Ceasefire agreement, election dominate discussions between president, political parties

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 18 May — The nationwide ceasefire agreement, this year’s general election and land disputes dominated discussions Monday when President U Thein Sein met with representatives of political parties.

In his opening speech at the meeting, the president expressed his willingness to begin political dialogues before the upcoming elections, pledging that any constitutional amendments prior to the election would be carried out through such dialogue.

He urged all political parties to participate in the process of the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation, which was signed on 12 February, and to make efforts toward conducting political dialogues.

Nearly 130 politicians from 68 parties attended the meeting. Some have suggested a timeframe for holding political dialogues.

Some participants of the meeting urged the government to hold the upcoming general election, slated Tuesday. (See page 3)

Human trafficking behind boat people crisis: president’s spokesman

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 18 May — The Myanmar government pledges cooperation with regional and other international counterparts to tackle the ongoing boat people crisis, which is a consequence of human trafficking of people from Rakhine State and Bangladesh to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, the president’s spokesman said Monday.

The Myanmar government will scrutinize the boat people and bring back those who can show evidence of citizenship, said the President’s Spokesman and Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut at a meeting between ministers and diplomats in Yangon.

The government does not assume the boat people to be refugees fleeing the conflict in Rakhine State, which shares a border with Bangladesh, he added.

Myanmar has begun to repatriate more than 500 trafficking victims who were forced onto fishing boats in Indonesia, after they were found to be citizens, the spokesperson said.

The second bi-monthly meeting also focused on preparation for the upcoming 2015 general election and the revocation of temporary identity cards, also known as white cards.

More than 400,000 of the roughly 700,000 white cards have been collected by authorities across the country, said U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Immigration and Population.

President U Thein Sein sends commemorative message to President of ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sent a commemorative message to Her Excellency Madame Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea which falls on 19 May 2015.

Her Excellency Madame Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea also sent a commemorative message to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on this occasion.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun advocates education for disaster readiness

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with Chinese Vice FM
Plan to dredge six main drains in Myawady

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—At the 47th session of Pyithu Hluttaw Monday, Daw Khin Than Myint of Ngaputaw Constituency asked about dredging of the main drains in Myawady and Brothers Company. Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied that dredging of the six main drains has been designated as a common fishing plot since 2011. Arrangements will be made for convenience of fishing workers.

U Myint Shwe of Waw Constituency asked whether there is a plan to re-allow the road area as entrance and exit of the main drains of Waw or not as a land plot was allotted at the entrance of the market. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied that if the entrance and exit of the market are included in the original plan, the grant for the land plot will be cancelled.

U Than Oo of Myawady Constituency asked about dredging of main drains in Myawady with the budget of the union government. The deputy minister said that a plan is underway to dredge six drains in 4.5 miles long from 2014-15 to 2020-21.

Region and state governments release orders and directives for reducing use of plastic bags

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and state and region governments released orders and directives on prohibitions against the use of plastic bags. Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Education U Aung Than Oo said that funds will be sought for implementation of the project. Generator and related equipment will be imported in coming fiscal year for timely completion of the project.

U Khin Maung (a) U Aung Kyaw Oo of Rakhine State Constituency No 3 asked about measures against use of plastic bags by the State. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo said that it is necessary to draft a marriage law for Myanmar women to protect their rights.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with Chinese Vice FM

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Cheng Fengxiang and party of the People’s Republic of China at the hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, on Monday. Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen Thura U Aung Ko and U T Khun Myat and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills concludes

YANGON, 19 May—The inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (35/2015) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the hall of the ministry, here, on Monday, with an address by Permanent Secretary U Aung Lynn.

The 12-week course includes contemporary international affairs, holding and attending international conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills. —MNA

Commander-in-Chief: no artillery shells by Tatmadaw landed on Chinese territory

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing denied accusations that artillery shells fired by Myanmar forces fell onto Chinese territory on May 14 and in the morning of 15 May. He said that the Myanmar military was not involved in the alleged firing of 40 artillery shells onto Chinese territory the same night and agreed that the incident should be investigated.

Mr Yang Houlan said the Chinese government wants to avoid border tensions between the two countries and that MNDA forces are disturbing the two neighbouring countries. He also said news spread on social media is putting pressure on their government, calling for prevention of further incidents at the border.

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Ceasefire agreement, election . . .
(from page 1)
for late October or early November, in a free, fair and transparent manner.

Some have called on the government to speed up its efforts to settle land disputes in the remaining territory.

In his replies to the suggestions, President U Thein Sein has pledged to speed up the government’s efforts to deal with some issues raised at the meeting and continue to discuss some issues.—GNLM

Second group of trafficked fishermen repatriated from Indonesia

NAV PYI TAW, 18 May

— A second group of Myanmar fishery workers, freed after being used as slave labour in Indonesia, arrived at Yangon International Airport on Sunday evening. The repatriated citizens, comprising 128 out of a total 535, received donations including K100,000 from Joint Secretary Pol Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun on behalf of the Central Committee against Human Trafficking of Myanmar, K50,000 and a shirt from Air KBZ, K10,000 from IOM, as well as SIM cards and handsets from MPT.

The fishery workers included 33 from Mon State, 21 from Ayeyawady Region, 19 from Taninthayi Region, 15 each from Yangon and Bago regions, 9 from Rakhine State, 2 from Mandalay Region, and one each from Sagaing and Magway regions. The fishery workers have been taken back to Myanmar under the arrangements of the government. The first group of repatriated fishermen included 125 workers returned to Myanmar on 14 May. The remaining fishery workers will be repatriated to Myanmar on 22 May.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun advocates education for disaster readiness

Vice President U Nyan Tun addresses meeting on disaster management strategies.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Ordinance No. (3/2015)
1st Waxing Day of Nayon, 1377 ME
(18 May, 2015)

Announcement on extension of ordinance

1. In order to restore administration, community peace and tranquility, and prevalence of law and order to its former situation in Kokang Self-Administered Zone, where an extension in the state of emergency has been announced under Ordinance No. (3/2015), military administrative order has been extended and powers and duties have been conferred on the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in accord with sub-section (b) of Section 413 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services may exercise the said powers and duties himself or empower any suitable military authority to exercise thereof.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
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Announcement on extension of ordinance entitled
Extension of Military Administrative Order

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President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Mongolia to continue supports to Myanmar for reform process

NAV PYI TAW, 18 May
— U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs paid an official goodwill visit to Mongolia from 14 to 17 May 2015 at the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren.

The Union Minister called on Mr. Tsakhiia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, and Mr. Chimed Saikhanbileg, Prime Minister of Mongolia respectively at the State House on 15 May in Ulaanbaatar. During the meetings, Mongolian leaders reiterated to continue their supports to Myanmar government and to the people of Myanmar for the further achievements in democratic reform process undertaken in Myanmar.

The Union Minister also met with Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren and discussed promoting the bilateral relations and mutual beneficial cooperation between two countries. The Mongolian Foreign Minister hosted a dinner to the Union Minister.

Mongolian Minister for Mining Mr. Jigjil Rentsendorj also hosted a luncheon to the Union Minister and party at Central Tower on May 15. They agreed to continue their supports to Myanmar government and to the people of Myanmar for the further achievements in democratic reform process undertaken in Myanmar.

Chairman of the General Election Commission of Mongolia Mr. Ch. Sodnomtseten received the Union Minister at (15:30) hrs at his office on May 15. The Union Minister spoke about preparation work of Myanmar Union Election Commission for the forthcoming general elections in Myanmar and the commitment of UEC to conduct the elections in free and fair manner.

On May 16, the Union Minister and party visited Khenti province and attended the Mongolian “Mni Naadam” festival held in Delgerkhaan.

MNA
Bandagon village’s earthen pots remain in high demand

Bandagon village’s earthen pots remain in high demand

Bago, 18 May — The pottery industry is thriving in Bandagon village, Bago Township, with local producers supplying earthen pots of all sizes.

Despite consumers in Myanmar shifting toward modern personal and household goods, earthenware pots remain an important product in the country.

The majority of residents in Bandagon Village, located beside Bago-Yangon road, are involved in earthenware production.

“In summer, earthen pots decorated with glaze are in high demand,” a local pottery owner said. “We sell various sizes of pots ranging from K 1,500 to K30,000 to pot brokerages in Yangon.”

Many people in Myanmar people prefer to use earthen pots to store drinking water.

Myo Thein (Bago)
**Regional**

**Jakarta, 18 May —** An Indonesian court on Monday ruled that tycoon Aburizal Bakrie was leader of the country’s largest opposition party, smashing rivals’ hopes the party would defect to the ruling coalition under a different leader.

The party, Golkara, controls nearly 15 percent of the parliament, while Bakrie’s family-owned Bakrie Group is Indonesia’s largest insurer.

“From the start, we’ve been committed to the opposition and this decision confirms it,” he said. “We will stay outside the government but ... we have no intention to disrupt government.”

Bakrie, patriarch of the family-owned Bakrie Group, conglomerate, backed defeated presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto and hand it over to Iran.

Singapore calls on Iran to investigate tanker incident

**Singapore, 18 May —** The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said on Monday that it has requested the Iranian authorities to investigate an incident last week when Iranian vessels fired shots at a Singapore-flagged tanker in the Gulf. The authorities said the vessel that came under fire had collided with an Iranian oil drilling platform in March, which triggered a call from Iran to its neighbors to seize the ship and disrupt government in the region.

Singapore’s MPA said it requested the Iranian counterpart prevent future recurrences, as the freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce are of critical importance to Singapore and other countries. “Such interference with navigational rights is a serious violation of international law,” it said in a statement, adding that Singapore was deeply concerned by such actions.

**Tokyo, 18 May —** Japan could exercise the right to collective self-defense if an attack on a friendly country led to power shortage in Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday in response to two security bills the government submitted to the Diet on Friday.

Abe was apparently referring to a possible dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces for minesweeping operations should the Strait of Hormuz in the Middle East be closed, a vital sea lane to transport crude oil.

Abe said on Monday in a plenary session of the House of Councillors that Japan itself is not attacked.

**Kathmandu, 18 May —** Nepal’s Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation has come up with an action plan for the protection and reconstruction of heritage sites damaged by the deadly 25 April earthquake and its aftershocks, local media reported on Monday.

At a meeting arranged by the International Relations and Labour Committee of the Parliament to discuss the quake-induced damage to heritage sites of archeological importance and future plans for their refurbishment, Deepak Chandrakarnami, minister for culture, tourism and civil aviation said that the ministry has prepared a three-phase plan, short-term, mid-term and long-term, for the protection of damaged heritage sites, local newspaper the Rising Nepal reported.

Prabhu Shah, chairman of the committee, underscored the need of collecting complete details of damage to cultural heritage sites caused by the recent quakes and intensifying a search operation for the missing objects, adding that experts’ feedback are necessary in carrying out reconstruction works.

**Bangkok, 18 May —** Thailand’s gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2015 expanded 0.3 percent from the previous quarter, while it grew 3 percent on a year-on-year basis, according to government statistics released on Monday.

The National Economic and Social Development Board said private consumption and public spending continued to increase in the first three months of 2015, while the manufacturing, tourism and construction sectors performed well.

But such positive factors were offset by decreased exports, increased imports and poor performance of the agricultural sector. The NESDB cut its forecast for Thailand’s GDP this year from 3.5-4.5 percent to 3.0-4.0 percent.

**Power shortage within conditions for collective self-defence: Abe**

A ceremony is held to mark the 125th birth anniversary of late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi on 18 May, 2015. — Xinhua

**Thai economy barely grows in Q1 on poor demand for exports**

**Quake-stricken Nepal readies plans to reconstruct heritage sites**

**Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**
Kerry says US-S Korea alliance “stronger than ever”

Caracas, 18 May — Venezuela’s opposition coalition held primaries on Sunday for this year’s high-stakes parliamentary election, its best shot in over a decade at recouping the National Assembly at one of the ruling Socialist Party’s lowest ebbs.

With Venezuela in recession, annual inflation possibly heading to triple digits, basic goods range from milk to medicines running short and crime rates sky-high, government candidates may face a backlash.

But the perpetually fragmented MUD umbrella coalition has struggled to articulate policy proposals and shake an elitist aura, so Sunday’s low-profile primaries were largely a show of mobilization against President Nicolas Maduro.

“The day will be the decisive one,” said Raul Rodriguez, aphysiotherapist and opposition supporter, after spending an hour in line and around 8 percent of his monthly wage on a dozen basics at a pharmacy.

But Rodriguez, who only learned of the primaries on Friday, is not inspired by opposition candidates. “They should be offering something new. I’m very disheartened,” she said, though she still preferred to vote.

Polls show the opposition favours to win the assembly, though the ruling party has for the last 16 years shown itself adept at winning elections.

While institutions are stacked with “Chavistas” and Maduro is currently ruling by decree, an opposition-controlled parliament would boost momentum for a referendum next year to recall the leader whose popularity has tumbled.

Fueling opposition suspicion of an unfair playing field, no date has been set for the parliamentary election, though it will be in the last quarter. “The opposition’s challenge now is to guarantee unity,” Luis Vicente Leon, head of pollster Datamark, said after results were announced. "Divisions, as small as they may be, would risk gangrene.”

Maduro, lacking Chavez’s magnetism, is himself wrestling with divisions in the “Chavista” bloc. A dissenting Socialist faction that berates his threats for corruption and bureaucracy has broken ranks and sought to become its own party.

That request was denied, Marea Socialista leader Gonzalo Gomez told Reuters on Sunday, adding his group would fight the decision.

The US aircraft carrier George Washington (front) sails off the Boso Peninsula, east of Tokyo, on 18 May, 2015, accompanied by Japanese escort vessel the Izumo after leaving a US naval base in Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo following a seven-year deployment.

A woman folds up her marked ballot before casting it in a box during opposition coalition primaries for parliamentary election in Caracas on 17 May, 2015.

US carrier George Washington leaves for home after 7-yr deployment

YOKOSUKA, (Japan), 18 May — The US aircraft carrier George Washington left a US naval base in Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, for the United States on Monday, ending its seven-year deployment to Japan.

The carrier, which was sent to Yokosuka Naval Base as the US Navy’s first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to be based overseas, is expected to undergo a fuel exchange and largescale overhaul in Virginia after joining patrols and drills in the western Pacific.

Its replacement, the Ronald Reagan, a nuclear-powered carrier of the same class, is slated to be deployed at Yokosuka as early as this autumn. Sent off by some 200 people, such as US military personnel and their family members, seamen aboard the George Washington formed Japanese letterers spelling “Sayonara,” or goodbye, on the deck.

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force flattop Izumo also sailed nearby in a farewell to the departing US carrier.

Cpt Timothy Kuehhas, commanding officer of the carrier, said at a Press conference ahead of the departure that roughly 2,000 of the around 5,350 crew members of the depariting carrier will become crew aboard the Ronald Reagan.

Deployed at Yokosuka in September 2008, the George Washington played a key role in the US Seventh Fleet, which covers the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, the Ronald Reagan, which came into service in 2003, was engaged in the Operation Tomodachi relief mission immediately after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck north-eastern Japan. At Yokosuka, three additional Aegis-equipped destroyers are scheduled to be deployed by 2017.

Venezuela opposition holds primaries for high-stakes parliament vote

Venezuela has become “a crazy country,” said Roxany Rodriguez, a physiotherapist and opposition supporter, after spending an hour in line and around 8 percent of her monthly wage on a dozen basics at a pharmacy.

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Pope Francis extends agenda of change to Vatican diplomacy

Rome, 18 May — Pope Francis’ hard-hitting criticisms of localization and inequality long ago set him out as a leader unafraid of mixing theology and politics. He is now flexing the Vatican’s diplomatic muscles as well.

Last year, he helped to broker an historic accord between Cuba and the United States after half a century of hostility.

This past week, his office announced a formal accord between the Vatican and the State of Palestine — a treaty that gives legal weight to the Holy See’s longstanding recognition of de-facto Palestinian statehood despite clear Israeli annoyance.

The pope ruffled even more feathers in Turkey last month by referring to the massacre of up to 1.5 million Armenians in the early 20th century as a “genocide”, something Ankara denies.

After the inward-looking pontificate of his scholarly predecessor, Pope Benedict, Francis has in some ways returned to the active Vatican diplomacy practiced by the globetrotting Pope John Paul II, widely credited for helping to end the Cold War.

Much of his effort has concentrated on improving relations between different faiths and protecting the embattled Middle East Christians, a clear priority for the Catholic Church.

However in an increasingly fractured geopolitical world, his diplomacy is less obviously aligned to one side in a global standoff between competing blocs than that of John Paul’s 27-year pontificate.

This is reinforced by his status as the world’s first pope from Latin America, a region whose weight in world politics is bound up with poverty and love-hate relationship with the United States has given him an entirely different political grounding from any of his European predecessors.

“There under this pope, the Vatican’s foreign policy looks South,” said Massimo Franco, a prominent Italian political commentator and author of several books on the Vatican.

He said the pope has been careful to avoid taking sides on issues like Ukraine, where he has never defined Russia as an aggressor, but has always referred to the conflict between the government and Moscow-backed rebels as a civil war.

That approach is intended to ensure he remains more credible with countries like Syria, Russia or Cuba, all nations where Francis feels he can help local Christians best by steering an independent course.

Francis already has his hands full overhauling the Vatican’s complex and internal bureaucracy after a series of financial and sexual scandals involving abuse of children by priests which date back decades.

But clearly deeply interested in how the world outside the walls of the Vatican works, he appears determined to use his position and the huge global audience he commands to challenge entrenched diplomatic positions as well.

The former secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, has been replaced. His office has been downgraded to resemble a more classical diplomatic service while Francis has set a bolder, more personal stamp on Vatican foreign policy.

“He’s someone who’s capable of praying in the Blue Mosque in Istanbul and then talking about the need for genocide. He’s not someone who’s bound by political correctness,” said former Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini.

“It’s the diplomacy of a real leader.”

Whether it is to the taste of all the world’s 1.2 billion Catholics, world politicians with priorities of their own or even the many layers of the Church’s own administration is another matter.

“Francis is generally seen as more amenable to dialogue with so-called unbelievers than Benedict was,” said former Italian Foreign Minister Federico莞 Bertellotti.

“With many conservative Catholics unhappy about the pope’s focus on issues like economic injustice and his relatively tolerant tone on sensitive social topics like homosexuality and the status of divorced people, pronounced views on delicate diplomatic issues could cause further division in the Church.

It is a point where he will be particularly tested in September on his upcoming visit to the United States, where some conservative US Catholics are openly hostile.

After helping to foster last year’s agreement reviving diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington, Francis reaped criticism from many US conservatives, including Marco Rubio, a candidate for the Republican nomination for president.

Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants and a practicing Catholic, avoided directly admonishing the pope, but said he should “take up the cause of freedom and democracy” in Cuba.

That kind of veiled criticism from a politician who would normally be considered a staunch Church ally reflects the wider unease some Catholics feel at the change Francis has ushered in at one of the world’s most conservative institutions.

“Bishops complain that he becomes popular by attacking the Church,” said Franco.

“He speaks directly to the people and doesn’t respect the usual command structures. He decides on his own or with people who are not those who previously had a central role.”

 Reuters

First shipment of Fiat cars to Russia maybe already in May

Subotica, 18 May — The first shipment of Fiat cars made in Kragujevac could be exported to Russia already in May or early June, Minister of Economy Zeljko Sertic has said.

Subotica is a simple issue, as each country that is a member of the Customs Union should give its consent, but we have reasons to believe that the first shipment would be approved very fast, already in May, or in early June,” Sertic said during his visit to Subotica on Sunday.

He did not want to speculate about the number of vehicles that the first shipment may include, underscoring that the political framework and readiness of the Customs Union to “give such a privilege to Serbia and open up such an opportunity” is much more important.

“In these difficult times and strained relations between Russia and European Union, this will certainly be an indicator that, thanks to the good cooperation, economy can always be a step ahead of politics,” Sertic said. — Tanjug

Nine killed in gun battle among Texas biker gangs

WACO, (Texas), 18 May — Nine people were killed and 18 were injured on Sunday when a simmering feud among rival biker gangs boiled over at a sports bar in Waco, Texas, leading to a gun battle in the parking lot, police said.

The clash took place outside the Twin Peaks Sports Bar and Grill, a shopping mall in the central Texas city, police said.

Eighteen people were taken to area hospitals with injuries that included gunshot and stab wounds, said Waco Police Sgt Patrick Swanton.

The fight, which involved members of at least three gangs, erupted shortly after noon and quickly escalated into a brawl involving clubs, knives and chains, Swanton said. The fight may have been tied to a dispute over a parking spot, Swanton said.

When the bikers began shooting, officers moved in, some of them also firing their weapons. When the shooting ended, bodies were scattered across two parking lots.

“These are very dangerous, hostile biker gangs,” Swanton told reporters. “A lot of innocent people could have been injured today.”

There would likely have been more casualties, Swanton said, but police were on the scene when the fight erupted, anticipating “issues” with what he called “criminal” gangs.

Eight people were killed at the scene and one died at an area hospital, Swanton said. All of the fatalities were bikers, and no officers were hurt.

“The spokesman can not say if any of the casualties were the result of police gunfire,” Swanton said. — Reuters

Waco restaurant today,” Pastel said on Facebook.

Some area businesses closed early Sunday after police warned people to stay away from the area. Swanton said police had received intelligence that other gang members might be coming to the area for “payback.”

Three gang members were arrested trying to enter the crime scene, Swanton said. It is not clear if more arrests will be made, he said.

Police from multiple jurisdictions were helping with security and the investigation, Swanton said.

 Reuters
Do and Deliver

Kyi Mun

Will strongly, and
Never falter in the path of duty.

- OBJECTIVE means: (1) An aim that you are trying to achieve, especially in business or politics: e.g. The main objective of this policy is to reduce unemployment. (2) A place that your are trying to reach, especially in a military attack. e.g. The valley was our primary objective.

- DEDICATION
Dedication means hard work or effort that someone puts into a particular activity because they care about it a lot. e.g. the success of the festival is a tribute to the dedication of one man. Single-minded dedication to her art. If you are dedicated to something, you go all-out for it, aiming high and giving all you have got, investing every bit of yourself, holding nothing back. It also means you breathe and live the thing for which your whole mind, your whole heart and your whole life have been entrusted without any reservation. With the power of dedication, you cannot but be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory.

- EXCELLENCE
To excel means: (1) To be very good at doing something. e.g. She has always excelled in foreign languages. As a child, he excelled at music and art. The team excels in foreign languages. (2) To do extremely well and even better than you usually do. e.g. Rick’s cooking was always good but this time he really excelled himself.

- STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD
A man of high caliber will never be contented to remain a mediocrity. He or she surely would like to become a celebrity. If you aim high in your life, you have got to be a expert in something. You have got to excel at something. You must become a really proficient professional in your chosen field of endeavour. Formerly, it is said: NO PAIN, NO GAIN. Now, it is said: More Pains, More Gains!

- LEARNING
Learning means: (1) To gain knowledge or skill by studying, from being taught, etc. (2) To become aware of something by hearing about it from somebody else. (3) To study and repeat something in order to be able to remember it. (4) To gradually change your attitudes about something so that you behave in a different way.

- INITIATIVE
To initiate means: (1) To begin something. To take the first step to do something. (2) To begin or start an activity, usually as a result of your own decision.

- IMPROVE
To improve means: (1) To get better. It also means you improve your method or invention.

- INNOVATION
Innovation means: (1) A new idea method or invention. e.g. Recent technological innovations. (2) Introduction of new ideas or methods. An innovative process, method or plan, etc. is new, different and better than those that existed before. (3) Using new ideas and methods. Ours is an age of innovation. Innovation is an effective strategy that can differentiate you from the rest. To stand out from the crowd, you are compelled to be able to innovate, you have got to be creative, and imaginative.

- VALUES
Value means: (1) How much something is worth in money or other goods for which it can be exchanged. (2) How much something is worth compared with its price.

- RESULTS
We should not be satisfied and contented by just doing and delivering something. We should be able to go beyond the call of duty and conduct our affairs beyond due diligence. We should have the habit of going the extra mile. We should stand out from the crowd. We should always be improving our caliber of capabilities. We must make it our duty to exceed expectations of the stakeholders such as Customers, Employees, Owners/Shareholders, the Community and the whole National Economy.

- CONCLUSION
Do and Deliver
Swim and Win
Stand Out From the Crowd.
**Miss Universe Mandalay 2015 contestants introduced at press conference**

**Tahley, 18 May**—A ceremony to introduce 20 shortlisted contestants for the inaugural Miss Universe Mandalay 2015 was held in conjunction with a press conference at Hotel Shwepyi Thayar in Chanayethazan Township on 15 May. Director Daw Soe Yu Wai spoke about the Miss Universe Mandalay contest, which will be sponsored by Weint Sein goldsmith shop. Officials introduced the contestants who will take part in the pageant on 16 June.

According to an announcement at the press conference, the Miss Universe Mandalay winner will receive K3 million, the first runner up K2 million and the second runner up K1 million. Weint Sein goldsmith shop will award a crown worth K2.5 million to the winner.

**Blood donors association elects new chairman**

**Myanaung, 18 May**—Myittashin blood donors association in Myanaung Township elected a new committee on 17 May.

The association formed in 2008 has enjoyed successful operations since. Treasurer U Ohn Myint read out the financial report of the association while secretary U Nyein Chan Nyunt reported on its progress.

The attendees elected U Khin Maung Win as chairman. The chairman assigned duties to the new secretary and treasurer.

The association also increased the number of patrons for the association.

**Young hopefuls gun for places in football academy squads**

**Mandalay, 18 May**—Mandalay Football Academy (Mandalay) on 16 and 17 May recruited new trainees for the U-11 and U-13 football teams for the 2015-16 academic year.

The academy tentatively recruited 44 trainees for the U-11 team and 88 for the U-13 team under the supervision of Technical Director U Tin Myint Aung of Myanmar Football Federation and officials.

Myanmar Football Federation will announce both teams on 22 June.

The technical director and party held a meeting with the academy management board members on education and training for the young players.

They viewed a test match between two U-15 teams and gave guidance.

**Nantmwe Bridge completed on Tahley-Pahlyo-Kenglak road**

**Tahley, 18 May**—The Ministry of Construction recently completed the 300-foot-long Nantmwe Bridge on Tahley-Pahlyo-Kenglak road in eastern Shan State.

Construction of the bridge, which can withstand a 75-ton load, was carried out under the ministry’s programme to improve transport infrastructure across the country. The ministry built 456 bridges, including 87 large bridges, between fiscal 2001-2012 and 2014-15.

In Eastern Shan State, Special Construction Project Group No 9 built eight bridges, including the Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge, with union funds, and nine bridges with the Shan State funds in fiscal 2014-15. The ministry spent K394 million on construction of the Nantmwe Bridge which was completed on 15 June.

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Saudi-led air strikes hit Yemen’s Aden after truce expires

Aden, 18 May — Air strikes by Saudi-led forces hit Houthi rebel positions in and around the southern Yemeni city of Aden early on Tuesday, residents said, after a five-day humanitarian truce expired on Sunday night. Bombing struck the rebel-held presidential palace in the downtown area, groups of militiamen on the western and eastern approaches to the city as well as the international airport, which is disputed between the Houthis and local fighters. There was no word on any casualties in the strikes.

Saudi Arabia and its Sunni Muslim allies have been conducting an offensive against the Houthis for more than six weeks, saying they are backed by Shi’ite power Iran.

The campaign has yet to reverse the group’s advance into Aden and along battlefronts across Yemen’s south.

A five-day truce that started on Tuesday night halted the air strikes and allowed humanitarian aid in to the blockaded country, though residents of the remote southern provinces of Shabwa, Dhalea and Abyan said heavy ground fighting persisted despite the agreed pause. The United Nations has called for an extension of the truce to allow humanitarian supplies to be delivered in sufficient quantities.

The Houthis and troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh welcomed the proposal but the Saudi-led forces have said any extension depended on how the other side behaved. — Reuters

Kenya’s Kenyatta asks Burundian President to postpone poll

Nairobi, 18 May — Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta has told Burundi leader Pierre Nkurunziza he should postpone a presidential election due next month after last week’s failed military coup, Kenyatta’s spokesman said on Monday.

Manoah Esipisu said the two leaders, whose nations belong to the East African Community (EAC) common market, had spoken by phone on Sunday. Kenyatta’s counterparts in the region shared his view, he added. Regional leaders want the election date changed from 26 June to create a “conducive environment” but the vote should still be held within the current electoral cycle, which comes to an end in late August, Esipisu said.

The landlocked East African nation has been plunged into crisis since Nkurunziza pushed for a third term of office, a move his opponents say breaks the constitution and a 2005 peace agreement that ended an ethnically driven civil war. As many as 300,000 people died in the war, and there are fears the current crisis could inflame lingering tensions between the majority Hutu population and the Tutsi minority.

More than 100,000 people have fled to neighboring states, including Rwanda, which has the same ethnic mix as Burundi and which was torn apart by a genocide in 1994 that killed 800,000 mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus. — Reuters

Explosions hit pro-Kurdish party offices in southern Turkey, six wounded — party

Ankara, 18 May — Simultaneous explosions hit the offices of Turkey’s opposition pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) in two southern cities on Monday, officials said, six weeks ahead of a parliamentary election, an HDP official said.

The explosion in the city of Adana, where the six were injured, appeared to have come from a package delivered to the office, the official told Reuters.

There were no immediate reports of injuries at the second explosion in the nearby city of Mersin.

Footage broadcast by CNN Turk showed windows blown out of a three-storey building, with broken glass and rubble covering the street. It showed one man sitting on a kerb with blood on his head, but it was not clear which city the footage was from.

HDP co-leader Selahattin Demirtas, who spoke at an election rally in Adana on Sunday and was due to address another rally in Mersin on Monday, has said the party’s offices have been hit by some 60 attacks in the build-up to the 7 June election.

The HDP is betting on new-found appeal beyond its Kurdish base to propel it into parliament for the first time, but will need to exceed a 10 percent threshold of votes to do so. — Reuters

Lagos, 18 May — Nigeria’s military destroyed 10 Boko Haram camps in the country’s remote northeast on Sunday as it pressed on with an offensive against militant Islamist fighters now confined to a final hideout there, the army said.

A military statement said troops had killed many Boko Haram militants in the Sambisa forest and captured several armored vehicles and anti-aircraft guns. One soldier was killed by a landmine explosion.

Thousands of people have been killed and several million displaced in a six-year Boko Haram insurgency that at its height saw the group control an area the size of Belgium.

But the neighbouring states of Chad, Niger and Cameroon launched a combined series of offensives with Nigeria this year that have recaptured nearly all the occupied territory, pushing the remaining militants into the Sambisa forest.

Boko Haram, whose name roughly translates as “Western education is sin” in the Hausa language, has hit back with a series of raids over the last week, including two assaults on the regional capital Maiduguri.

“The Nigerian Air force is maintaining an active air surveillance to track the movement of terrorists for appropriate action as the operation continues,” army spokesman Chris Olukolade said in the statement. There has been no comment from Boko Haram, which occasionally puts out statements and videos via the Internet. — Reuters

Shi’ite forces ordered to deploy after fall of Iraqi city

Baghdad, 18 May — Shi’ite paramilitaries were preparing to deploy to Iraq’s western province of Anbar on Monday after Islamic State militants overran the provincial capital Ramadi in the biggest defeat for the Baghdad government since last summer.

A spokesman for the paramilitaries, which are known as Hashid Shaabi, said they had received orders to mobilize, but details could not be revealed for security reasons.

“This is a major setback for the forces ranged against Islamic State, a US-led coalition and the Iraqi security forces, which have been propped up by Iran-backed Shi’ite militias,” the spokesman said.——Reuters

Minister Haider al-Abadi signed off on the deployment of Shi’ite militias to attempt to seize back the area, a move he had previously resisted for fear of provoking a sectarian backlash.

About 500 people have been killed in the fighting for Ramadi in recent days and between 6,000 and 8,000 have fled, a spokesman for the provincial governor said.

The city’s fall marked a major setback for the forces ranged against Islamic State, a US-led coalition and the Iraqi security forces, which have been propped up by Iran-backed Shi’ite militias.

It was also a harsh return to reality for Washington, which at the weekend had mounted a successful special forces raid in Syria.
China to further improve public hospital services

BEIJING, 18 May — China will push forward reform in more public hospitals amid a broader overhaul of its health care system, according to a guideline issued by the State Council on Sunday.

China launched a pilot medical reform on public hospitals in 17 cities in 2010, and the guideline stipulates the reform should cover all of the country’s 6,800 public hospitals by 2017.

The reform is aimed to change public hospitals’ reliance on medicine sales to prop up profit and standardizing referral procedures. Public hospitals should be operated for the public good, instead of seeking lucrative gains, and the service should be accessible, equal and efficient for the people, the guideline said.

It also said social medical care should be encouraged through improved policies and strengthened supervision.

The guideline urged reform at the grassroots-level and nurturing more capable doctors.

Authorities will ensure the optimal distribution of medical resources, establish a scientific subsidy mechanism, and regulate the price of drugs and medical services, according to the guidelines.

Full scale reform of the health care system began in 2009. Pilot projects for public hospital reform were a priority, along with a basic medical security system, improvement at grass roots level and equal access to basic public health services.—Xinhua

Oil prices rise on Middle East fighting; OPEC output in focus

SINGAPORE, 18 May — Oil prices edged up on Monday following fighting in Iraq and Yemen, but Iranian comments that OPEC was unlikely to cut output as well as signs of strengthening US production capped gains.

Front-month Brent futures were up 12 cents at $66.93 a barrel by 0555 GMT. US crude rose 26 cents to $59.95.

Prices were supported by concerns that conflict in Iraq and Yemen could disrupt supplies after Islamic State militants said they had taken control of the Iraqi city of Basra in a big blow to the government.

In Yemen, a Saudi-led coalition resumed air strikes against Houthi militia in Aden, a port-city on the shores of key Middle East oil routes.

Despite these Middle East conflicts, analysts said oil markets remained over-supplied, and that the glut could worsen if US production picked up and output by producer-club OPEC remained strong.

"Oil prices appear to have outpaced the improvement in underlying fundamentals," Barclays said on Monday.

"We expect selling interest in the $65.00/67.00 area to cap WTI crude oil ($70.00/$72.00 area for Brent crude) and look for a move lower in range over the coming weeks. Our downside targets for WTI and Brent are $54.24 and $63 respectively.

"Iran’s Deputy Oil Minister Roknoddin Javadifar told Reuters on Monday that OPEC was unlikely to cut its output at its next meeting in June, and that Iran hoped its crude exports would return to pre-sanctions levels of 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) within three months once a deal to lift an oil embargo is finalized.

"An oil embargo is finalized. Iran will not rise sharply soon. An expectation that prices will not rise sharply soon.

Ford to recall vehicles in China

BEIJING, 18 May — Ford (China) will recall 1,399 cars in China due to defective fuel pumps and door handles, China’s top quality watchdog said on Monday.

The recall involves imported models of the Edge and Explorer, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said in two separate statements on its website.

Defects in the fuel pump of 1,099 Edge 2.0L vehicles manufactured between 30 April, 2014 and 21 May, 2014 may cause engine failure, AQSIQ said. Additionally, 500 Explorer 3.5L vehicles, produced between 1 February, 2011 and 30 November, 2012, may have faulty door handles that could unlock spontaneously, posing a danger to passengers, according to the administration.

The company will start recalling the Edge vehicles from 26 June and the Explorer model from 29 May, according to the statements.

Faulty parts in the affected vehicles will be replaced free of charge. —Xinhua
Congratulations!

Our sincere congratulations to
U Aung Ko Win, Patron of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar Federation of
Chambers of Commerce and Industry and also
Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd.,
on his achievements of President’s Award
for Excellent Performance and President’s Special
Honorary Awards for Excellent Performance
as the three-time winner of Highest Taxpayer Award of
the country for three consecutive years.

In the time of the new government, he was recognized
as the three-time winner of Highest Taxpayer Award for
paying K 6,015.397 million in income tax in 2010-2011
fiscal year, K 10,827.70 million in 2011-2012 FY,
and K 17,010.37 million in 2012-2013 FY.

Our dearest wishes are to witness your greater
contributions to the interests of the country than ever before.

Chairman and Central Working Committee/Working Committee
The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of
Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)
Congratulations!

Our sincere congratulations to
Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of Brighter Future Myanmar
Foundation of Kanbawza Group of Companies
who has been awarded President’s Awards for Excellent Performance,
for her donations of over K 6.4 billion in various sectors in five years
after 2010 in the time of the new government.

Her generous donations were to:
- disaster-hit areas across the country,
- the efforts to bring back home over 3,000 Myanmar citizens who faced
social hardships in Malaysia, over 270 Myanmar fishermen who stranded
in Port Blair, India, for various reasons, in 2013 and 2014, and
- about 500 Myanmar fishermen who were put to forced labour
in Benjina Island, Indonesia, on 14, 17, 18 and 22 May 2015, and
- noble deeds such as digging tube wells in the townships of Taunggyi,
Heho, Aungban, Kalaw, Pintaya, Hopone, Namhsan and Bawsai
in southern Shan State for local people to have easy access to clean water,
in addition to the construction of roads and hospitals.

We would like to congratulate
Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of Brighter Future Myanmar
Foundation of Kanbawza Group of Companies, who has achieved
President’s Awards for Excellent Performance
(Best Philanthropic Organization Award),
which she accepted in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 May 2015,
for her generous contributions to various sectors including religion,
education, health, social activities and sports, people living in disaster-
hit areas and internally displaced persons, all of which are aimed at the
betterment of the society
and the development of the country as a whole.

Chairman and Central Working Committee/Working Committee
The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of
Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)
WEATHER REPORT

BAY INERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Southwest Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Sagae, Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of advance of Southwest monsoon in the Deltaic areas.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>MPP/E/MCY/CAP/T/1</td>
<td>120 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)</td>
<td>3 Sets</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>MPP/E/MCY/CAP/T/2</td>
<td>400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven)</td>
<td>4 Sets</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>MPP/E/MCY/T/1</td>
<td>Oil Suction &amp; Discharge Rubber Flexible Hose</td>
<td>8 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>MPP/E/MCY/T/2</td>
<td>Gate Valve</td>
<td>4 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>MPP/E/AV/L/UB/T/1</td>
<td>Aviation Lubricating oil</td>
<td>9 Items</td>
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<td>(6)</td>
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<td>Aviation Gasoline 10011</td>
<td>96,000 Ltr</td>
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<td>(7)</td>
<td>MPP/E/LPM/MCY/T/1</td>
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<td>2 Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>MPP/E/LP/TTS/T/1</td>
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<td>(9)</td>
<td>MPP/E/LP/MCY/T/2</td>
<td>Battery</td>
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<td>(10)</td>
<td>MPP/E/LP/CHM/T/1</td>
<td>Shell Water Detector Capsule</td>
<td>400 Boxes</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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**'Pitch Perfect 2' Races Past 'Mad Max: Fury Road' With Outstanding $70.3 million**

Cast member Anna Kendrick poses at the premiere of 'Pitch Perfect 2' in Los Angeles, California, United States on 8 May, 2015.

Reuters

*Los Angeles, 18 May — ‘Pitch Perfect 2’ hit all the right notes at the box office, snatching first place on the charts with a smashing $70.3 million (45 million pounds) debut despite fierce competition from ‘Mad Max: Fury Road.’*  

Universal’s sequel earned more in its first weekend than the $65 million that the original “Pitch Perfect” pulled in during its entire North American theatrical run. The only comparable performance is the way that “Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me” opened with $54.9 million, more than the $53.9 million that the first spy satire racked up during its domestic engagement.

Like the first “Austin Powers” film, “Pitch Perfect” put up big numbers on home entertainment platforms, allowing people to catch up with a movie they may have missed while it was in theatres. Add to that the ubiquity of the breakout number from the first film, “Cups,” and shows it inspired such as the reality series “Sing It On,” and it’s easy to understand the surge in interest between the two installments.

“People loved the first movie and it resonated well beyond that $65 million mark for the first film did,” said Nick Carpou, Universal’s domestic distribution chief. “This was original [intellectual property] for us and to be able to build on the first film and expand its popularity is pretty amazing.”

“Pitch Perfect 2” brought back original stars Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson, along with newcomer Hailee Steinfeld. It marks Elizabeth Banks’ feature film directorial debut and is the second highest grossing film by a female director, behind only Sam Taylor Johnson’s “Fifty Shades of Grey,” which kicked off with $85.2 million last winter. It’s also the highest opening for a first-time feature film director, the biggest musical opening, and the second biggest PG-13 comedy opening in history.
Djokovic over-runs Federer, Sharapova wins in Rome

ROME, 18 May — Novak Djokovic boosted his hopes of completing a career Grand Slam at Roland Garros after he lived up to his top billing at the Italian Open by brushing aside old rival Roger Federer in the final on Sunday.

After dropping a set in each of his three previous matches in Rome, the world number one showed that he was back to his best as he humbled Federer 6-4, 6-3 to capture his fifth title of the year.

Djokovic and Federer were meeting for the 39th time and top seed Djokovic narrowed his opponent’s overall lead to 20-19.

With one week to go until the French Open, the Serb extended his unbeaten run to 22 matches as he added to the Australian Open, Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo titles he has won this season.

“So far, this is the best season of my life,” Djokovic, who needs to win the French Open to complete his grand slam collection, told reporters. “I don’t know how it will go at Roland Garros, but I’m very confident.”

“I’m playing with great joy and concentration and I hope to continue. This has been a very exciting week and today was my best match. It’s always a big challenge to play Roger and obviously I’m very pleased.”

World number two Federer admitted there was not much he could do.

“Novak was rock-solid today, he played great throughout. He made very few unforced errors. I’m happy, feeling good and healthy.”

The first set went with serve until the final game when Djokovic rifled a return winner that clipped the edge of the tramline and converted his first set point.

The Serb never looked in danger after breaking again in the second game of the second set and wrapped up the title when Federer hit a forehand out on match point.

Third seed Sharapova looked sluggish against her Spanish opponent in the first set and Suarez Navarro fought back from 1-3 and 3-5 down in the second to level at 5-5.

But Sharapova reeled off the next two games to take the decider 6-2 and 7-6 (7-5). The French Open, Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo titles he has won this season.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia holds his trophy after winning the final match over Roger Federer of Switzerland at the Rome Open tennis tournament in Rome, Italy on 17 May, 2015.—Reuters

Taylor Swift, Sam Smith win top Billboard Music awards

LAS VEGAS, 18 May — Taylor Swift dominated the 2015 Billboard Music Awards on Sunday, winning eight awards including top artist, top female artist and top digital song artist, while British soul singer Sam Smith took the honours for top male artist and new artist.

Swift, 25, one of the top-selling musical acts in the United States last year, also picked up awards for top female artist, top Billboard 200 artist and album and top hot 100 artist, among others. Swift, whose video of her latest single “Bad Blood” premiered at the awards, also took home a special award for top streaming artist.

The British band One Direction was another multiple winner, winning top touring artist and top duet or group, while Iggy Azalea was a triple winner for top rap artist, rap song and top streaming artist.

George Line was named top country artist. Hozi-er won top rock artist and top rock song, while Coldplay took the award for top rock album. The awards, hosted by rapper Ludacris and supermodel Chrissy Teigen, were handed out in a live broadcast from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Billboard magazine, which covers the music industry, said the finalists were based on fan interactions with music, including album and digital sales, touring, radio airplay, streaming and interactions on social media websites and other online sites for music.—Reuters

Iranian navy escorts aid ship to Yemen

TEHERAN, 18 May — An Iranian aid ship destined for Yemen is currently in the Gulf of Aden, escorted by the Iranian navy, Tasnim news agency reported on Monday.

The Iranian navy will escort and support the vessel to the Yemeni port of Hodeidah, its captain Masoud Qazi Mirsaeed was quoted as saying.

The ship will arrive in Hodeidah in three days, he added.

Last Monday, an Iranian aid ship carrying 2,500 tons of food supplies and medicine left the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas for Yemen.

Iran has warned against any attempt to target its aid ship to Yemen. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iran’s Armed Forces Brig Gen Masoud Jazayeri said last week that attacking the ship will start a war in the region.

Saudi Arabia, along with eight other Arab states, has been bombing Houthi rebels and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh since 26 March, aiming to reinstate the government of President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who was forced to flee the country.

Riyadh has long been accusing Iran of arming and financing the Houthi fighters, an accusation strongly rejected by Teheran.

The death toll from the battles between Houthis and Hadi supporters and the airstrikes have exceeded 1,200, while more than 3,000 people were wounded across the country, according to statistics released by the Yemeni government.—Xinhua
Arsenal stay ahead of United, City win thriller

New Ethiopian star Ayana targets world record in Beijing

Barcelona wrap up 23rd La Liga crown with Messi goal