideration, the Japanese government decided to make it as a gift to Cambodian people as a token of friendship. Looking back, I feel my government has made a right decision," the ambassador added. During the April 6 inauguration ceremony, Hun Sen called the bridge a "dream come true," saying it replaces the costly and time-consuming boat and ferry transport across one of Asia's biggest rivers.

That same day, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a message from Tokyo saying he hopes the bridge will contribute not only to Cambodia's economic development but that of the wider Mekong region.

The bridge, connecting Cambodia's Kandal and Prey Veng provinces, is part of linkages in the so-called "southern economic corridor," a roughly 1,000-kilometre-long stretch of road linking Ho Chi Minh City with Bangkok via Phnom Penh.—*Kyodo News*

Philippines, Japan coast guards hold anti-piracy drills

ABOARD BRP BATANGAS, (Philippines), 6 May — Philippine and Japanese coast guard teams staged an anti-piracy drill on Wednesday, featuring the storming of a cargo vessel after a mock hijack, in a show of maritime cooperation between the two nations amid rising tension in Asian waters. Both nations face a challenge from China's growing assertiveness over territorial claims in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, where it uses coast guard and fishing vessels to press into disputed areas.

Wednesday's drill was the first held by Japan and the Philippines after signing a strategic partnership pact in 2012.

The rare maritime law enforcement exercises in Manila Bay were watched by the coast guard chiefs of 17 Asian nations, including China, who are meeting to find ways to cooperate in boosting safety and battling piracy and transnational crime. Japan has been helping the Philippines improve its skills in maritime law enforcement, safety and environment protection, Captain Koichi Kawagoe of Japan's coast guard told reporters.

"This exercise is for mutual interest, such as piracy and illegal trafficking, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking," Kawagoe said, adding that Japan was ready to help Southeast Asian nations, even in the disputed South China Sea.

"As long as the incident is related to piracy, we will

coordinate our efforts."

China claims most of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taipei also have overlapping claims. China has rejected diplomatic protests by the Philippines and Vietnam and criticism from the United States over its reclamation work on reefs and tiny islands, saying it falls "within the scope of China's sovereignty". Last month, China's coast guard fired water cannon on Philippine fishermen in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. In the past, it has challenged Japan's coast guard near a disputed island in the East China Sea.

An armed Japanese coast guard vessel joined Wednesday's law enforcement drills, about 10 miles (16 km) off the port of Manila, in which Japanese anti-terrorist team used rubber boat to engage mock hijackers who had seized a vessel.

The Philippines plans to hold three exercises with Japan this year, said Captain Artemio Abu of the Philippine Coast Guard, adding that Filipinos also train in Tokyo. Later this year, the Philippines will take delivery of the first of ten 40-metre (131-foot) patrol boats Japan is building, said Coast Guard spokesman Commander Armand Balilo.

It will also get five boats from France and two helicopters to stiffen its enforcement efforts.—*Reuters*

Leader of Australian opposition Greens Party resigns unexpectedly



Australian Senator Christine Milne

SYDNEY, 6 May — Australian Senator Christine Milne unexpectedly resigned as leader of the small but influential Greens Party on Wednesday, raising questions over the future of an important political bloc outside the two mainstream parties.

Milne, who took over the party from founder Bob Brown in 2012, quickly built on its early successes by aggressively peeling voters from the main opposition Labor Party's left flank on issues such as climate change and asylum seekers.

The Greens chose as her replacement the largely unknown Senator Richard Di Natale, a doctor from Victoria state who was elected to parliament in 2010. "Richard Di Natale has been elected unopposed as the Australian Greens leader," Senator Rachel Siewart told reporters directly after the closed-door vote. Milne's deputy Adam Bandt, a nationally known lawmaker from Melbourne, was surprisingly dropped from the leadership, while Senator Larissa Waters and Scott Ludlam were elected unopposed as co-deputy leaders, Siewart said.

Milne's resignation leaves the party without a

proven leader less than two years from general elections. That vote will likely be seen at least partly as a referendum on the Greens' long-term viability as more than just a party of protest.

"It is with a mix of optimism, pride, excitement and sadness that I am resigning the leadership and leaving the Senate," Milne said in a statement.

"My decision to resign today is one I made with my family," said Milne, who is from the island state of Tasmania. Milne has been a mainstay of left-wing politics since she was elected to the Tasmanian state parliament in 1989. She graduated to the federal Senate in 2004, where she served as Brown's deputy from 2008 until his resignation.

Despite early scepticism over her ability to replace the charismatic Brown, she led the party from strength to strength in national and state elections.

"Christine is the greatest champion of climate change action in Australian politics," Brown said in a statement. Her resignation came just weeks after state elections in New South Wales in which the Greens scored their best-ever performance, building on anger among farmers over coal-seam gas mining to capture two traditionally right-wing seats. Milne has been one of the nation's most vocal critics of conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott. Di Natale will have the difficult first task of rebutting the government's annual budget next week.

Reuters

US approves ferry services to Cuba

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The US government on Tuesday approved ferry services to Cuba for the first time in decades, the latest move forward after the two countries began normalizing relations in December.

According to *Reuters* news agency, the US Treasury Department issued licenses to operate ferry services to at least two companies, Miami-based Baja Ferries and Puerto Rico-based America Cruise Ferries. Services

could begin within the year, pending approval from the Cuban government.

Ferry travel between the United States and Cuba stopped in the early 1960s after the Cuban Revolution. Only authorized US citizens will be able to travel to Cuba under the US trade embargo.

Both firms plan to run services three to four days a week on ships capable of carrying roughly 1,000 passengers as well as cargo, *Reuters* reported.

Kyodo News

US aims to make Iran nuclear deal immune to Russian, Chinese veto

UNITED NATIONS, 6 May — Washington wants to be certain that any nuclear deal between Iran and major powers includes the possibility of restoring UN sanctions if Teheran breaks the agreement without risking Russian and Chinese vetoes, a senior US official said on Tuesday.

United Nations sanctions and a future mechanism for Iran to buy atomic technology are two core sticking points in talks on a possible nuclear deal on which Teheran and world powers have been struggling to overcome deep divisions in recent days, diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

Negotiators were wrapping up nearly a week of talks in New York on Tuesday, the latest round in 18 months of discussions aimed at clinching a long-term deal by 30 June to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for an end to sanctions. Expert-level negotiations are expected to continue for several days.

The current talks have been taking place on the sidelines of a conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The negotiations between Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and the European Union will resume in Vienna next week.

The latest discussions revolved around a future Security Council resolution that would endorse a deal and render invalid all previous sanctions resolutions,



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif pose for a photograph before resuming talks over Iran's nuclear programme in Lausanne on 16 March, 2015.

REUTERS

while keeping UN bans on ballistic missiles, an arms embargo and some other restrictions. US and European negotiators want any easing of UN sanctions to be automatically reversible - negotiators call this a "snapback" — if Teheran fails to comply with terms of a deal. Russia and China traditionally dislike such automatic measures.

The "snapback" is one of the most important issues for Western governments who fear that, once any UN sanctions on Iran are suspended, it could be hard to restore them because Russia and China would veto any such attempt.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power made it clear that Washington did not want Russia's and China's recent veto of resolutions related to Syria to be repeated with an Iran nuclear agreement.

"We're going to do so in a manner that doesn't re-

quire Russian and Chinese support or a vote for snapback ... because we are in a different world in 2015 than we were when the sanctions architecture was put in place," Power said in an interview with Charlie Rose on Bloomberg television. She offered no details.

Power said Washington hoped the conclusion of a nuclear deal with Teheran would lead to a change in Iran's posture on Syria, where it has supported President Bashar al-Assad in a four-year civil war against rebels seeking to oust him.

Iran's chief negotiator in New York offered a positive assessment of the latest round of nuclear negotiations. "The atmosphere of the talks was good and it is possible to reach the final deal by 30 June," Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told Iranian state television.

However, Western diplomats said on condition of anonymity that Iran and the

six powers, who struck an interim agreement on 2 April in Switzerland, were far from agreement due to divisions on sanctions, monitoring and other issues. Restoring US and EU sanctions is relatively easy, but that is not the case with UN sanctions. While the United States is worried about Russia and China, Moscow, Beijing and Teheran want to be certain that Washington cannot unilaterally force a snapback if the Republicans win the US presidency in 2016.

"We haven't found a mechanism that works for everyone yet," one diplomat said.

Another difficult issue is the "procurement channel" — a mechanism for approving Iranian purchases of sensitive atomic technology currently banned under UN sanctions. One idea under consideration is a vetting committee that would include Iran and the six powers. Teheran would have a say but not a veto, diplomats said.

Iran says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful and rejects allegations from Western countries and their allies that it wants the capability to produce atomic weapons. It says all sanctions are illegal and works hard to circumvent them. A confidential report by a UN Panel of Experts, obtained by *Reuters* last week, said Britain had informed it of an active Iranian nuclear procurement network linked to two blacklisted companies.—*Reuters*

Volcanic alert raised for Mt Hakone as small eruption deemed possible

TOKYO, 6 May — Japanese authorities raised the volcanic alert for Mt Hakone, a popular tourist spot southwest of Tokyo, on Wednesday morning, anticipating a possible small eruption that could impact the nearby Owakudani hot spring district and calling on people to stay away from potentially dangerous areas.

The alert has been raised from 1, or "normal," to 2, a level advising regulated entries to areas around the volcanic vent, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The number of volcanic earthquakes there on Tuesday reached 116, the highest ever recorded in one day, the agency said.

The local town office issued an evacuation order for a 300-metre radi-



Police officers keep drivers away from a road leading to the Owakudani hot spring district of Mt Hakone, a popular tourist spot southwest of Tokyo, on 6 May, 2015.

Japanese authorities raised the volcanic alert for the mountain the same day, anticipating a possible small steam eruption.—KYODO NEWS

us around Owakudani and closed the road leading to the area. It revised the evacuation area from the initially announced 700 metres. The

operator of Hakone Ropeway suspended a portion of its service running through Owakudani. Caution is advised over ash deposits and

rocks that could rain down on the area if an eruption occurs. Seismic activity has been increasing since April 26 in the Mt. Hakone region, a popular spot for tourists and hikers in Kanagawa Prefecture, with tremors originating from areas around Owakudani. On Tuesday, three minor earthquakes were reported in Hakone-Yumoto, while active steam bursts were also observed at hot spring facilities in Owakudani, leading the authorities to believe volcanic activity is intensifying.

Meteorological agency officials have become more concerned after the last of the three tremors was focused deeper than the earlier ones, raising the possibility of a steam eruption.

Kyodo News

Obama expected to push for Gulf missile defence at US summit



US President Barack Obama plays host to a Cinco de Mayo reception in the East Room of the White House in Washington on 5 May, 2015. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 6 May — President Barack Obama is expected to make a renewed US push next week to help Gulf allies create a region-wide defence system to guard against Iranian missiles as he seeks to allay their anxieties over any nuclear deal with Teheran, according to US sources.

The offer could be ac-

companied by enhanced security commitments, new arms sales and more joint military exercises, US officials say, as Obama tries to reassure Gulf Arab countries that Washington is not abandoning them.

With little more than a week to go before Obama hosts the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council at the White House and then

at Camp David, aides are discussing the options in pre-summit meetings with Arab diplomats. Officials say no final decisions on possible US proposals have been made.

Obama faces a formidable challenge in deciding how far to go to sell sceptical Sunni-led allies on his top foreign policy priority, a final nuclear deal with Shi'ite Iran due by a 30 June deadline. Failure to placate them could further strain ties, though additional defence obligations would carry the risk of the United States being drawn into new Middle East conflicts.

Obama issued the invitation to the GCC after Iran and six world powers reached a framework agreement last month that would give Teheran sanctions relief for reining in its nuclear programme.

Gulf Arab neighbours,

including key US ally Saudi Arabia, worry that Iran will not be deterred from a nuclear bomb and will be flush with cash from unfrozen assets to fund proxies and expand its influence in countries such as Syria, Yemen and Lebanon.

US officials with knowledge of the internal discussions concede that Obama is under pressure to calm Arab fears by offering strengthened commitments.

"It's a time to see what things might be required to be formalised," a senior US official said.

Obama is all but certain to stop short of a full security treaty with Saudi Arabia or other Gulf nations as that would require approval by the Republican-controlled Senate and risk stoking tensions with Washington's main Middle East ally Israel.

Reuters

Last chance for Cameron and Miliband to break election deadlock



A journalist standing in Downing Street holds cardboard cutouts of Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (R) and Ed Miliband, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, in central London on 18 March, 2015. —REUTERS

LONDON, 6 May — Campaigning in Britain's most unpredictable election in a generation enters its final day on Wednesday with the two main parties level in most polls and neither on track to command a majority in the parliament of the world's fifth largest economy.

Despite more than five weeks of campaigning, neither Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party nor Ed Miliband's opposition Labour has established a clear lead, and the outcome of Thursday's vote could be messy and uncertain.

The stakes are higher than usual because of a rare confluence of factors which mean Britain's future in the European Union, as well as its national cohesion, could hinge on the election outcome.

Cameron has promised to hold a referendum on whether to stay in or quit the EU if he returns to power. And polls suggest Scottish nationalists could emerge as the third largest party, despite losing a plebiscite last year on whether Scotland should break away from the United Kingdom.

"The consequences if you take a wrong turn could at its worst — and I'm not predicting this — mean that within a matter of years, two unions which are pivotal to the prosperity and way of life of everybody in Britain are lost," Nick Clegg, the deputy prime minister and Liberal Democrat leader, told Reuters during the campaign.

Five years ago, Britain got its first coalition government since World War Two when Cameron fell

short of an overall majority and struck a deal with Clegg's centrist party to govern together to steady the economy.

Many Britons thought that was a one-off.

But the rise of formerly fringe parties such as the pro-independence Scottish National Party and the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) has fragmented the political landscape, siphoning off support from the two main parties.

Of five opinion polls released on Tuesday, the Conservatives led in two, Labour in one, and two showed them neck-and-neck.

UKIP suffered embarrassment when it was forced to suspend one of its candidates for threatening to "put a bullet" in his Conservative rival.

The big party leaders have avoided game-changing gaffes but drawn mockery at times: Cameron for forgetting the name of his favourite football team, and Miliband for engraving his campaign pledges on a giant stone, prompting ironic comparisons with Moses.

Cameron, who is banking on one of the strongest economic recoveries in the developed world to get him re-elected, will make his final pitch to voters as he rounds off a two-day road trip.

Stagnant polls have prompted him to refine his message, blending the promise of higher living standards with a warning that Scottish nationalists could hold to ransom a minority Labour government, cajoling it to spend and borrow more.

Reuters

Canada's Alberta takes turn to left, Conservative premier resigns

CALGARY, 6 May — Canada's left-leaning New Democrats ended a 44-year run in office by the Conservatives in the province of Alberta on Tuesday, sweeping to victory on a promise to review oversight of the oil and gas sector in the country's energy heartland.

The election was a seismic political shift in the province and sparked the immediate resignation of Progressive Conservative Premier Jim Prentice as party leader. He also quit his legislative seat.

"We made a little bit of history tonight," New Democrat Premier-elect Rachel Notley told jubilant supporters.

Following a month-long campaign, the New Democratic Party (NDP), which has never held more than 16 seats in the 87-seat provincial legislature, will lead a majority government.

Official results showed the NDP appeared set to

win 54 seats while the Progressive Conservatives were likely to take just 10, behind the even more staunchly conservative Wildrose Party, which was on course for 21.

The NDP is expected to be far less accommodative to the Western Canadian province's powerful energy industry, and investors in energy shares on Canadian stock markets were expected to react negatively on Wednesday.

Notley has proposed a review of oil and gas royalties in the resource-rich province and reduced support for some pipeline projects, such as TransCanada Corp.'s controversial Keystone XL project. The NDP had also promised to hike corporate tax rates by 2 percentage points to 12 percent.

Alberta's oil sands are the largest source of US oil imports.

"I think the business community is going to be awfully worried here tomorrow morning," said Jeremy McCrea, analyst at AltaCorp Capital Inc. "There are going to be a lot of worried executives on what royalty rates are going to be here going forward."

Notley moved to assuage worries of the province's oil industry in her acceptance speech, saying her party would be a "good partner" to the energy sector. Notley also said Canada needed a national approach



NDP supporters cheer as election results come in during festivities at the election headquarters in Edmonton on 5 May, 2015. —REUTERS

row morning," said Jeremy McCrea, analyst at AltaCorp Capital Inc. "There are going to be a lot of worried executives on what royalty rates are going to be here going forward."

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in the western state of Jalisco. Six soldiers, eight gang members and one state official were killed, National Security Commission Director Monte Alejandro Rubido told Mexico's Radio Formula on Monday.

Gonzalez, was arrested

to address environmental issues.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the country's most powerful oil lobby, said the new premier should focus on more building more pipelines.

"We do not think now is the time for a royalty review that will add uncertainty at a time when jobs and capital investment are very much at stake," spokesman Jeff Gaulin said. —Reuters

at the end of February.

Last month, Gonzalez was included on a US Department of the Treasury blacklist along with his brother-in-law, Nemesio Oseguera, who is the leader of Jalisco New Generation.

Reuters

Gang boss from troubled Mexican state to be extradited to US

MEXICO CITY, 6 May — The Mexican federal prosecutor's office said on Tuesday that it plans to extradite to the United States a drug lord linked to the Jalisco New Generation cartel, currently the biggest organised crime threat in the country.

The man to be extradited, Abigael Gonzalez, is the leader Los Cuinis, which is a close ally of the fearsome Jalisco New Generation cartel. In a stunning act last week, members of Jalisco New Generation shot down a Mexican army helicopter

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 7 May, 2015

Modern public transport is a top priorityBy *Aung Khin*

Myanmar needs to make public transport a top priority as it prepares for the 2015 ASEAN economic community along with other regional countries. Infrastructural development is a necessity for the competitive market in which the member countries will try to seek opportunities for the flow of their commodities and labour.

After being neglected or mismanaged for years, the infrastructural sector of Myanmar is now ready to attract significant investment in tel-

ecommunications and power networks as well as in modern road, rail, airport and port systems.

By relying too heavily on city buses, Yangon now sees serious traffic congestion every day at every area. Some transportation experts have remarked that the former capital needs a modern transportation system such as a sky train system to solve daily traffic congestion.

While the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other international funding organizations, along with foreign firms and investors, are helping Myanmar develop its infrastructural sector, more support is still needed. Sound and public-centered policies of the government are crucial to improve this sector.

The Asian Development Bank has recently mentioned that Myanmar's transport sector is considerably underdeveloped in comparison to other neighbouring ASEAN countries. While the average road network in ASEAN is 11 km per 1,000 people, Myanmar only has around 2 km of

roads per 1,000 people. The gap is too significant.

A modern transport system is one of the ways to develop the capabilities of citizens in their activities. Myanmar has only around 18.1 vehicles per 1,000 people compared to Thailand's 370. However, traffic jams in Yangon have serious impacts on commuters due to the lack of a modern transport system or mass transport system, which has the potential to contribute a lot to the daily lives of students, visitors and workers who are the human resources useful for the development of the country.

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*Hailing the 21st Performing Arts Competitions***The role of performing arts within and between nations**

*Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt*

[As a retired Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts and Performing Arts, the Ministry of Culture and one who has long been involved in annual Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions since its inception in 1994, the writer is obliged to hail this year competitions and honour it with the following article.]

Ever since "Anthropithecus Erectus" emerged in the long process of the evolution of mankind, the so-called Homo Sapien or full-fledged human who began to walk on his two hind legs upright and his two front legs became his hands he showed his inborn performing arts. He stands in tri-binga (Tribhanga) posture [three bends of his body – head, hip, and two hands and two legs, ခေါင်း ခါး ခြေ ဝတ်]. He moves these three bends of his body not only to balance but also present these movements artistically, whether consciously or unconsciously. He walks on balance, swaying his two hands gracefully alternately with his head moving forward, sideward and backward physically but artistically as well. His movements are for physical fitness as well as for artistic gestures.

He is born with music. The sound is produced not only from his mouth with

the help of his tongue but other remaining eight apertures of his body produce sounds. If sounds are agreeable, pleasant and acceptable they are music if not they are noises. Not only sound from his body produced with the means of wind, he can also produce sounds with the beat of his legs and hands, clapping, tapping and stepping. That is percussion music by his body. We may safely say that man is born with wind and percussion music.

Besides, man is most intelligent being, quick to learn from his surrounding – nature. Sounds and movements of natural phenomena – the breeze, the wind, the storm, the lightning, the thunder, the rain, the spring, the falls, the lakes, the streams, the rivers, the seas and oceans and the sounds and movements of terrestrial, aquatic and avian creatures including tiny insects. From them man not only learns musical notes and scales but also dance postures and dramatic gestures.

In this land, we today call Myanmar are discovered relics of early man – Pondaung Primate fossils which were proved by the consensus of world paleontologists 40 million years senior to their Egyptian counterparts in the Nile valley. Needless to detail

various stages of civilizational progress in sequence in Myanmar – Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic Ages, from food gathering Ages to food producing Ages, advancing from natural stone users to metallic tools and weapons users of Bronze and Iron Ages. Throughout these Ages, early man of Myanmar had left behind cultural heritages of their activities of daily life in the form of cave painting, weapons and tools, other artifacts and funerary objects of their dead. As Myanmar early man advanced in the progress of civilization they left evidences of their activities in many media of visual and performing arts, and recorded them in letters, inscriptions and ink writings. The Padalin caves in the southern Shan State of Myanmar with cave painting of Neolithic Age and several visual arts of ancient monuments of successive historic periods across the country speak volumes of Myanmar traditional performing arts. The world renowned five bronze figures, excavated at a mound near Phayama pagoda in 1967, at Sri Kestra [Pyay] proved the existence of a high performing arts of those days. They were each 4 ½ inches in height. (1) a flute player (2) a drummer (3) a cymbal player (4) a dancer and (5) a dwarf clown with a sack on its back. They were well dressed and bedecked with ornaments.

Not only that perform-

ing arts were meant for entertainments within the country. They were also put to use for the promotion of good relations with the neighbouring countries. Chinese annals of old and new Tang dynasty fully recorded the visit of a Pyu mission accompanied by a cultural troupe of performing artists to the Chinese Emperor at the capital of Changan in 802 A.D. The mission was headed by the Crown Prince Su-nanda. The main purpose of the mission was either to make an alliance with or to obtain neutrality in the event of Myanmar's conflict with a border kingdom of Nanchao. At the audiences with the Chinese Emperor, the Pyu performing artists performed three times a programme of singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. The Emperor and the entire court were so fascinated and impressed by the talents of the performers that the court historian, the court painter and the court musician recorded on the spot the performers' skill and talent in poetic writing, painting and musical notations.

The Chinese Emperor awarded the Pyu Crown Prince with title and rich presents for him and his king and many gifts for the performers, promising that Pyu Kingdom with a high standard of culture and civilization should not be destroyed and that he would ally with the Pyu against all enemies.

The 802 A.D. mission set a good precedent for later Myanmar foreign relations. Not only in the conduct of political and diplomatic relations of the country with foreign nations but also in trade and economic relations Myanmar kings employed performing artists to take their role. In the Nyaung Yang Period of Myanmar history there was one king named King Tha Lun [1629-1648 A.D.] who often held rice and ruby trade emporium at his capital city Inwa. At the royal banquet held at his court in honour of foreign trade missions, Myanmar performing arts were staged both live and puppets. Foreign guests were very much impressed with the banquet and entertainments.

At the emporium the king was present talking business with the foreigners. When the Dutch buyers bargained on the prices of rice and ruby, the king explained at length on the good price of good quality rice and ruby. He also told them that Myanmar rice and ruby fetched good price abroad. Foreign traders were astounded to find that Tha Lun was well informed of up-to-date news. The Dutch traders reported back to the Dutch East India Co. stationed in India and Jakarta saying that King Tha Lun was a shrewd businessman.

Needless to detail, the role of Myanmar performing artists had played in the nationalist movement and

in the efforts for regaining independence. As performing arts is one of the most effective media to inform, to educate and to entertain the public, successive Myanmar governments never fail to promote it. With a view to reviving it especially for up-coming new generations who are in danger of the challenges of the globalization age, annual traditional performing arts competitions are being held. Besides the annual Union Day, 12 February [Pyidaungsu Day] also provides occasions for reviving and promoting performing arts of all Myanmar ethnic nationalities.

We have shown our good record of the role Myanmar performing artists played in the national and international events of the recent years. At almost every event of state level, meetings, conferences, emporium, dinners banquets, sports, at home or abroad, Myanmar performing artists have displayed their high-standard skill. Similarly we have seen that their counterparts in other countries are playing the same role. Their performances either precede or succeed the main event. Because performing arts proves the calibre of a nation's culture as well as creates the atmosphere of goodwill and friendship, it has a very important role.

[Wishing the 21st Myanmar Performing Arts Competitions every success.]

Agricultural Mechanization Department harvests summer paddy with combine harvesters



MYINMU, 6 May— K45,000 per acre to the Technicians from Agricultural Mechanization Department in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region, gave services of harvesting summer paddy in Nyaungyin and Myitpauk villages with the use of combine harvester.

“We face shortage of farming workers to harvest paddy. If we use manpower in harvest, we must spend more than K70,000 per acre. But, I need to pay

Agricultural Mechanization Department for use of combine harvester. Using farming machinery can save time and money,” said Head of Township AMD U Kyaw Min Min Tun.

The department uses its Kukje DKC 658 made in Korea and KS 9300 Combine Harvester provided by Sagaing Region government in harvesting summer paddy in the township.

Po Kha

Tatkon Township marks International Day of the Midwife



TATKON, 6 May — A ceremony to mark the International Day of the Midwife was held at the meeting hall of Township Health Department in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Tuesday, with retired nurses and officials in attendance.

Township Health Staff Daw Thin Thin Hlaing explained the purpose of holding the International Day of the Midwife.

Staff Officer (Nurse) of Nay Pyi Taw Health Department Daw Khin Than Nwe spoke on the occasion

while Nurse Grade-I Daw Naw Shell Say led the attendees in taking eight-point oath of nurses.

Officials presented gifts to 22 retired nurses.

Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)

Mdy Region Chief Minister receives US Ambassador



MANDALAY, 6 May — Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint held talks with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell and party at the region government office, here, on 5 May.

They exchanged views on regional and political affairs.

The meeting was also attended by Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Than Soe Myint, the secretary of Region government and departmental officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Police officers receive knowledge about security measures for election

MYANAUNG, 6 May—A multiplier course on security for election 2015 was conducted at the Dhammayon of Myanaung Township Police Force on 5 May.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tun Pe explained preparations for taking security measures before and after election periods, and penalties for breaking the election law.

Chairman of the Township Election Sub-commission U Than Swe and Secretary U Aung Win spoke about organizational setup of the election sub-commission and its duty and functions. More than 30 police officers from stations in the township attended the three-day course till 7 May.—Win Bo (Township IPRD)



Goods without custom duty destroyed in Myawady

MYAWADY, 6 May — A ceremony to destroy goods without custom duty was held at Myawady Trade Zone in Kayin State on Wednesday.

Deputy Director U Maung Maung Htwe Swe

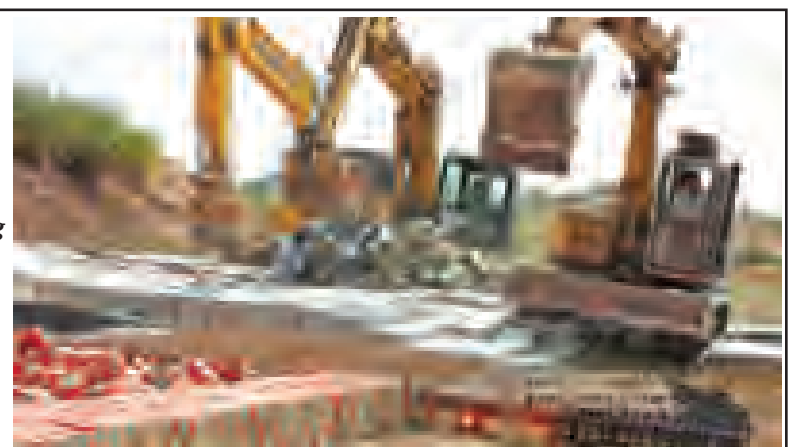
of the Customs Department spoke about purpose of destroying the confiscated goods.

Deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, Commander of District Police Force Lt-Col Moe Nyo and Head

of Township Customs Department U Mya Win supervised destruction of the goods such as liquor, beer, egg and others worth K113,610,000 with the use of heavy machinery.

Thuzar (Myawady Township)

Heavy machinery being used in destorying confiscated goods in Myawady.



Somali Islamist militants shoot government official dead in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 6 May — Al Shabaab Islamist militants shot dead a government official in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Wednesday, police and a spokesman for the group said. Abdifatah Barre, the deputy district commissioner of Mogadishu's Wadajir district, was shot dead in his car.

"Gunmen opened fire on the car of the deputy district commissioner this morning. The official died

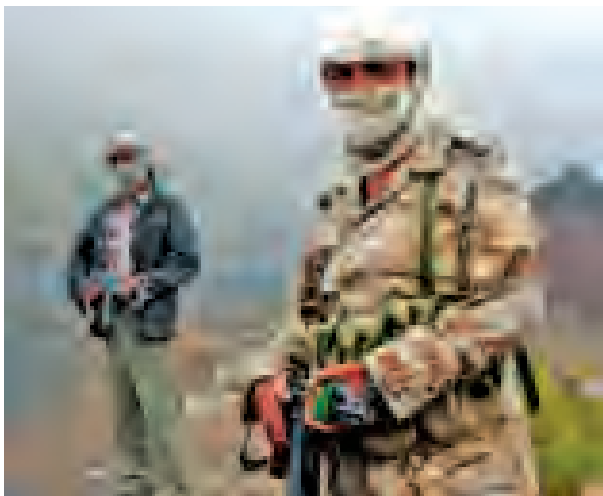
and the gunmen escaped," Major Ibrahim Hussein, a police officer, told *Reuters*.

Al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab claimed responsibility and threatened more attacks. "We killed the deputy district commissioner and we shall continue killing the enemies. This is part of our operation in Mogadishu," Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, its military operations spokesman, told *Reuters*. Al Shabaab carries out attacks fre-

quently in Somalia and in neighbouring countries. It wants to impose its strict interpretation of Islamic law in the region and overthrow the Somali government, which is backed by Western donors and African peacekeepers.

Late on Monday, gunmen from the group stormed a police station in the country's semi-autonomous region of Puntland and killed three policemen.—*Reuters*

Warplanes strike Yemen's Saada and Hajja provinces



Fighters of the anti-Houthi Popular Resistance Committee secure a highway road linking Yemen's capital Sanaa with southern provinces on 5 May, 2015.—REUTERS

CAIRO, 6 May — Warplanes carried out more than 30 strikes overnight on the northwestern Yemeni provinces of Saada and Hajja near the border with

Saudi Arabia, local officials and residents said on Wednesday.

The strikes occurred after Yemen's Houthi fighters fired mortar bombs

and rockets at a Saudi Arabian border town on Tuesday for the first time since a Saudi-led coalition began a military campaign against them on 26 March.

Saada is a stronghold of the Iranian-allied Houthi movement.

Houthi sources said 43 civilians were killed and at least 100 wounded as a result of the strikes, which lasted until dawn on Wednesday. The figure could not be independently verified.

Local sources also said there was heavy artillery shelling coming from the Saudi border.

In Tuesday's bombardment, projectiles had struck a girls' school and a hospital in Saudi Arabia's Najran town, only three km (two miles) from Yemen's border.—*Reuters*

Aid agencies warn fuel shortages may end their work in Yemen

ABU DHABI, 6 May — Twenty-two aid agencies working in Yemen have warned that their help could end unless land, sea and air routes are opened to allow for the import of fuel into the country, where an Arab coalition has been attacking Houthi forces since 26 March.

The conflict has disrupted imports in the impoverished country where around 20 million people, or 80 percent of the population, are now estimated to be going hungry, or "food insecure" in aid parlance, according to a statement by the United Nations and the Yemen International NGO Forum.

A shortage of fuel has crippled hospitals and food supplies in the past few weeks, and the World Food Programme has said

its monthly fuel needs had leapt from 40,000 litres a month to 1 million litres.

"Millions of lives are at risk, in particular children, and soon we will not be able to respond," Edward Santiago, country director for Save the Children, said in the statement.

The statement also said an announcement by the Saudi-led Arab alliance that is conducting air strikes against Houthi fighters in Yemen about a possible truce in some areas to allow for humanitarian supplies was not enough.

"The recent announcement of a potential humanitarian pause to military operations will not alleviate the humanitarian impacts of the current conflict," the statement said calling for a permanent end to hostilities. The United Nations



A boy pulls containers of water after he filled them at a faucet, amid an acute shortage of clean drinking water in Sanaa on 20 April, 2015. — REUTERS

said on Tuesday the conflict in Yemen had killed at least 646 civilians since coalition air strikes began on 26 March, including 131 children and that more than 1,364 civilians had been wounded.

Houthi fighters have seized control of large

Afghan judge sentences four to death for mob killing of woman



Four Afghan men look on in court during their trial in connection with the killing of a 27-year-old woman, in Kabul, Afghanistan on 6 May, 2015.—REUTERS

KABUL, 6 May — An Afghan judge sentenced four men to death on Wednesday for the mob killing of 27-year-old woman accused of burning a Koran in Kabul, a case that sparked outrage and rare street protests against religious extremism in the capital.

Eight defendants were jailed for 16 years for participating in the attack in which a frenzied crowd beat and kicked the woman, named Farkhunda, and set her body on fire in central Kabul.

Judge Safiullah Mujadidi found 18 others not guilty due to lack of evidence. The four men sentenced to death were convicted of murder, in part on

the basis of mobile phone footage of the attack that was played in court during the five-day trial.

Some of those arrested were tracked down after posting footage of the attack on social media and bragging about taking part.

Nineteen police officers were also on trial, accused of standing by and doing nothing to stop the attack. Their verdicts and sentencing are due later in the week.

The attack proved a polarising incident in Afghanistan, a deeply conservative Muslim country. Initially, some clerics said the killing was a defence of Islam. Many others were outraged by the attack, even before an investiga-

tion showed that Farkhunda had been falsely accused of desecrating Islam's holy book.

Several protests against religious extremism and violence against women sprung up in Kabul, including one in the last week that re-enacted the attack. Such demonstrations are rare, even though women's rights were enshrined in the constitution after the Taliban's hard-line Islamist regime was ousted in 2001.

Under the Taliban's five-year rule, women were banned from leaving home without a male guardian, denied education and forced to wear the all-covering burqa.

Reuters

Two Tanzanian UN peacekeepers killed in Congo ambush

KINSHASA, 6 May — Two United Nations peacekeepers from Tanzania were killed, 13 wounded and four were missing in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Tuesday when their patrol was ambushed by suspected Ugandan Islamist rebels, the United Nations said.

The peacekeepers were attacked in the village of Kikiki, around 50 km (30 miles) north of the town of Beni in North Kivu province, Felix Basse, spokesman for the mission known as MONUSCO, told *Reuters*. The Congolese army said earlier on Tuesday it had killed 16 Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels during fierce

fighting in the same zone over the weekend.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack on the peacekeepers, which occurred as the mission was "carrying out its protection of civilians mandate". His spokesman confirmed the number of dead, wounded and missing.

"The UN remains committed to taking all necessary actions ... to protect civilians and neutralize armed groups in eastern (Congo)," Ban's spokesman said in a statement.

He said Ban condemned "the continuing atrocities perpetrated by the ADF against defenceless civilians in the Beni area".

Reuters

IBM's Watson to guide cancer therapies at 14 centres

NEW YORK, 6 May — Fourteen US and Canadian cancer institutes will use International Business Machines Corp's Watson computer system to choose therapies based on a tumour's genetic fingerprints, the company said on Tuesday, the latest step toward bringing personalized cancer treatments to more patients.

Oncology is the first speciality where matching therapy to DNA has improved outcomes for some patients, inspiring the "precision medicine initiative" President Barack Obama announced in January.

But it can take weeks to identify drugs targeting cancer-causing mutations. Watson can do it in minutes

and has in its database the findings of scientific papers and clinical trials on particular cancers and potential therapies. Faced with such a data deluge, "the solution is going to be Watson or something like it," said oncologist Norman Sharpless of the University of North Carolina Lineberger Cancer Centre. "Humans alone can't do it."

It is unclear how many patients will be helped by such a "big data" approach, however. For one thing, in many common cancers old-line chemotherapy and radiation will remain the standard of care and genomic analysis may not make a difference.

Cloud-based Watson

will be used at the centres — including Cleveland Clinic, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Centre in Omaha and Yale Cancer Center — by late 2015, said Steve Harvey, vice president of IBM Watson Health. The centres pay a subscription fee, which IBM did not disclose.

Oncologists will upload the DNA fingerprint of a patient's tumour, which indicates which genes are mutated and possibly driving the malignancy. Watson, recognised broadly for beating two champions of the game show Jeopardy! in 2011, will sift through thousands of mutations and try to identify which is driving the tumour, and therefore what a drug must target.



Attendees gather at an IBM Watson event in lower Manhattan, New York on 9 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Distinguishing driver mutations from others is a huge challenge. IBM spent more than a year developing a scoring system so Watson can do that, since targeting non-driver mutations would not help.

"Watson will look for actionable targets," Harvey said, matching them to approved and experimental cancer drugs and even non-cancer drugs (if Watson decides the latter interfere with a biological path-

way driving a malignancy).

But Watson has trouble identifying actionable targets in cancers with many mutations. Although genetic profiling is standard in melanoma and some lung cancers, where drugs such as Zelboraf from the Genentech unit of Roche Holding AG target the driver mutation, in most common tumours traditional chemotherapy and radiation remain the standard of care.

"When institutions do genetic sequencing, only about half the cases come back with something actionable," Harvey said, often because it is impossible to identify the driver mutation or no targeted therapy exists.—Reuters

EU to probe big tech companies in digital market overhaul

BRUSSELS, 6 May — The European Union will announce a wide-ranging probe on Wednesday into how big technology companies such as Google (GOOGL.O), Amazon (AMZN.O) and Facebook (FB.O) use their market power as it considers whether to regulate them more tightly.

The inquiry, which by its nature will inevitably focus heavily on US firms, follows calls from France and Germany for regulation of so-called "essential digital platforms", encompassing everything from e-commerce sites such as eBay (EBAY.O) to social media companies.

European Commission Vice-President Andrus Ansip will unveil his "Digital Single Market

Strategy" at noon (1000 GMT) in Brussels. It will aim to update copyright rules, knock down barriers to cross-border parcel deliveries and ensure European online businesses can compete with their bigger US counterparts.

The inquiry differs from an antitrust investigation of the kind launched by the EU into Google five years ago, in that it is not aimed at enforcing existing law through penalties.

Rather it will look at whether Internet platforms are transparent enough in how they display search results and if they promote their own services to the detriment of competitors, according to a draft of the strategy seen by Reuters.

Politicians and businesses across Europe have

been calling for the market power of dominant US tech firms to be curbed to help Europe's fledgling web industry compete, leading to accusations of protectionism from US President Barack Obama.

The Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA), whose members include Google, Microsoft, eBay, Facebook and Amazon, said the idea of regulating platforms was ill-conceived given that businesses from newspapers to e-commerce sites to cars were increasingly becoming digital platforms.

"Platform regulation would hit European platform companies hardest given they grow here," it added.

Reuters

US space agency chief confident of putting Americans on Mars in 2030s

WASHINGTON, 6 May — US space agency NASA's Administrator Charles Bolden on Tuesday hailed progress on the manned Mars mission, saying that they are on track to reach the goal set by President Barack Obama five years ago of landing American astronauts on the Red Planet in the 2030s.

"It is my firm belief that we are closer to getting there today than we've ever been before in the history of human civilization," Bolden told the Humans to Mars Summit at the George Washington University in Washington, DC "This plan is clear. This plan is affordable and this plan is sustainable."

Bolden noted that there is "a new consensus that's emerging around this timetable, and around this goal."

Also at the summit, a new report released by NA-

SA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory detailed six building blocks needed to carry out a journey to Mars: the Space Launch System, the Orion spacecraft, a Deep Space Habitat, along with new technologies like solar electric propulsion, entry, descent and landing and a Mars ascent vehicle.

"I'm pleased to report that work is already underway at NASA on four of the six critical elements and the fifth — advanced propulsion — is being moved forward through an innovative partnership with American industry," Bolden said.

Specially, the NASA chief mentioned that the Space Launch System's booster passed a major ground test firing in March and that Orion had a highly successful test flight in December.

Meanwhile, NASA will send a lander called

InSight next year to study the core of the Red Planet and a new Mars rover, to be launched in 2020, will for the first time cache a sample for later return to Earth.

The US space agency is also working with its European partners on ExoMars, a mission aimed at searching for biosignatures of Martian life.

In addition, NASA astronaut Scott Kelly was sent to the *International Space Station* in March for a special one-year mission designed to understand the potential effects of long-term spaceflight on humans.

"The further we advance and learn and discover, the more our technologies will need to evolve, be upgraded and grow," Bolden said. "They are what will allow us to establish a sustainable human presence on Mars."

Xinhua



A prototype battery-powered plane, called Greased Lightning or GL-10 is pictured flying at NASA's Langley Research Centre on 2 May, 2015.—XINHUA

Farthest known galaxy in universe discovered

WASHINGTON, 6 May — An international team of astronomers said on Tuesday they have discovered the most distant galaxy ever measured in the universe.

By using a powerful instrument called MOSFIRE on the Keck I telescope at the Keck Observatory in Hawaii, the team determined that the galaxy, EGS-zs8-1, formed more than 13 billion years ago at a time when the universe was only five percent of its present age.

Only a handful of galaxies currently have accurate distances measured in this epoch of the universe and none younger than this, according to the team led by Yale and the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The galaxy, one of the brightest and most massive objects in the early universe, was originally identified based on its particular colors in images from the US Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes.

The new measurement

also enabled the astronomers to determine that EGS-zs8-1 was forming stars very rapidly, about 80 times faster than our galaxy today. "While we saw the galaxy as it was 13 billion years ago, it had already built more than 15 percent of the mass of our own Milky Way today," lead author Pascal Oesch of the Yale University said in a statement. "But it had only 670 million years to do so. The universe was still very young then."—Xinhua

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MV TIAN SHAN VOY NO (CHOO59)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TIAN SHAN VOY NO (CHOO59) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

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**U YE NOOS (Advocate) 5341
YE NOOS & ASSOCIATES (Law Firm)
For JUPITER FOODS PTE. LTD.
(ye.noos1@gmail.com)**

**Germanwings co-pilot
practised before crash**

BERLIN, 6 May — The Germanwings co-pilot suspected of deliberately crashing a plane in the French Alps in March, killing all 150 people on board, practised a descent on the previous flight, German newspaper *Bild* reported.

Prosecutors believe 27-year-old German co-pilot Andreas Lubitz locked the captain out of the cockpit and steered the plane into a mountainside on a flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf on 24 March.

Bild, citing sources close to France's BEA crash investigation agency, said an interim report that BEA was planning to publish on Wednesday would say that Lubitz had practised reducing flight altitude on the outbound flight from Duesseldorf to Barcelona the same day as the crash.

Bild cited the sources as saying the BEA report would talk about a "controlled descent that lasted for minutes and for which there was no aeronautical justification".

The BEA said it would issue a preliminary report on Wednesday but declined to comment on its contents or on the *Bild* report. Lubitz had suffered from severe depression in the past and a computer found in his home showed he had used the Internet to research ways of committing suicide in the days leading up to the crash.

Prosecutors also found torn-up sick notes at his home, showing he should not have flown on the day of the flight.

Lufthansa, which owns Germanwings, declined to comment on the *Bild* report, pointing to the ongoing investigation.—*Reuters*

**Japan, South Korea to discuss
World Heritage listing issue**

SEOUL, 6 May — South Korea is expected to discuss with Japan later this month the proposed UNESCO World Heritage listing of some Japanese industrial sites that Seoul opposes, considering them a legacy of Tokyo's wartime practice of conscripting Koreans for forced labour, a media report said on Tuesday.

"The bilateral talks are expected to take place in Tokyo late this month," *Yonhap News Agency* quoted a government source as saying. Details such as the date and participants of the planned talks remain unknown.

South Korea has been attempting to block the Japanese sites' heritage registration, saying around 57,900 Koreans were sent over to work at seven of the 23 sites in Japan that include a coal mine, a steel mill and a shipyard, resulting in the deaths of 94.

Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se has said the proposed listing is "in violation of the World Heritage Convention that protects heritages with universal human values."

The "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution," representing Japan's industrialization and modernization in the late 19th to early 20th centuries, were just recently endorsed for heritage status by the nongovernmental International Council on Monuments and Sites.

The intergovernmental World Heritage Committee is meeting in July to decide on their registration. South Korea and Japan are among the 21 members in the committee.—*Kyodo News*

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YE NOOS & ASSOCIATES (Law Firm)
For JUPITER FOODS PTE. LTD.
(ye.noos1@gmail.com)**

Watch what you say about us, Rolex warns Italy's prime minister

ROME, 6 May — Luxury watchmaker Rolex demanded an apology on Wednesday from Italy's prime minister and interior minister for saying that violent demonstrators who devastated parts of Milan

last week were "rich, spoiled brats with Rolexes".

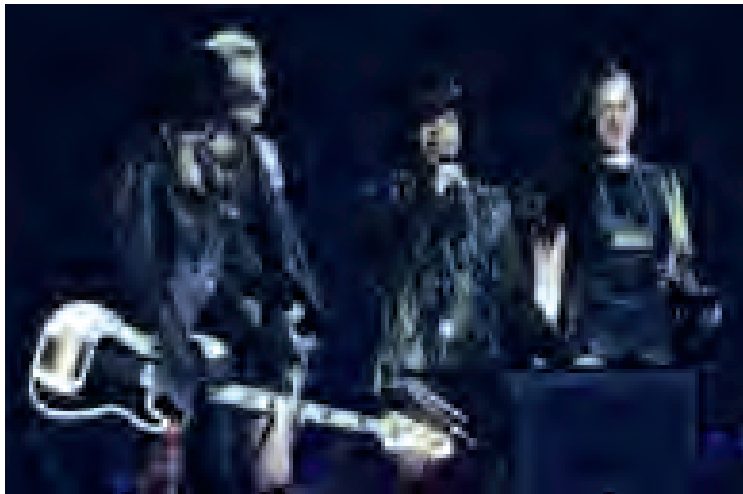
The company took out full-page advertisements in major national newspapers to contest comments both politicians made after police fired tear gas at protesters

who threw stones and petrol bombs and broke shop windows. In his address to parliament on the riots — protests against Milan's Expo global fair — Interior Minister Angelino Alfano said police photos showed that one

demonstrator who defaced a bank window appeared to be wearing a Rolex.

"Yesterday, on the streets I saw bastards wearing hoods and rich, spoiled brats with Rolexes," Alfano told parliament.—*Reuters*

Prince to perform in Baltimore in wake of black man's death



Prince and his band 3rdEyeGirl present the award for British Female Solo Artist at the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London on 19 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 May — Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Prince will perform a special concert in Baltimore on Sunday, apparently in part to honour the 25-year-old black man whose death from spinal injuries suffered in police custody sparked weeks of protest and a day of rioting.

The Grammy award-winning musician will hold his "Rally 4 Peace" show on Mother's Day along with his backing band 3RDEYEGIRL, Royal Farms Arena said in a statement on Tuesday night. The statement added that "superstar guests" were also expected to attend.

"Wear something gray," reads a promotional image for the concert, seemingly to reference Freddie Gray, who died last month after a week in the hospital following his 12 April arrest.

Gray's death became the latest flashpoint in a national outcry over police killings of unarmed black men and other minority groups in the United States, and provoked weeks of largely peaceful protests in the city punctuated by a day of arson and looting on 27 April.

Last Friday, Baltimore's chief prosecutor announced charges against all six police officers involved in Gray's arrest, ranging from misconduct in office to second degree murder.

A representative for Prince could not be immediately reached for comment.

The *Baltimore Sun* newspaper said the artist was expected to perform a protest song, dubbed "Baltimore", which has not been released.—Reuters

Britney Spears, Iggy Azalea release catchy new single



Iggy Azalea (L) & Britney Spears (R)

LOS ANGELES, 6 May — After much anticipation and a few leaked versions, Britney Spears and Iggy Azalea have officially released their brand-new collaboration titled "Pretty Girls".

"All around the world, pretty girls / Wipe the floor with all the boys. Pour the drinks, bring the noise / We're just so pretty!" the

ladies sing. The twosome is expected to travel to Las Vegas on 17 May when they will perform the new single for the first time ever at the 2015 Billboard Music Awards.

There's also the highly anticipated music video that may just feature some impressive dance scenes and even cooler outfits.

PTI



Bollywood actor Salman Khan (R) reacts on the green carpet for the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards in Colombo on 5 June, 2010.—REUTERS

Bollywood star Salman Khan sentenced to five years for hit-and-run

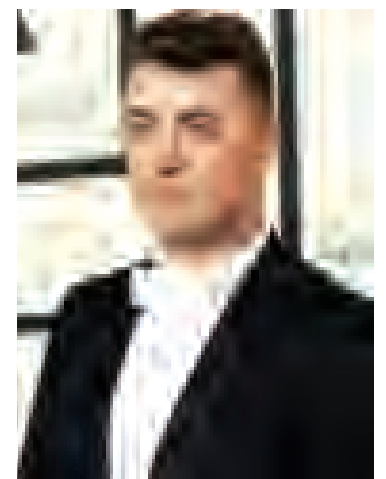
NEW DELHI, 6 May — An Indian court sentenced Bollywood star Salman Khan to 5 years in prison on Wednesday for culpable homicide for the death of a homeless man in a hit-and-run accident, media reports said, potentially derailing several big movie projects.

Judge DW Deshpande of the

Mumbai court earlier upheld prosecution charges that Khan, 49, was driving under the influence of alcohol and lost control of his car, ramming into a bakery in the 2002 accident.

One man sleeping on the pavement by the bakery was killed and four people were injured.—Reuters

Sam Smith cancels more tour dates, heads to US for treatment



Grammy-winning singer Sam Smith

LOS ANGELES, 6 May — Grammy-winning singer Sam Smith, who was forced to cancel his Australian tour after suffering a small hemorrhage on his vocal cords, said he is flying to the US to seek more medical treatment.

The British singer, 22, also cancelled upcoming tour dates in Japan and the Philippines, reported *People* magazine.

"I've just left Australia and I'm on my way to the states to see a specialist to see what to do from there. This is horrid," he wrote.

Smith wrote in an Instagram post that he was hoping to be back on stage singing this week and hadn't "spoken a word in three days".—PTI

Disney revenue gets lift from theme parks, TV networks

LOS ANGELES, 6 May — Walt Disney Co's quarterly revenue beat analysts' expectations, helped by increased spending by visitors at its theme parks and strength in the company's TV networks business.

The company's shares rose as much as 2 percent to a record high of \$113.30 in early trading. Up to Monday's close, they had gained 38 percent in the past year.

Results for the quarter were also boosted by a surge in sales of toys and merchandise related to blockbuster animated film "Frozen".

While the studio business failed to keep pace with last year's "Frozen"-fueled growth, "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" is expected to boost revenue in the current quarter.

The sequel opened last weekend with \$191.2 million in ticket sales in the United States and Canada — the second-biggest opening of all time.

"As much as the quarter itself was strong the outlook for the next few quarters, with so many big franchise properties coming to market, looks to be just as good," Macquarie Research analyst Timothy Nollen told *Reuters*.

Revenue at theme parks rose 6 percent to \$3.76 billion, pushing up the unit's operating income 24 percent as ticket prices and hotel room rates increased and visitors spent more on food, drinks and merchandise.

Total revenue rose 7 percent to \$12.46 billion in the second quarter ended March 28, topping the average analyst estimate of \$12.25 billion.

Net income attributable to Walt Disney of \$1.23 per share also beat the average analyst estimate of \$1.11 per share, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Walt Disney's media networks business, which includes sports powerhouse ESPN, the Disney channels and ABC, re-

ported a 13 percent rise in revenue to \$5.81 billion, helped by higher ad sales and affiliate fees.

Higher programming and production costs at ESPN, however, pushed the unit's operating income down 2 percent.

ESPN is engaged in a fight with Verizon Inc over customised TV packages that leave the sports network out of the basic channel bundle. The network sued Verizon last week, saying it was violating their contract.—Reuters



Cambodian fans watch performance of American pop star Demi Lovato in Phnom Penh on 5 May, 2015. Demi Lovato performed at the Diamond Island complex in Phnom Penh for the first time Tuesday night.—XINHUA

GENERAL

Crisis for Areva's La Hague plant as clients shun nuclear

BEAUMONT-HAGUE, (France), 6 May — Areva's nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in La Hague needs to cut costs as its international customers disappear following the Fukushima disaster, and its sole remaining big customer, fellow state-owned French utility EDF, pressures it to cut prices.

Located at the westernmost tip of Normandy, La Hague reprocesses spent nuclear fuel for reuse in nuclear reactors and is a key part in Areva's production chain, which spans uranium mining to fuel recycling.

Its valuation and outlook are crucial for the troubled French nuclear group, which is racing to find an equity partner after four years of losses have virtually wiped out its capital.

"Our ambition is to cut costs by more than 15 percent over five years," La Hague director Pascal Aubret told *Reuters*.

Areva said in January it would have to cut about 100 jobs at La Hague, which employs 3,100 people, plus another 1,000 Areva staff working for other Areva



A view shows the pool storage where spent nuclear fuel tanks are unload in baskets under 4 meters of water to decrease temperature as part of the treatment of nuclear waste at the Areva Nuclear Plant of La Hague, near Cherbourg, western France, on 22 April, 2015. —REUTERS

units and some 1,000 contractors. The La Hague plant is also planning more separate savings, part of a company-wide plan to cut costs by one billion euros by 2017.

One of the world's biggest nuclear waste storage facilities, La Hague's four pools hold the equivalent of about 50 reactor cores under

four meters of water. Protected by 1.5 metre-thick anti-radiation concrete walls, employees in space suits cut up spent nuclear fuel rods, extract uranium and about one percent of plutonium, and melt the remaining waste into glass for eventual deep storage. Areva says reprocess-

ing reduces natural uranium needs by 25 percent but opponents say that separating plutonium from spent nuclear fuel increases the risk of nuclear proliferation. The United States does not reprocess its nuclear fuel, but Britain has a large reprocessing plant in Sel- lafield. —*Reuters*

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(7-5-2015 07:00 am~ 8-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Mirza wants to inspire girls across subcontinent



Micromax Indian Aces' Sania Mirza of India arrives on court for her warm-up at the International Premier Tennis League (IPTL) in Singapore, on 3 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 6 May — Outside Bollywood films, Sania Mirza might be the only Indian success welcomed as warmly in neighbouring Pakistan and the 28-year-old expects her doubles feats to inspire girls on both sides of the border to pick up a tennis racket.

Mirza has long been the face of the women's game in India and her high-profile cross-border wedding to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik five years ago placed her in a unique position.

Her rise to the top ranking in WTA doubles

was hailed in both countries, though they remain suspicious of each after fighting three wars since independence in 1947.

Malik's international career has stalled since his last one-day match two years ago, but Mirza last month became the first Indian to climb to the top after winning the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, South Carolina, her third successive title partnered with Martina Hingis.

"It feels good," Mirza told *Reuters* in an interview. "Me and my husband, we live in a kind of extraordinary situation because we both are professional athletes from different countries who still represent their own country after marriage and I don't think that happens very often.

"We both are very active, still playing and it's great if it can inspire not just people in India and Pakistan but hopefully girls can pick up tennis rackets in the whole subcontinent, really think that sports can be a career option.

"That does not come first to the head of any girl or parent ... Whether it's India, Pakistan or anywhere in the subcontinent, I'd like

to believe people hopefully will get a little inspired by this and hopefully things change."

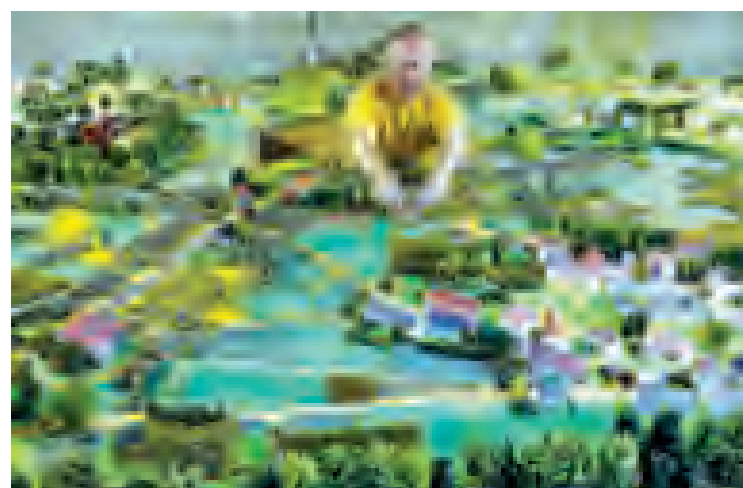
Once a top 30 singles player with a potent forehand, Mirza was the first Indian to win a WTA singles title in 2005, but after battling knee and wrist injuries, feels her switch to doubles has been vindicated.

"I ended my singles career solely for the reason that my body was not just able to take it anymore," said Mirza, calling it a "surreal feeling" to top the doubles rankings.

"I had three surgeries in seven-eight years and in those years ... it was either playing doubles or not playing tennis at all. I love tennis too much to have given up on it so soon." Finally at peace, Mirza has set herself a couple of goals.

"It would be great to try and get records on how long I stay there and definitely try and win a women's doubles grand slam which has not happened. (I) have come close so many times even though (I) won mixed grand slams. Hopefully try and end the year at one, if not this year, next year." —*Reuters*

Near-run Things: Waterloo model ready in time — after 40 years



Waterloo enthusiast Willy Smout, 56, adjusts figurines on a 40-square-metre miniature model of the June 18, 1815 Waterloo battlefield, in Diest, Belgium, in this picture taken on 29 April, 2015. —REUTERS

SCHAFFEN, (Belgium), 6 May — "The nearest run thing": like the battle itself in Wellington's pithy verdict, Willy Smout's epic model of the field of Waterloo combines a lifetime of effort with a race against time to pull through at the last. Forty years in the making, the Belgian engineer realised a couple of years ago that his diorama of the historic battlefield outside Brussels might still be incomplete by the time of the last great commemoration he would see — next month's 200th anniversary of the day that changed Europe's history forever. Sprawling over 40 sqm (20 foot square) in his basement in the village of Schaffen, 70 km (40 miles) northeast of Waterloo, the

1/1,000-scale model and its 3,000 handpainted soldiers had occupied Smout since 1975, when he was 16. In the spirit of Britain's Duke of Wellington, who famously called his final victory over Napoleon Bonaparte's French army on 18 June, 1815 a "damned nice thing" settled only by the 11th-hour arrival of Prussian allies, Smout left it late to finish. "During the last couple of years, I pushed myself really hard to finish it," he told *Reuters*.

"I succeeded last week." He reckons he has spent 40,000 hours — 1,600 days or four and half sleepless years — making the model and in research spanning six countries. The father of four visited libraries and muse-

ums and made hundreds of visits to the site itself. With each tiny soldier representing 72 of his historic counterparts, Smout even built his house to fit the immense diorama in the cellar. Now he has started to welcome curious neighbours on Saturdays to share his extraordinary creation.

He has spent about 150,000 euros (\$170,000) on it, but Smout says the personal value of his life's work is beyond measure. He will be among 200,000 visitors expected at bicentenary events in mid-June. Belgium, whose own creation as a state in 1830 owed much to the European order created after Waterloo, will commemorate the battle with festivities and re-enactments. —*Reuters*



Myanmar women's Naw Arlo Wer Phaw fights the ball during Myanmar 4-0 beating of Malaysia in AFF Women's Championship final group match, at Thong Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 6 May, 2015.—aseanfootball.org

Vietnam and Myanmar make semi-finals from Group B

HO CHI MINH CITY, 6 May — Vietnam and Myanmar made the semi-finals of the AFF Women's Championship following the final round of matches in Group B which saw them finishing first and second respectively.

Vietnam overwhelmed the Philippines 4-0 while Myanmar floored Malaysia by the same score line.

In the semi-finals that will be played in two days at the same venue of the Thong Nhat Stadium, Vietnam will take on Thailand while Myanmar will

play the Australian Under-20.

Any thought of a Philippines' early fight back evaporated in the fourth minute when Nguyen Thi Minh Nguyet slammed home the rebound from Tran Thi Thuy Trang earlier attempt.

Minh Nguyet then went on to complete her hat trick off goals in the 28th minute and penalty in the 38th minute as Vu Thi Thung scored in between in the 12th minute for the final score line.—aseanfootball.org

Woods endures 'brutal' stretch ahead of Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, (Florida), 6 May — Tiger Woods admitted on Tuesday to sleepless nights in the lead-up to this week's Players Championship as he wrestles with the anniversary of his father's death and recent breakup with Lindsey Vonn.

Returning to golf for the first time since his comeback at the Masters last month and since announcing on Sunday that his near three-year relationship with U.S. Olympic skier Vonn was over, Woods admitted the last three days have been "brutal."

Sunday also marked the nine-year anniversary of his father Earl's death, and Woods did not sugarcoat his feelings.

"Obviously it does affect me. It is tough. There's no doubt. I'm not going to lie about that," said Woods.



Golfer Tiger Woods of the US attends a fan event in Tokyo, Japan on 26 April, 2015.

REUTERS

"This time of year is really, really hard on me. This three-day window is really hard. I haven't slept. These last three days ... is just brutal on me, and then with obviously what happened on Sunday, it just adds to it."

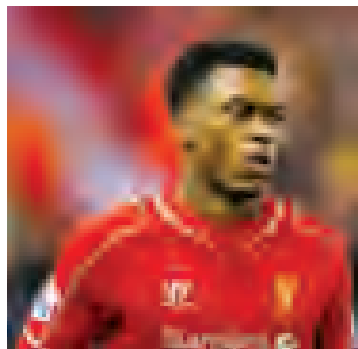
But the 2013 Players Championship winner is ready to get back down to business, even

if his practice round on Tuesday with Australian Jason Day was scratchy. He lost a handful of balls and lost the ball both right and left in perhaps worrying signs ahead of Thursday's opening round, where he will tee off with Australia's Adam Scott and Germany's Martin Kaymer.

But Woods, who tied for 17th at Augusta National, instead chose to focus on his practice coming into this week for what is widely regarded as golf's unofficial fifth major. "I've had some pretty good practice sessions. My short game still feels really good, and we made a couple little swing tweaks," said Woods.

"I've always had to deal with circumstances and stuff outside the ropes, and once you're inside the ropes it's time to tee it up and time to play."—Reuters

Liverpool striker Sturridge says hip surgery successful



Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge

LONDON, 6 May — Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge has had successful surgery on a hip problem that effectively ended his season, he said on social media on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old England international has been sidelined by hip and thigh injuries and has not played since the FA Cup quarter-final win over Blackburn Rovers on 8 April.

Sturridge's season ended once Liverpool decided to send him to the United States for an assessment of the injuries that have seen him miss most of the campaign.

After having the surgery in New York, Sturridge will now start a recovery programme to get fit for next season.

"Just want to let the world know I've had a successful operation on my hip today and I want to thank God for allowing that to

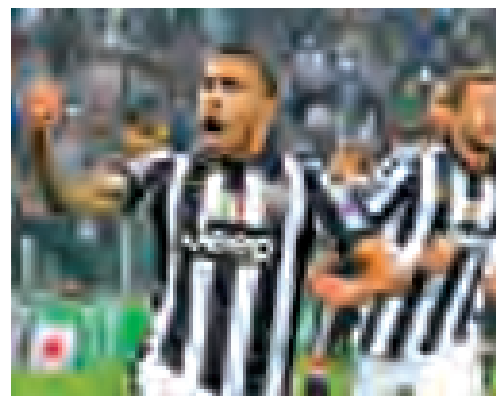
be possible," Sturridge wrote on Instagram.

He started the first three games this season, scoring the winner in the 2-1 victory over Southampton on the opening day, but did not play from the end of August to late January.

Sturridge has only played 18 games in this campaign, scoring five goals, compared to 33 appearances last season and 24 goals.

Liverpool still harbour faint hopes of a top-four Premier League finish and a place in next season's Champions League. They are four points behind fourth-placed Manchester United with three games left.—Reuters

Juve's cut-price Tevez upstages Ronaldo, Bale



Juventus' Carlos Tevez celebrates scoring their second goal from the penalty spot during Juventus v Real Madrid, UEFA Champions League Semi Final First Leg at Juventus Stadium, Turin, Italy on 5 May, 2015. REUTERS

TURIN, (Italy), 6 May — Juventus spent about 12 million euros (9 million pounds) to sign Carlos Tevez, a fraction of what Real Madrid paid for Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo, yet it was the Argentine who called the shots in their Champions League clash on Tuesday.

Tevez, who has been playing some of the best football of his career and is leading Serie A scorer with 20 goals, gave another inspiring performance as he tipped the first leg of the semi-final in Juventus's favour by helping them to a 2-1 win.

Real's defence never got to grips with Tevez's speed, tenacity and close control as the Argentine revelled in the tie, the highest profile match he has played since his move to Juventus at the start of last season. Often dropping deep to collect the ball in midfield, Tevez then ran at the heart of the Real defence, creating a sense of danger and anticipation among the home fans almost every time.

Tevez's powerful low drive led to Juve's opening goal in the ninth minute when Real keeper Iker Casillas could only parry the ball to the feet of Alvaro Morata, who tapped the ball into the net against his old club from close

range. The run which led to the winner summed up Tevez's qualities.

After being sent clear by Morata, Tevez charged into the Real area and, although he appeared to be running into a corner, he tricked Dani Carvajal into knocking him over, winning a penalty which he smashed home himself for the winner.

The 31-year-old Argentine arrived at Juve under a cloud, worn out after four eventful seasons at Manchester City where he infamously refused to warm up during a Champions League match at Bayern Munich. He was also shunned by then Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella, who never once selected him during three years in charge amid speculation that he was considered too much of a disruptive influence.

Having missed out on last year's World Cup in Brazil, Tevez has since been recalled by Sabella's successor Gerardo Martino. Tevez reiterated after the match that he felt valued by his team mates and coach Allegri. "My team mates have shown to me that I'm a leader and I try to do the best I can," he told television reporters. "I feel important and that helps me play better."—Reuters